

POLS 3433A: Survey of Comparative Politics, Spring 2020

Department of Political Science, Georgia Southern University

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 - 11:30 am, Thursday
10:00 - 11:30 am, and by appointment
Class Location: Carroll Building 1024
Course Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3:30 pm -
4:45 pm

Course Overview

Comparative Politics is the study of the domestic politics of other countries. By focusing on domestic politics, this course analyzes and compares political process *within* countries. It explores a wide range of topics including regime structure, democratization, political parties and electoral systems, economic reform, social movements, and political conflict. This course introduces key concepts, methods, questions and debate in comparative politics by comparing different institutional, cultural and political perspective across the world using specific case studies and case comparison to illustrate the above mentioned topics. Learning about different political processes across the world, not only allows us to gain insight about unique institutional mechanisms and political behavior in specific countries, but also helps in evaluating ways of interacting with these countries.

Part I of this course focuses on the concepts, approaches and key actors in comparative politics and also explores political regimes and democratization. Part II looks at institutions of government. Part III focuses on analyzing politics, society and culture in a comparative perspective with a particular focus on ethnicity, nationalism and political conflict.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe common questions in comparative politics
- Compare and contrast differing methodological approaches to comparative politics
- Identify key debates in the following areas
 - Regime structure
 - Democratization
 - Elections and electoral systems
 - Political conflict

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key concepts, theories, and methods
- Students will explore the complex interrelationships between political, economic, social, cultural, and historical forces
- Students will develop a mastery of critical thinking skills by evaluating political developments from an observational and theoretical standpoint in their research
- Students will develop a mastery of writing skills of political phenomena by communicating their perspectives, empirical findings, interpretations and the conclusions of their research on political issues, policies, institutions, and behavior

Course Format

The readings largely will be drawn from the assigned textbook, although I will regularly assign short readings from journals and other books. I hope that our sessions will be engaging, informative, and participatory. We will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, partner and group work, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, problem-solving activities, and other critical thinking exercises. I value and will solicit your input on class activities both at the beginning of the semester as well as around midterm. I will make every reasonable effort to incorporate these ideas in the classroom.

Important dates

Course Add or Drop for Spring 2019: January 13-16. March 9 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty; See the Policy for Limiting Individual Course Withdrawals for additional information <http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/withdrawal/>

Requirements

1. Required Textbooks

J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood. 2019. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press.*

The book is available at the campus book store and online. Alternatively, you can get the book from Henderson Library. In order to allow for shipping time, I have posted all of the first week's readings on the Folio website. After the first week, I expect you to have the book and bring it with you to class. In case you have problems let me know earlier.

2. Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are worth 50 points of your grade. I expect all students to attend class regularly. On many days, we will spend a few minutes writing about various topics from the text or lecture. Occasionally, you will hand in these writings for credit. These writing activities will facilitate critical thinking and will also guide some of our discussion. Furthermore, please finish the assigned readings **by the date** they appear in the syllabus. Read critically and be prepared to comment on the readings in class. I encourage you to ask questions and make relevant comments **at any time** during class. I will excuse 3 absences during the semester. Use it wisely. If you wish to be excused for subsequent absences based on medical conditions or other emergencies please submit proper documents or notify me earlier via email. Any additional absences will lead to a 5 point deduction (each). To get full credit for attendance and participation, it is important that you ask relevant questions and participate regularly in class discussion. It is mandatory to attend classes on the following days - 1. presentation days (yours as well as others), and 2. writing workshop days.

3. Group Discussion and Presentation

Group discussion and presentation is worth 50 points. At the beginning of the course, I will divide the class into 5 groups. Over the course, we will have 6 presentations. On discussion and presentation day, one group will be responsible for presenting the topic of the day and discuss key issues. The other groups will be responsible for asking critical questions to the presenter group. This is an interactive session and to get full credit for this assignment, you have to be present on all discussion days. The assignment will consist of

- Conducting a presentation by one group: A brief 30 minutes presentation about the topic by all the members of the group in class (around 5-7 minutes each). I will assign the topics and specific responsibilities of each member of the group that is responsible for presentation.
- Identifying a set of 3 discussion questions by other groups

4. Online assignments

Over the course there will be two online assignments on days that the instructor will be traveling for conferences or invited talks. Each is worth 30 points, constituting a total of 60 points of your final grade.

5. Reading Quizzes

Over the course there will be six reading quizzes based on the respective day's reading/s. Each reading quiz is worth 20 points, constituting a total of 120 points of your final grade.

4. Article Review

Over the course there will be one article review. The purpose of these review is to write an analytical overview of what is presented in the assigned paper. I will hand out specific questions to guide you with the writing process. This assignment will have 40 points.

6. Exams

There will be three exams. Each exam is worth 60 points for a total of 180 points.

Grade Summary

- Attendance and Participation: 50 points
- Presentation: 50 points
- Online Assignments: 60 points
- Reading Quizzes: 120 points (6 x 20)
- Article Review: 40
- Exams: 180 (60 x 3)
- **TOTAL: 500 points**

Assessment Scale

A	100-90	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	69-60	F	59 or below
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Course Policies

1. Attendance

To successfully complete this course, attendance is mandatory. Any absences, other than the three allowed absences will result in grade point deduction (5 points will be deducted for each subsequent absence). Only extreme cases of emergency and prior notice will be considered.

2. Late Papers

Papers handed in after the deadline will receive a 5 point deduction (this means any time after the deadline), and then an additional 5 points for each day (24 hours), it is late. If there is a problem completing an assignment on time, please contact me well in advance of the due date.

