

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POLI 220-001 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Term 1 (September 2-November 28, 2014), M W F 3 pm – 4 pm

Room: BUCH A-201

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:15-6 pm

Teaching Assistants:

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Evaluation:

Participation and Attendance in Tutorials:	20%	
Mid-Term Exam:	20%	October 6, 2014
Term Paper:	30%	October 31, 2014
Final Exam:	30%	TBA during Exam Week

Course description:

The study of politics is fundamentally about the study of how people learn to live together. How is violence prevented? How are resources allocated? How are collective projects carried out? Historically, societies have developed different institutions, practices, norms, and ideologies to face these challenges. As a result, we find today a fascinating diversity of political systems. What drives societies to choose certain institutions and not others? Why do they fail or succeed in addressing social problems?

In this course we will develop the necessary tools to rigorously explore this type of questions. In doing so, we will discuss some of the main debates in the literature on comparative politics today.

The course is designed as a combination of lectures, tutorials, and independent work. In the lectures, we will cover the main conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools of comparative politics. The weekly tutorials will be devoted to applying those tools to the analysis of specific empirical cases, including advanced industrialized democracies, authoritarian regimes, and post-communist and developing countries. Students will be expected to read around 35-50 pages per week, which will include sections of the main textbook, abridged versions of academic articles, and general descriptions of concrete cases.

Required Texts:

1. O'Neil, Patrick H. 2012. *Essentials in Comparative Politics* (Fourth Edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company
2. O'Neil, Patrick H., and Ronald Rogowski. 2012. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (Fourth Edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company
3. O'Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2012. *Cases in Comparative Politics* (Fourth Edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company
4. Academic articles for term paper are available through the UBC Library website.

Objectives of the course:

This course will offer an introduction to the comparative study of politics across the globe. The course will pursue four main goals:

- To familiarize students with the main conceptual, analytical and methodological tools of comparative politics;
- To explore some of the substantive debates in the discipline concerning political development, the nation-state, democracy and authoritarianism, political and electoral systems, political parties and party systems, interest groups, political participation, political economy and the welfare state, public policy, and contentious politics;
- To practice how to read, analyze and criticize academic articles in comparative politics;
- To learn about structural, institutional, and cultural differences across contemporary political systems.

Course policies:

Attendance: Attendance is expected of students in all classes. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. All assignments must be completed and handed in. Students who do not attend regularly or fail to hand in an assignment may be disallowed from writing the final exam.

Read the university calendar so that you are aware of no-penalty drop dates, requirements for medical authorization (to defer an exam, for example) and other procedures that may affect you.

Student Development & Services
Brock Hall, Room 1203 , 1874 East Mall
Tel: 604.822.5844 / TTY: 604.822.9049 / Email: access.diversity@ubc.ca

Appeals: students who wish to appeal grades assigned to their academic work may do so. The initial appeal should be made to the TA or to the course instructor. If the student remains unsatisfied with this process, he/she may proceed to the head of the department or further to a formal committee established in accordance with University policies.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be penalized 3% per day. The only exceptions are for students who have a medical, compassionate, or other legitimate reason for being late and can produce supporting documentation. Term papers should be submitted by electronic means to Turnitin.com where they will be analyzed for plagiarism.

Academic Dishonesty: Any form of academic dishonesty will be severely penalized according to UBC guidelines. Please review the UBC Calendar for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. The Library also has a helpful web page on plagiarism. See: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/guide-to-academic-integrity/>

Using Turnitin.com:

In this course you will be required to submit your book review and the term paper in electronic form. The electronic material will be submitted to a service to which UBC subscribes, called TurnItIn. This is a service that checks textual material for originality. It is increasingly used in North American universities. It is the policy of the Department of Political Science that written assignments in undergraduate courses will be submitted to TurnItIn.

Log on to **www.turnitin.com**. You will be asked to create a “user profile” with ID (use your email address) and password. Once your profile is created, you will be able to add courses to it for assignment review. If you have already created a profile for another course you do not need to create a new one; just add this course to your existing account. To add this course, you will need the “course ID” which is **8492334** and “course password,” which is **development**. Now you will be able to submit assignments to Turnitin.com for review.

For each assignment, you will be asked to provide your name and student number, as well as some details about your assignment. This information will be used only to identify your submission to your instructor. Please ensure that there is no identifying information included in the text of your assignment. In particular, do not leave your name and student number on each page of your essay (as is common). Just have a simple page number. When preparing your essay, please create three separate files. The first file is for your title page with your name, course number and essay title on it. The second file is the main body of your essay. The third file is your bibliography. Please submit only the second file, the main body of your essay, to Turnitin.com. When you prepare the paper copy to hand in to class, you can print the other two files together with the main body of the essay and combine all three to hand it. Simply confirm the submission, and TurnItIn will issue a receipt (via e-mail).

