

International Affairs 3300
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall, 2008
University of Georgia

Instructor: Dwight Wilson
Contact: dwrightwilson@gmail.com
Class Meeting: TR 2:00-3:15, SLC 253
Office Hours: TBA, Baldwin 101C

Objectives

The purpose of this class is to give students an introduction to the major conceptual and theoretical foundations of the subdiscipline of comparative politics.

Required Texts

- Patrick O'Neil & Ronald Rogowski, eds. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* 2nd ed. (Readings). ISBN 0-393-92950-7
- Readings on WebCT

Evaluation

Students will be assigned final grades on the following basis:

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| ➤ 2 Short Papers (25% each) | 50% |
| ➤ Quizzes | 30% |
| ➤ Attendance & Participation | 20% |

Quizzes will take place regularly and will cover readings and material presented and discussed in class. The average of all quizzes will substitute for excused quizzes. Quizzes will only be excused with proper documentation. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Note that attendance and participation are a formal chunk of the grade. Note further that shuffling in late, working crosswords, sleeping, and staring at the internet (among other stuff) will seriously and adversely affect this chunk. Unexcused absence will likewise affect this grade.

Understand that the purpose of the readings is to give insight into a variety of perspectives and class discussions will not always repeat what they say. Students are, however, responsible for the concepts and themes contained in them. Students need to be ready to be questioned intensively about the content of the readings each class period.

Odds & Ends

Announcements will sometimes be made through email. Students are responsible for regularly checking UGA accounts.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Pay particular attention to the bits about plagiarism. In accordance with university policies, any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be immediately referred to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction for further action.

Tentative Course Outline

As usual, this schedule is subject to changes announced to the class according to our progress or the whim of the instructor.

§1: State of the Discipline	Readings
Aug. 19: Course Overview	This syllabus; there's a quiz!
Aug. 21: Comparative Politics & Method	WebCT, Mayer
§2: Theories in CP	
Aug. 26: Structure, Culture	Readings Ch. 1, Lichbach & Zuckerman
Aug. 28: Culture, Rationality	WebCT, Bates WebCT, Chalmers WebCT, Perestroika
§3: The State	
Sept. 2: Formation & Legitimacy	Readings Ch. 2, Weber Readings Ch. 2, Herbst
Sept. 4: Constitutions & Institutions	Readings Ch. 2, Rotberg
§4: Nations & Ideas	
Sept 9: Nationalism	Readings Ch.3, Hobsbawm
Sept. 11: Ideologies	WebCT, Frieden
§5: Political Economy	
Sept. 16: Markets & Property	Readings Ch. 4, Smith

	Readings Ch. 4, Ricardo
Sept. 18: Political Economic Systems	Readings Ch. 4, Alesina et al. WebCT, Spencer
§6: Authoritarianism & Totalitarianism	
Sept. 23: Definitions	Readings Ch. 5, Linz & Stepan Readings Ch. 5, Fish
Sept. 25: Transitions to Democracy	Readings Ch. 5, Diamond Readings Ch. 5, Snyder & Ballantine
§7: Mexico	
Sept 30: Case Study Mexico	WebCT, Mexico
Oct. 2: Mexico Cont.	
§8: Democracy	
Oct. 7: Defining Democracy	WebCT, Sartori WebCT, Tocqueville
Oct. 9: Liberal Democracy	Readings Ch. 6, Zakaria Readings Ch. 6, Schmitter & Karl
§9: Issues in Advanced Democracies	
Oct. 14: Postmaterialism & Social Capital	Readings Ch. 7, Putnam
Oct. 16: Civil Society	Readings Ch. 7, Berman

<p>October 9: Midterm First Short Paper Due in Class</p>
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§10: Representation

Oct. 21: Elections & Parties	Readings Ch. 7, Huber & Powell Readings Ch. 7, Duverger
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<p>October 23: Withdrawal Deadline</p>
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Oct. 23: Consociationalism	WebCT, Lijphart
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§11: Communism

Oct. 28: Communist Ideology

Readings Ch. 8, Marx & Engels

Oct. 30: Communism in Practice

Readings Ch. 8, Przeworski

§12: Postcommunism & Russia

Nov. 4: Postcommunist Studies

Readings Ch. 8, Bunce

Nov. 6: Case Study Russia

WebCT, Russia

§13: China

Nov. 11: Maoism & Postmaoism

WebCT, China

Nov. 13: Case Study China

Readings Ch. 8, Pye

Readings Ch. 8, Buruma

§14: Developing Political Systems

Nov. 18: Modernization

Readings Ch. 7, Lipset

Readings Ch. 9, Collier & Gunning

Nov. 20: Dependency and Development

Readings Ch. 9, Barro

Readings Ch. 9, Przeworski

November 25 & 27: Thanksgiving

§15: End of the Road?

Dec. 4: Endism & Its Critics

Readings Ch. 10, Fukuyama

Readings Ch. 3, Huntington

Readings Ch. 3, Sen

Dec. 6: New Departures in CP

December 11: Second Short Paper Due 5 PM