3. Student Conduct and Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade. Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly. All members of the community are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their professional interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Academic discourse, including discussion and argumentation, is to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner that is respectful of and understanding toward both peers and professors.

Scholarly Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructor's authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

4. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the Student Conduct Code as upheld by Georgia Southern University. The following list of 32 violations of the Student Conduct Code is an example of behaviors that may result in disciplinary action by the University. It is not to be regarded as all-inclusive. In the event that there arises ambiguity, inconsistency, or a need for further clarification regarding what constitutes a violation of the Student Conduct Code, the Dean of Students shall make the final determination. Any student or student organization found to be responsible for misconduct is subject to University sanctions.

Cheating

- submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance
- using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty
- obtaining and/or using unauthorized materials
- fabricating information, research, and/or results
- violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other evaluation (among other things use of mobile phones, tablets, laptops during exams is strictly prohibited)
- collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent
- cooperating with and/or helping another student to cheat
- demonstrating any other forms of dishonest behavior

- exams are not open notes or open book. Using any such materials during the exams is considered cheating and will lead to an automatic failure in this class

Plagiarism

- directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them
- using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them
- paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source
- unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

All members of the community recognize the necessity of being honest with themselves and with others. The integrity of the educational experience is diminished by cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying, and employing other methods of deceit. None of these should be used as a strategy to obtain a false sense of success. The need for honest relations among all members of the community is essential.

5. Disabilities

This class complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and provide a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating what your need may be for academic accommodation. This should be done within the first week of class. Address: Cone Hall, Room 2010, telephone 912-478-1566 Students may also find information online at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/disability>

6. Syllabus Change

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Tentative Course and Reading Schedule

Readings marked with an * asterisk are outside readings. Copies are/will be available online at the Folio website.

Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, January 14

- Overview: Discuss syllabus, class policies and semester plans
- Introducing major questions in Comparative Politics

Part I. Understanding Comparative Politics and Analyzing Regimes

1. What is Comparative Politics? Approaches, Methods and Topics

Thursday, January 16

- Chapter 1: The Comparative Approach: An Introduction in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 3rd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 1 - 23.
- * Excerpt from Diamond, Jared. *Guns, germs, and steel: the fates of human societies*. in Dickovick and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Theoretical Approaches in Comparative Politics

Tuesday, January 21

- Lim, Timothy C. "Thinking Theoretically in Comparative Politics," in *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues*, Lynn Reiner, 2006.

The State

Thursday, January 23

- Chapter 3 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 47-69.
- * Weber, Max "Politics as a Vocation, " in Dickovick and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Democracy and Democratization

Tuesday, January 28

- **READING QUIZ 1**
- Chapter 6 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 121-146.
- * Schmitter, Phillippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl "What Democracy Is...and Is Not, " in Dickovick and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown

Thursday, January 30

- Chapter 7 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 147-157.

Tuesday, February 4

- **READING QUIZ 2**
- Chapter 7 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 158-171.
- * Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," in Dickovick and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Thursday, February 6

- Presentation I: Understanding political regime in Zimbabwe

Political Economy

Tuesday, February 11

- Chapter 4 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 70-93..

Revision, Discussion and Writing

Thursday, February 13

- Discussion and Review of Part I

Tuesday, February 18

- EXAM I

Part II. Institutions and Governments

Constitutions and Constitutional design

Thursday, February 20

- Chapter 8: in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 174-200.

Legislatures and legislative elections:

Tuesday, February 25

- **READING QUIZ 3**
- Chapter 9 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 201-228.
- *Morgenstern, Scott, "Explaining Legislative Politics in Latin America," in Dickovic and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Executives

Thursday, February 27

- Chapter 10 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 229-250.
- *Jackson, Robert and Carl Rosberg, "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa," in Dickovic and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Political Parties, Party systems and Interests

Tuesday, March 3

- **READING QUIZ 4**
- Chapter 11 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 254 - 279.
- * Chibber, Pradeep and Ken Kollman, "The formation of National Party Systems: Federalism and Party Competition in Canada, Great Britain, India and the United States," in Dickovic and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Thursday, March 5

- Presentation II: Understanding political party structure in the United States

Tuesday, March 10

- Understanding political party structure in India

Thursday, March 12

- Documentary film: in class

SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20

NO CLASS: International Studies Association Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26

Tuesday, March 31

- Presentation III: Understanding Political Party Structure in China

Thursday, April 2

- Review and Discussion of Part II

Tuesday, April 7

- Exam 2

Part III: Identity and Contentious Politics

Revolutions and Contention

Thursday, April 9

- **READING QUIZ 5**
- Chapter 12 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 280-307.
- * Gurr, Ted R. "Why Men Rebel," in Dickovick and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).

Tuesday, April 14

- **No Class: Invited talk at Stockton University, NJ**
- **Online Assignment**

Thursday, April 16

- Presentation IV: Understanding the revolution in Egypt during and after Arab Spring

Nationalism and Ethnic conflict

Tuesday, April 21

- Chapter 13 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 308-327.

Thursday, April 23

- Presentation V: The Syrian Civil War

Tuesday, April 28

- Understanding the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar

Race, Ethnicity and Gender

Monday, April 30

- **READING QUIZ 6**
- Chapter 14 in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theory, Methods, and Cases* by J Tyler Dickovic and Jonathan Eastwood, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, pp. 328-350.
- * Htun, Mala “Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups,” in Dickovic and Eastwood (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, NY: Oxford University Press. (2017).
- Review of Part III

Thursday, May 7

- **FINAL EXAM**
- 12:30 - 2:30 pm