

Introduction to comparative politics
Summer B 2012

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Course Meetings

M, T, W, Th, F: 2 (9.30-10.45am)
ANDERSON 34

Course description

The goal of this course is to help you understand political events and developments in different countries. While political science has many sub-disciplines, the field of Comparative Politics is only of them; it represents the study of power and decision-making *within* national boundaries. Please note that this course is not organized around particular states. It is rather designed to address five major areas of study within the field of comparative politics: political development, regime type and regime change, participation and representation, policymaking processes, and political economy.

Course materials

There is 1 textbook required for this class, available through the UF Bookstore.

1. C.A., Drogus and St. Orvis, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, Sage/CQ Press, 2nd edition.
2. Additional readings will be available through 'e-Learning in Sakai'

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIALS COVERED IN LECTURES, READINGS, HANDOUTS, & POSTINGS ON THE COURSE WEBSITE.

E-Learning in Sakai You should become familiar with 'e-Learning in Sakai'. All electronic materials assigned as readings (news articles and book chapters) will be posted here, as well as power point slides for the class. In addition, ALL GRADES will be posted here too.

Course requirements

- 3 in-class tests (20% each of the final grade)
- 4 movie reviews (20% of the final grade) – more details later in the semester
- Attendance and participation (20% of the final grade).

Tests 60% There will be **3 in-class tests**, each worth 20% of the final grade. Tests will consist of short answer, multiple choice, identification, true/false and fill-in the blank questions.

4 movie reviews 20% We will watch 4 movies/documentaries (still thinking here) pertinent to the information presented in the textbook and you will have to submit a 2-page reflection piece for **4** of them. I will circulate a few questions that need to be addressed in your reflection paper after each viewing. The films can also be found at Library West, under Course Reserve—that is in case you miss the class. The films I consider including are:

- 1) Dam/Age. Narmada Valley dam project in India (English)
- 2) *The Lives of Others* (2006). (German, Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck).
- 3) *L' Auberge Espagnole* (2002) (French)
- 4) *Czech Dream* (2004) (Czech)

Class attendance and participation 20%

1. Come to class-- Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lose attendance points (5%)
2. Active participation in class--Read the assigned materials BEFORE class meetings and participate in class discussions (5%)
3. **Every-other-day postings:** To facilitate class discussions, I will ask you to have an online submission, via learning, in the DISCUSSION folder. This is an every-other-day task, excluding the days when we have films and tests. These submissions can vary from summarizing an argument, posing a question related to the readings for that particular day, explaining what questions the chapter was answering. I may also pose a discussion question to which you'll have to submit a short answer. All these submission are worth (10%).

Policies of the course

1. **Assignments:**
 - a. All assignments must be submitted on line **BY THE DEADLINE** and following all instructions.
 - b. Extensions will be granted at my discretion and, if granted, they will require proper documentation. Make sure you ask for an extension only **PRIOR** (at least 24 hours) to the deadline date.
2. **Cheating/plagiarism:** DON'T. Any student caught violating the honor code will fail the class. For more information, read the Code of Student Conduct <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>
3. **Courtesy:** Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.
4. **Special Needs:** If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g. note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact me **within the 3 days** of class. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

Grading scale: (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
95-100	90-94.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	< 59.9

*****I reserve the right to alter this schedule with prior notice—one day in advance.**

Course Schedule

PART I: A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Week 1. Themes: On Methods and the State

Monday: 7/2

- Introduction to the course and syllabus;
- What is comparative politics? Chapter 1 (pp 6-10)

Tuesday: 7/3

- Chapter 1 Introduction (p11-35)
- What comparativists do

Wednesday: 7/4 no class (Yay!!!) Make sure you relax because summer classes are intense!

Thursday: 7/5

- Chapter 2(ALL)
- The origins and spread of the 'state'
- State capacity

Friday 7/6

- **Film – Perfect Famine. Hunger in Malawi**

Week 2. Themes –Challenging The State and Political Economy

Monday: 7/9

- Movie review due
- Chapter 4 (pp. 143-154)
- Challenging the state (nationalism)

Tuesday: 7/10

- Still Chapter 4 (155-187)
- Religion, race, ethnicity

Wednesday 7/11

- Political Economy (additional readings to be posted)
- Chapter 5 States and Markets (189-209)

Thursday 7/12

- Political economic systems (additional readings to be posted)
- Short review

Friday 7/13

- In-class test

PART II: POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND HOW THEY WORK

Week 3. Themes: Democracy and representation

Monday 7/16

- Tests returned
- Democratic regimes: the basics: Chapter 6

Tuesday 7/17

- Unitary, regionalized, and Federal Systems (readings to be submitted)

Wednesday 7/18

- Participation and representation Chapter 7

Thursday 7/19

- Parties and party systems (still chapter 7)

Friday 7/20

- **Film: Dam/Age. Narmada Valley dam project in India (English)**

Week 4. Themes: Non-democratic regimes

Monday 7/23

- Movie review due
- Authoritarian Institutions Chapter 8

Tuesday 7/24

- Still Chapter 8: Competitive authoritarianism

Wednesday 7/25

- Communism and post-communism (additional readings to be posted)

Thursday 7/26

- **Film: *The Lives of Others* (2006). (German, Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck).**

Friday 7/27

- In-class test 2

Week 5. Themes: Transitions and democratization

Monday 7/30

- Movie review due
- Tests returned
- Chapter 9: Regime change

Tuesday 7/31

- Still on Regime change and democratization

Wednesday 8/1

- Less developed and newly industrializing countries (readings to be added)

Thursday 8/2

- Friday 8/3 Film: Czech Dream (2004) (Czech)

Week 6. Themes: Globalization

Monday 8/6

- Chapter 10 Globalization, economic sovereignty, and development

Tuesday 8/7

- Chapter 11: Public policies when markets fail

Wednesday 8/8

- Film: L'Auberge Espagnole (2002) (French)

Thursday 8/9

- Film review due
- Wrap up the class. Final review

Friday 8/10

- Final in-class test