

Govt 203: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS, Spring 2008

Section 01: Tu & Th, 12:30-1:50, Morton 1

Section 02: Tu & Th, 2:00-3:30, Morton 1

Instructor: Paula M. Pickering

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Office hours: Tues 3:30-5; Wed 9-10:30, and by appt.

GOALS OF THE COURSE: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the comparative analysis of different political systems and their outcomes. We will examine states that are Western and Non-Western, as well as states that are democratic, authoritarian, and in the process of transition. To help sharpen our understanding of comparative analysis, we will focus on approaches to explaining the democratization process (or lack thereof) in various countries across the globe. We will examine case studies of politics in the UK, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, Iran, India, and Nigeria to illuminate this puzzle. The goal of this course is to help students develop the analytical tools that enable them to think about politics abroad and in the U.S. in a new way, systematically and comparatively. The analytical tools and theoretical knowledge learned in this course are intended to meet GER 3 and to prepare students interested in delving further into the politics of particular regions or into topics offered by 300 and 400-level comparative politics courses. More generally, comparing politics across borders enhances understanding of ourselves and others, which is important in an era of increasing interdependence.

EXPECTATIONS. Students are required not only to attend class, but also to participate in an informed and active way in discussion. This means that students are expected to come to class having completed, and having thought critically about, the required readings. We will be honing our analytical skills during this course. As a result, I will expect you to bring relevant readings to class and to offer specific evidence from them to support the arguments you make. I also encourage questions about the readings, my lectures, and/or our discussions.

Grades will be based on:

- active and informed class participation (10 %). In addition to fulfilling the expectations I discuss above, students will also be responsible for following recent developments related to democratization (or lack thereof) in the one non-advanced industrialized country that you choose to write about in your short research paper (see below).
- quizzes (5%). In a lecture course, there are not always sufficient opportunities for student participation. To give you a chance to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings and to facilitate discussion, there will be an unspecified number of pop quizzes on assigned readings throughout the semester. Students who are absent or who arrive late to class after the quizzes have been collected cannot take the quiz. If you have an excuse from the Health Center or Dean of Students for a quiz date, you can be exempted from the quiz. I will drop all students' worst quiz.
- midterm (25 %) on 2/26. This exam will consist of identifications and short answers only.
- short analytical paper of 5-7 pages (25 %), due 4/10. This paper will involve the application of theories we have learned in class to your choice of one non-advanced industrialized country that we have not covered in the course. You will need to use at least several academic sources beyond those assigned. I will provide additional details about the paper in February. Students will submit hard copies of the paper, as well as a read out from turnitin.com
- final exam (35 %). (for 12:30 section: Tues, 4/29, 8:30-11:30; for 2 p.m. section: Wed, 4/30, 1:30-4:30) The final will consist of a section of identifications, a section of short answers, and a section of essays. The identifications and short answers will be based on material after the midterm. The essays will be cumulative.

Other Policies: A missed class because of an illness will be excused only with a note from the Health Center or the Dean of students. No student can pass this course without completing each of the required components discussed above. All students are responsible for saving a copy of their papers. I will not accept late papers or papers submitted only by e-mail. Please read and follow the Honor Code. I reserve the right to make minor changes to this syllabus. To enhance the quality of class time, turn off cell phones and use computers only for course-related work.

Students will need to follow a respected news source with strong international coverage (e.g., the *New York Times*, BBC.com; *The Economist*...) in order to keep up with political developments in their country of focus. I encourage students to come talk with me during my office hours to alert me to any special learning needs, discuss material or pose any questions about readings, lectures, or assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- W. Phillips Shively and Michael Sodaro, *Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2008* (a custom-designed book).
- A reading packet available for purchase at Swem's copy center, 2nd floor, 1-3116, (readings marked with *).

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1:

1/17

- Introduction to the course

THE STUDY OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

WEEK 2:

1/22

- The process of comparing
Readings:
 - Sodaro, "Comparative Politics: What is It? Why Study It?" in Shively & Sodaro, pp. 1-28.

1/24

- Social scientific analysis
Readings:
 - Sodaro, "Critical Thinking about Politics, Analytical Techniques of Political Science," in Shively & Sodaro, pp. 29-65.

DEMOCRACY AND ITS PROBLEMS

WEEK 3:

1/29

What is democracy and what are problems for democracy?

Readings:

- Michael Sodaro, "Democracy, What is It?" in Shively & Sodaro, pp. 67-83.
- *Fareed Zakaria, "Illiberal Democracy," *The Future of Freedom*, New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2003, 89-118.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY APPROACH: does capitalism bring democracy?

1/31

- The political economy approach
Readings:
 - *Samuel H. Beer, "The Dynamics of Modernization," 5 in Bernard E. Brown, ed., *Comparative Politics Notes and Readings, Tenth Ed.*, Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth, 2003, pp. 52-55.
 - *Jean Grugel, *Democratization: a critical introduction*, Houndmills: Palgrave: 2002, pp. 48-9.

