

INTL 3300 Comparative Political Analysis
Spring 2009
Student Learning Center 245
Dr. Markus M.L. Crepaz
T - R 11:00 to 12:15 p.m.
Office Hours: W 2:00 to 4:00 (Candler Hall 327)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction into the subfield of comparative politics. What distinguishes comparative politics from other fields of political science is its expressly methodological orientation. Thus, at the beginning of the course we will explore what comparative politics is and how it “works”. We will then proceed to conceptually cover the most important areas in comparative politics, such as the meaning of states, nations, societies, political culture, political economy, democracy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism, politics in advanced nations and politics in developing nations, and the rise and fall of communism.

This is a course which will question many of the opinions and attitudes you hold about the world. The trick is to “see with new eyes” - and not to retreat to your comfortable and familiar positions when confronted with potentially uncomfortable information. This is a time for curiosity and exploration not of certainty of opinion - remember what Dorothy said in the wizard of Oz: “We are not in Kansas anymore, Toto”. On more about seeing with new eyes go to the last page of the syllabus.

Required readings: Essentials of Comparative Politics (O’Neil), (2007) “EP”
Essential Readings in Comparative Politics (O’Neil and Rogowski) (2006). “ERCP”
Comparative Politics, (08/09), Annual Editions. “CP”.

Course requirements: 1: **Mid-term paper:** Due on February 26 on specific topics that will be handed out at least two weeks prior to that date. This paper counts for 30 % of the overall grade and should be 7-10 pages in length (conventional fonts and margins).

2: **Three pop-quizzes**, which are by definition unannounced, counting for 5 % of the grade each. Only the two highest will be counted. They can be multiple choice, OR short answers.

3: **Participation:** 10 percent. Will be measured by the frequency and quality of class contributions based on informed statements originating either from the readings or from knowledge acquired in other classes. Clarification questions, while encouraged do **not** count towards participation.

4: **Second term test:** This test will cover the lecture and readings materials of the second term of the semester (after the mid-point: March 3) and will take place on April 28. This test will count for

20 % of the overall grade. This test may use an extended multiple choice format, or short answers or a mix of the two.

5. Term paper: Due on Monday, May 4. This paper will count for 30 % of the overall grade, and should be 7-10 pages in length. Again, the papers are based on topics handed out at least two weeks before that date.

Some ground rules: If you miss an exam or quiz without a valid **medical** excuse, (I will double check!) no make-up exam will be provided. Only medical excuses are accepted as valid excuses. The exams and quiz consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, identifications, and short essays. I will be more specific about the type of exam as the exam date draws near. Sometimes my lectures will not coincide with the readings - sometimes I will not make explicit mention of our readings; you will have to be responsible for both, the readings as well as the lecture materials - not just for the overlap between lectures and readings. I will not tolerate reading of newspapers, checking of e-mail, surfing the web, or “sleeping” in my lectures – I will automatically deduct 20 points from the final course points in such an instance. No warning may be issued!

IMPORTANT: The “WP” and “WF” policy is as follows: if, prior to the withdrawal deadline of the mid-point of the semester, a student withdraws from the class and the students’ performance at that point is of a failing grade (59 or lower) the student will receive a “WF”; however, if at that point, the students’ performance is of a passing grade (60 or higher) the student will receive a “WP”. Any withdrawals past the semester mid-point will result in an automatic “WF”.

Schedule of assignments: Readings must be completed before the first day of the week for which they are assigned.

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| January 8: | Introduction, explication of syllabus, and expectations. |
| January 13-15: | What is comparative politics? Guiding ideas and concepts.
Readings: chap. 1-2 in EP
Chap. 1 in ERCP |
| January 20-22: | What are “nations” and where do they come from?
Readings: chap. 3 in EP
Hobsbawm and Sen articles in ERCP (chap. 3) |
| January 27-29: | Varieties of political economies:
Readings: chap. 4 in EP
Smith and Ricardo article in ERCP (chap. 4) |
| February 3-5: | Varieties of political economies cont’d.
Readings: Almond in CP
Alesina and Glaeser in ERCP (chap. 4) |

- February 10-12: Do as I say, not as I do: authoritarianism and totalitarianism
 Readings: chap. 5 in EP
 Snyder and Ballentine and the Fish article, in ERCP (chap. 5)
- February 17-19: What is Democracy?
 Readings: chap. 6 in EP
 Zakaria and Schmitter/Karl article in ERCP, chap. 6
- February 24-26: What is Democracy cont'd?
 Readings: Lijphart, Putnam and Berman articles in ERCP, chap. 6.
- March 3-5: Why the west?
 Readings: chap. 7 in EP
- March 10-12: Spring Break
- March 17-19: Why the west, cont'd:
 Readings: De Tocqueville, Lipset and Economist article in ERCP, chap. 7
- March 24-26: The worker's paradise was not to be: communism and post-communism:
 Readings: chap. 8 in EP
 Pye and Buruma articles in ERCP, chap. 8
- March 31/April 2: The Developing World, why so slow and uneven?
 Readings: chap. 9 in EP
- April 9-11: Political Violence
 Readings: chap. 11 EP
 Crenshaw and Margalit/Buruma articles in ERCP, chap. 11
- April 16-19: Globalization or globaloney:
 Readings: chap. 10 in EP
 Fukuyama, Galbraith and Economist article in ERCP, chap. 10
- April 26: Review session
- April 28: Second term test!

