

Comparative Politics Spring 2012

POL 10004-01
Class Time: T/Th 12:30-1:45pm
Classroom: Bowman 206

Professor: Joshua Stacher
Office: 302 Bowman (office 17)
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 2-5pm
 Thursdays: 10am-12pm
Office Phone: (330) 672-8922

Introduction:

Comparative politics is a subfield within the systematic study of politics. It primarily examines the domestic politics of countries and their populations. Multiple theoretical tools help us analyze countries and produce comparative insights. Some approaches that we will explore include evaluating an individual country's state formation, political economy, collective identity, institutional structures, and regime types. We will also examine the character of colonialism and imperialism as well as the effects of globalization. Students and researchers will develop an ability to comparatively think about different countries as well as investigate important questions that have been considered since humans started recording their histories. Such questions include among others:

- 1) What produces differences in the experiences of one state from another?
- 2) How do poor countries develop?
- 3) What effect do social and economy structures have on political outcomes?
- 4) Are democratic countries less likely to enter wars than dictatorships?
- 5) Does a country's culture inhibit or enable a certain type of government?
- 6) What is the role of "the people" in the process of development?

Also, as a consequence of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, students of comparative politics have become increasingly interested in the relationship between authoritarianism and terrorism.

Comparative politics intimately related to other social science disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, and economics. It also draws on the humanities, which include history, literature, and philosophy. Comparative politics can be as local or as global as you choose to make it. Understanding the world in which we live is one of the most rewarding gifts that students and researchers can discover.

Good comparativists understand other cultures, learn different languages, respect historical context, and develop the analytical skills to systematize and think about the world. It gives them an ability to take seemingly unrelated phenomena and explain the differences. This skill serves students well in any number of fields in which they choose to work – some of which include journalism, government, civil society, or academia.

We will address these central themes:

- 1) Theoretical Concepts
- 2) Key Terminology used in Comparative Politics
- 3) Political Economy
- 4) Structures and Institutions including the Executive, Legislative, & Judicial Branches
- 5) The Differences Between Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies
- 6) Democratic and Authoritarian Regimes

- 7) States in Political Transitions
 - 8) The Role of Culture
 - 9) Religious Politics
 - 10) Political Development
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Requirements

Attendance: The College of Arts and Sciences **requires** that its professors take attendance. Therefore, Attendance is **mandatory**.

During class meetings, the instructor will introduce the scheduled topic and indicate how it relates to the overall course objectives. The remainder of each class is largely lecture-based. Nevertheless, it still requires a student's active and informed attention. As such, it is imperative that students read the assigned texts to prepare for a focused experience. You are permitted two unexcused absences. After that, one point will be deducted from your attendance assessment. If you miss **seven or more** classes, you receive a zero for attendance.

Given that my presentations will complement and supplement the assigned reading, you will miss a great deal if you are absent. *Only reading the text and/or relying on power point presentations will not be enough.* Attendance is also mandatory for all exams & quizzes. **Make-ups will only be given in emergency situations on a case-by-case basis.**

Quizzes: There will be **THREE** quizzes in this course. They will range from short identify and define terminology essential to demonstrating an understanding of comparative political science to a world map quiz. The character of an individual quiz will be detailed with sufficient preparation time before the exercise. No make-up quizzes will be given so it is important that you are present for the quizzes on the scheduled days. The dates of the quizzes are

- 1) Tuesday - **January 24th**
- 2) Tuesday - **February 21st**
- 3) Tuesday - **April 17th**

Mid-Term Exam: You will have an in-class mid-term examination that will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers on **Thursday, March 8th.**

Final Exam: The cumulative final exam that will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answers, and timed essays is scheduled for **Wednesday May 2nd** between 12:45pm-3pm.

Evaluation & Assessment:

This course's assessment will be distributed accordingly:

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| 1) Attendance: | 10-percent |
| 2) Quizzes: | 30-percent (10% each) |
| 3) Mid-Term Exam: | 30-percent |
| 4) Final Exam: | 30-percent |

Grading Scale:

100-93% - A	79-77% - C+
92-90% - A-	76-73% - C
89-87% - B+	72-70% - C-
86-83% - B	69-67% - D+
82-80% - B	66-60% - D

59%-Below – F

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit on the quizzes and exams.

Required Texts: (Available at KSU Student Center Bookstore, Dubois & Campus Supply)

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, & William A. Joseph (General Editors), *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 6th Edition. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2012). Referenced henceforth as KKJ

Other assigned readings will be PDFs and available on this course's *Vista* site or on the Internet.

Course & Reading Schedule**Section 1:** What is Comparative Politics? What Theories Do We Use?