Please ensure you have removed your name and student number from everything you submit to Turnitin.

Your instructor and TA can help you with the Turnitin process if you have

difficulties. Create your profile and add this course to your account early in the term so that it can be efficiently submitted on or before the due date. Difficulties on or after the due date will not be accepted as a reason for a late paper.

You must also submit a paper copy to your instructor at the beginning of the lecture when the assignment is due (see Course Schedule below).

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1. Introduction: What is Comparative Politics? (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 2-25)

1. Wednesday, September 3, 2014. Presentation & Introduction
2. Friday, September 5, 2014. Comparative Method (*Essential Readings*, pp. 3-23)

Week 2. States (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 26-55)

1. Monday, September 8, 2014. Defining the state and its origins
2. Wednesday, September 10, 2014. State capacity
3. Friday, September 12, 2014. Weber, Max. "Politics as a vocation" (*Essential Readings*, pp. 39-44)

Week 3. Nations (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 56-89)

1. Monday, September 15, 2014. Nations, ethnicity and citizenship
2. Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Political attitudes and political culture
3. Friday, September 19, 2014. Fearon, James D. & David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War" (from *Essential Readings*, pp. 86-96)

Week 4. Regimes I: Democracy (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 126-161)

1. Monday, September 22, 2014. Institutions and models of democracy
2. Wednesday, September 24, 2014. Processes of democratization
3. Friday, September 26, 2014. Lijphart, Arend. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" (from *Essential Readings*, pp. 213-222)

Week 5. Regimes II: Authoritarianism (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 162-191)

1. Monday, September 29, 2014. Defining non-democratic rule and its origins

2. Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Models of non-democratic rule
3. Friday, October 3. Weinthal, Erika & Pauline Jones Luong. “Combating the Resource Curse: An Alternative Solution to Managing Mineral Wealth” (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 279-294**)

Week 6. Political Economy I: Economic Development (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 90-110)

1. **Monday, October 6, 2014. Mid-Term exam**
2. Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The components of political economy
3. Friday, October 10. Political-economic systems

Week 7. Political Economy II: Welfare States (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 111-125)

1. Monday, October 13, 2014: Thanksgiving
2. Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Political-Economic Systems and the State
3. Friday, October 17, 2014. Iversen, Torben & David Soskice. “Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others” (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 440-450**) & Estevez-Abe Margarita, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. “Social Protection and the Formation of Skills: A Reinterpretation of the Welfare State” (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 450-466**)

Week 8. Political Violence (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 192-223)

1. Monday, October 20, 2014. Defining political violence
2. Wednesday, October 22, 2014. Forms of political violence
3. Friday, October 24, 2014. Skocpol, Theda. “France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions” (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 316-333**)

Week 9. Selected Topics about Advanced Democracies (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 224-255)

1. Monday, October 27, 2014. Postmaterialism and Postindustrialism

2. Wednesday, October 29, 2014. Economic integration and the European Union
3. Friday, October 31, 2014. Movie. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TERM PAPER.**

Week 10. Selected Topics about Post-Communist Countries (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 256-289)

1. Monday, November 3, 2014. Communism
2. Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Democratization in former Communist Countries
3. Friday, November 7, 2014. Warren, Mark & Baogang He. "Authoritarian Deliberation: The Deliberative Turn in Chinese Political development" (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 509-539**)

Week 11. Selected Topics about Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 290-321)

1. Monday, November 10, 2014. Colonialism and its legacies
2. Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Democracy and Development
3. Friday, November 14, 2014. Collier, Paul & Jan Willem Gunning. "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 553-571**)

Week 12. Globalization (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 322-350)

1. Monday, November 17, 2014. Defining globalization
2. Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Globalization and domestic politics
3. Friday, November 21, 2014. Rodrik, Dani. "Is Global Governance Feasible? Is It Desirable?" (**from *Essential Readings*, pp. 595-609**)

Week 13. Conclusion and Review (*Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 3-31)

1. Monday, November 24, 2014. Conclusion
2. Wednesday, November 26, 2014. Review: substantive concepts
3. Friday, November 28, 2014. Review: research methods and comparative politics as scientific inquiry.

Assignments and Exams:

The evaluation of the course will include four components:

Participation and Attendance in Tutorials:	20%	
Mid-Term Exam:	20%	October 6, 2014
Term Paper:	30%	October 31, 2014
Final Exam:	30%	TBA during Exam Week

Tutorials: Tutorials are designed to discuss the material covered in the lectures in relation to specific empirical cases. Each discussion group will focus on one developed democracy, one authoritarian regime, and one developing country throughout the term. During the first tutorial of the term, the TA will provide you with her/his own reading list for the discussion groups. The readings will be taken from *Cases in Comparative Politics* and will directly speak to the material covered that week in the general lectures. TA's will also assign the marks for attendance and participation, and will make clear the criteria for these grades during the first tutorial. Students are expected to attend every tutorial in the term, do the readings, and participate in the discussions. Material covered in the tutorials will also be included in the mid-term and final exams.