WEEK 4

2/5

- Democracy in the UK
Readings:
 - Shively, "Great Britain," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 90-133.

2/7

- Socio-economic preconditions for democracy?
Readings:
 - * Seymour Martin Lipset, Kyoung-Ryung Seong, John Charles Tores, "Social Requisites of Democracy, in Brown and Macridis, eds, *Comparative Politics Notes and Readings*, Belmont, CA: Thompson, 1996, pp. 157-167.
 - *Karl Marx, "British Rule in India," 7 in Brown, ed. 2003, pp. 64-65.

WEEK 5:

2/12

- Democracy in India
Readings:
 - James Manor, "India," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 137-185.

THE POLITICAL CULTURE APPROACH: is a particular type of culture a pre-requisite for democracy?

2/14

- Defining Political Culture
Readings

- *"Political Culture and Political Socialization," in Gabriel Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Kaare Strom, and Russell Dalton, *Comparative Politics: A Theoretical Framework*, 4th Ed., New York: Pearson Longman, 2004, pp. 56-75.

WEEK 6

2/19

- The case for a more active political culture

Readings:

- *Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone," 20 in Brown, ed., 2003, pp. 265-273.
- *Michael Foley and Bob Edwards, "The Paradox of Civil Society," 30 in Brown, ed., 2003, 274-83.

2/21

- Understanding Japan's transformation

Readings:

- Dean Collingwood, "Japan," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 187-228.

WEEK 7:

2/26

- **Midterm**

2/28

- Are certain cultures incompatible with democracy?

Readings:

- *"Larry Diamond, "Universal Democracy?" in Brown, ed., 2006, pp. bottom of 225-top 228.
- Carnaghan, Ellen, "Thinking about Democracy: Interviews with Russian citizens," *Slavic Review* 60, no. 2, 2001, pp. 336-64. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0037-6779%28200122%2960%3A2%3C336%3ATADIWR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-U>

Spring Break

WEEK 8:

3/11

- The case of Iran

Readings:

- Moshen Milani, "Iran" in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 231-270.

3/13

- Islam and democracy

Readings:

- *Fareed Zakaria, "The Islamic Exception," *The Future of Freedom*, pp. 118-150.

THE INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH: crafting democracy?

WEEK 9

3/18

- Can we engineer democracy?

Readings:

- *Grugel, "Theories of Democratization," & "Democratization and the State," pp. 62-3; 70-7.

3/20

- The Germanies

Readings:

- W. Phillips Shively, "Germany," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 275-321.

WEEK 10:

3/25

- Institutional Design in culturally complex countries

Readings:

- *Donald Green and Ian Shapiro, "The Nature of Rational Choice Theory," in Green and Shapiro, *The Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994, pp. 13-19.

- *Arend Lijphart, "Majoritarian Versus Consensual Democracy," 19 in Brown, ed., pp. 175-183.
- *Juan J. Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism;" 36 in Brown ed., pp. 342-52.

3/27

- Variations on Nigeria

Readings:

- Rotimi Suberu and Larry Diamond, "Nigeria" in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 325-374.

WEEK 11

4/1

- Accountability & Design

Readings:

- *Guillermo O'Donnell, "Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies, 18, in Brown, ed., pp. 166-174.

POWERFUL ALTERNATIVES TO DEMOCRACY

4/3

- Russia: rejecting democracy?

Readings:

- Philip G. Roeder, "The Russian Federation," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 381-447.

WEEK 12:

4/8

- China: capitalism without democracy?

Readings:

- Bruce J. Dickson, "China," in Shively and Sodaro, pp. 450-496.

4/10

- **Paper due by 5 p.m. - no class**

LOOKING FORWARD: Factors Influencing Conflict and Cooperation

WEEK 13

4/15

- Sources of Conflict: Culture?

Readings:

- (online) Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, pp. 1-12, http://web4.infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/16/540/45460402w4/purl=rc1_ITOF_0_A13187561&dyn=6!xrn_9_0_A13187561?sw_aep=viva_wm

4/17

- Sources of Conflict: Misunderstanding Culture?

Readings:

- *Amartya Sen, "Civilizational Imprisonments: How to Misunderstand Everybody in the World," in Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Second Ed., W.W. Norton and Company, 2006, pp. 118-126.

WEEK 14:

4/22

- Understanding Anti-American Views

Readings:

- *Giacomo Chiozza, "Disaggregating Anti-Americanism: An Analysis of Individual attitudes toward the United States," in Peter Katzenstein and Robert Keohane, eds., *Anti-Americanisms in World Politics*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007, pp. 93-126.

4/24

- Pondering the future

Readings:

- *Larry Diamond, "Universal Democracy?" in Brown, ed. 2006, pp. 222-236.