T 1/10	Class 1: Syllabus distribution and course introduction	
Th 1/12	Class 2: What is Comparative Politics?	KKJ, pgs. 4-13
T 1/17	Class 3: Themes of Comparative Analysis	KKJ, pgs. 13-24
Th 1/19	Class 4: Classifying Political Systems	KKJ, pgs. 24-33
T 1/24	Class 5: Quiz #1: Key Themes of Comparative Politics	

Section 2: Established Democracies

Th 1/26	Class 6: The Importance of Democracy	VISTA: pgs. 102-111
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The United States

T 1/31	Class 7: Historical Context & Economy	KKJ, pgs. 282-303
Th 2/2	Class 8: Governance & Participation	KKJ, pgs. 304-328

Britain

T 2/7	Class 9: Context	KKJ, pgs. 44-58
Th 2/9	Class 10: Economy	KKJ, pgs. 58-64
T 2/14	Class 11: Governance & Participation	KKJ, pgs. 65-89

Th 2/16 **No Class:** Professor is at an Academic Workshop

T 2/21 Class 12: **Quiz #2:** The United States & Britain

Japan

Th 2/23	Class 13: Developmental State	KKJ, pgs. 188-202
T 2/28	Class 14: Economy	KKJ, pgs. 202-208
Th 3/1	Class 15: Governance & Participation	KKJ, pgs. 209-230
T 3/6	Class 16: Slippage day and Review	
Th 3/8	Class 17: Mid-Term Examination	

Section 3: Transitional Democracies & Authoritarianism

T 3/13	Class 18: Democracy & Authoritarianism	VISTA: pgs. 154-160
Th 3/15	Class 19: Competitive Authoritarianism	VISTA: pgs. 60-69

SPRING BREAK 3/17-25

Iran: Theocratic Authoritarianism

T 3/27	Class 20: Making of Modern Iran	KKJ, pgs. 576-591
Th 3/29	Class 21: Political Economy & Development	KKJ, pgs. 592-598
T 4/3	Class 22: Political Structures	KKJ, pgs. 599-619

China: Economic Reform without Democracy

Th 4/5	Class 23: Making of the Chinese State	KKJ, pgs. 620-634
T 4/10	Class 24: Economy	KKJ, pgs. 635-644
Th 4/12	Class 25: Political Structures	KKJ, pgs. 644-674
T 4/17	Class 26: Quiz # 3: The Map	

Section 4: Conclusions

Th 4/19	Class 27: Popular Mobilization and Military Interventions: Egyptian Revolution 1) El-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution," MERIP, Spring 2011: http://www.merip.org/mer/mer258/praxis-egyptian-revolution 2) Brownlee & Stacher, "Change of Leader, Continuity of System: Nascent Liberalization in Post-Mubarak Egypt," APSA CD Newsletter (May 2011): http://www.personal.kent.edu/~jstacher/docs/brownlee.stacher.2011..APSA-CD%20copy.pdf	
T 4/24	Class 28: Clash of Civilizations?	VISTA: pgs. 18-32
Th 4/26	Class 29: Review for the Final	

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 2nd 12:45pm-3pm

Good Luck this Semester!

Notes & Disclaimers:

- 1) Help: If you are having problems with this course, the readings, or the evaluations I urge you to come to my hours. If those times are not convenient for you, please call my office (330-672-8922) or email me (jstacher@kent.edu) and I will gladly schedule an appointment to suit your schedule. Whatever you do, **DO NOT** wait until it is too late to get help from the professor.
- 2) Decorum: Everyone is entitled to say whatever they wish in the classroom. However, the central aspect to being able to be informed and critical thinking students requires a welcoming forum. The instructor will not tolerate insulting or intimidating statements or behavior towards your fellow colleagues in class. Also, **NO texting** or **internet surfing** during the lecture.
- 3) Accessibility Services: University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas <<http://www.registrars.kent.edu/disability/>> for more information on registration procedures).
- 4) Registration Requirement: The official registration deadline for this course is September 7, 2008. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.
- 5) Administrative Policy and Procedures Regarding Student Cheating and Plagiarism:

Condensed Version

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

"Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;

3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;
5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
6. Falsifying experimental data or information;
7. Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;
8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;
9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and
10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

“Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

- a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;
- b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and
- c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

Academic Sanctions

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or
2. Assign a grade of "F" or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or
3. Assign a grade of "F" for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;

4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.

Academic Appeals

The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates.

Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

- a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable,
- b. The decision resulted from a procedural error,
- c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented,
- d. New information is available which may suggest modification of the decision.

For complete policy and procedure go to www.kent.edu/policyregister3342-3-01.8.