Mid-Term Exam: A mid-term exam will take place on October 6, 2014. It will include the material covered until then and will be worth 20% of the overall grade.

Term Paper (Literature Review): The term paper is due at the beginning of the lecture of Friday, October 31, 2014. It will consist of a literature review of a set of articles that collectively present an ongoing debate in the study of comparative politics. Below you will find the bibliographic information of four sets of articles (all available through the UBC library website). Students must choose one of those sets of articles and write their literature review on that specific debate.

A good literature review should offer:

- a) Concise but complete summaries of each of the works under examination (see below for pointers on how to write a good summary);
- b) An assessment of the state-of-the-art in the discipline (what do we know, what do we not know, where are disagreements, where do we find consensus among experts); and
- c) A general commentary of the contributions and shortcomings of these works to the accumulation of knowledge.

A good analytical summary of an academic article or book should address the following issues succinctly and explicitly:

1. What is the research question (i.e., the outcome to be explained)?
2. What are the answers that have been previously offered to this question (i.e., the existing literature)?

3. What is the answer to the research question advanced by the author (i.e., the main explanatory argument)?
4. What is the evidence that the author uses to prove that her answer to the research question is more adequate than the pre-existing explanations (i.e., what type of evidence, how was it gathered and analyzed)?
5. Does the evidence successfully confirm the strength of the argument? Is the new argument complementary or contradictory of pre-existing ones?

For models of academic literature reviews, students might want to skim over some of the review articles that appear in every issue of the journal *Perspectives on Politics*, available through the UBC library website.

Format: The literature reviews should be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, in font Times New Roman, size 12. Every quotation or reference to a specific claim or passage in the articles under review should have complete bibliographic details including the exact page number. Students are free to choose any of the commonly used referencing styles (MLA, Chicago, APA) as long as it is consistent throughout the paper.

Please choose **one** of the following sets of articles to write your literature review:

1. *Democracy and development:*

- a. Bardhan, Pranab. 1993. "Symposium on Democracy and Development" in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 45-49.
- b. Przeworski, Adam & Fernando Limongi. 1993. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth" in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 51-69.
- c. Huber, Evelyn, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and John D. Stephens. 1993. "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy" in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 71-86.
- d. Heilbroner, Robert. 1993. "Was Schumpeter Right after All?" in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 87-96.

2. *State infrastructural power:*

- a. Soifer, Hillel & Matthias Vom Hau. 2008. "Unpacking the Strength of the State: The Utility of State Infrastructural Power" in *Studies in Comparative International Development (St Comp Int Dev)*, Vol. 43, pp. 219-230.
- b. Soifer, Hillel. 2008. "State Infrastructural Power: Approaches to Conceptualization and Measurement" in *Studies in Comparative International Development (St Comp Int Dev)*, Vol. 43, pp. 231-251.

- c. Slater, Dan. 2008. "Can Leviathan be Democratic? Competitive Elections, Robust Mass Politics, and State Infrastructural Power", in *Studies in Comparative International Development (St Comp Int Dev)*, Vol. 43, pp. 252-272.
- d. Lange, Matthew & Hrag Balian. 2008. "Containing Conflict or Instigating Unrest? A Test of the Effects of State Infrastructural Power on Civil Violence" in *Studies in Comparative International Development (St Comp Int Dev)*, Vol. 43, pp. 314-333.
- e. Mann, Michael. 2008. "Infrastructural Power Revisited" in *Studies in Comparative International Development (St Comp Int Dev)*, Vol. 43, pp. 355-365.

3. *Origins of electoral systems:*

- a. Kreuzer, Marcus. 2010. "Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation" in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (May 2010), pp. 369-392.
- b. Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen and David Soskice. 2010. "Coevolution of Capitalism and Political Representation: The Choice of Electoral Systems", in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (May 2010), pp. 393-403.
- c. Boix, Carles. 2010. "Electoral Markets, Party Strategies, and Proportional Representation", in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (May 2010), pp. 404-413.

For this set of articles, you should focus your review on the previous three sources. However, you might want to read the following two articles to better understand the debate, since they were the original contributions that started the discussion:

- d. Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies" in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (Sep. 1999), pp. 609-624.
- e. Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen and David Soskice. 2007. "Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Systems" in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, No. 3 (August 2007), pp. 373-391.

Final Exam: There will be a final exam during the exam period in December, as scheduled by the University. The final exam will include content covered during the **entire** course, including material from the first six weeks.

Please note that for the final exam, students may not have any electronic devices on the desk with them, except a watch. This means cell phones are not allowed on desktops and may not be consulted. Nor may students use headphones of any kind.