

PSC 1001: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2019

Tuesday-Thursday, 11:10 a.m.-12 noon

Room 108, Fungler Hall

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-4, and by appointment

Summary

This class is an introduction to the study of comparative politics. You will learn not only about politics in a select group of countries, but also about some of the major concepts used in the study of comparative politics. The course will cover a wide range of issues, including the formation of the nation-state, democratization, authoritarianism, political culture, political institutions, and strategies of economic development. We also will discuss some debates in comparative politics that have been important in the policy-making community in recent years, such as the role of the state in the economy and the effort to promote democracy in the world.

Reading

There are two required texts for this class that you can purchase at the GWU bookstore:

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 6th edition (NY: Norton, 2017).

Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 6th edition (NY: Norton, 2017).

The other required readings (marked with an *) are available on Blackboard under e-reserves.

Students are also required to buy a Turning Point clicker or smart phone app to be used during lectures.

Blackboard

In addition to the required reading, you will find other useful information on Blackboard, such as a copy of the syllabus, information about assignments and exams, and your grades. For each class, I also will post the PowerPoint slides before the lecture.

Technology Policies

Laptops are not allowed in this class, either in lectures or discussions. Despite their convenience, they have proven to be disruptive and distracting to students and are therefore prohibited.

During exams, students may not use any electronic devices, including cell phones, PDAs, I-pods, dictionaries or any other electronic equipment. *Students who are found to be using any electronic device will automatically fail the exam.*

Credit Hour Policy

You should expect to spend twice as much time outside of class doing the reading assignments, reviewing for exams, and doing writing assignments as you spend in class. Because this class meets for 2.5 hours per week (3 meetings @ 50 minutes), you should spend on average at least 5 hours per week on your own doing homework and prep.

Academic Integrity

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity, and all students are also expected to abide by it. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

Learning Objectives:

This class satisfies G-PAC requirements in critical thinking and cross-cultural perspectives. In this class, you will:

- Learn and critically analyze fundamental concepts in political science and comparative politics;
- Apply these concepts in a variety of countries;
- Learn how historical and cultural differences influence the practice of politics;
- Compare the differences between regime types and their impact on political, economic, and social outcomes;
- Demonstrate your knowledge through two analytical papers and two exams.

Learning Assessment:

Your success in achieving the learning objectives of the class will be assessed in the following ways:

Use of clicker during lectures: each lecture will include clicker questions based on the readings and lecture material.

Midterm/Final: Both exams will consist of multiple choice, short identifications, and essays. The exams will assess three things: (1) your knowledge about the specific countries and cases we have covered; (2) your ability to think critically about the concepts and themes explored in the class; and (3) your ability to apply these concepts to specific country cases. The exams will cover both the readings and information presented during lectures. The midterm will cover the first half of the course. The final exam will cover the entire class, with emphasis on the second half,

and will be given during the final exam period. **Make-ups will only be allowed for students who have a documented medical or family emergency.**

Discussion sections: the weekly discussion sections are extremely important for this class, as it is in these sessions that you will have a chance to discuss and assess the readings and themes of the course, and to show your ability to engage in critical discussion of the material. **Attendance is mandatory**, and you will be evaluated on your contributions to the discussion. Attendance is a necessary but not sufficient requirement of discussion: you must not only be present, but also take an active role in the discussion. This means you must do the assigned reading for each week prior to the discussion section meeting. There will also be papers and other assignments to evaluate your knowledge of the concepts and cases covered in this class.

You will be allowed to miss one discussion meeting with no questions asked, and this will not affect your grade. If you miss any more classes, your absences will count against your participation grade.

Teaching Assistants:

Monday sections: Adam Lenton

Tuesday sections: Marko Zilovic

Wednesday sections: Ahmed Kodouda

Thursday sections: Dennis Li

Current Events

One goal of the class is for you to develop a more sophisticated understanding of different cultures, politics, and world events. I strongly suggest you regularly read one of the major national newspapers (*The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*) or international newspapers (*Financial Times* [available free through GW (<https://registration.ft.com/corporate/signup/QEqDA4tVvz92g>)]). Some useful magazines and journals that are available through Gelman's e-journals include *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Journal of Democracy*.

Grading

Clicker questions in lectures: 10%

Discussion sections: 25%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 40%

I. THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

1: January 15: Introduction, overview of class.

2: January 17: What is comparative politics?

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 1, "Introduction."

II. STATES AND SOCIETIES

3: January 22: The state

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 2, "States."

* Francis Fukuyama, "The Imperative of State-Building," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 15, no. 2 (2004), pp. 17-31.

4: January 24: Democratic Regimes

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 5, "Democratic Regimes."

* Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 2, no. 1 (Summer 1991), pp. 75-88.

5: January 29: Authoritarian and Hybrid Regimes

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 6, "Non-Democratic Regimes."

* Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 13, no. 2 (April 2002), pp. 51-65.

6: January 31: National Identities – Guest lecturer: Ahmed Koduoda

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 3, "Nations and Society," sections on ethnic and national identities (up to section on political attitudes), pp. 62-77.

* John McGarry and Brendon O'Leary, "The Political Regulation of Ethnic Conflict," *Parliamentary Affairs*, vol. 47, no. 1 (January 1994), pp. 94-115.

* Charles King, "Loser Nationalisms: How Certain Ideas of the Nation Succeed or Fail," chapter 3 in *Extreme Politics: Nationalism, Violence, and the End of Eastern Europe* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 37-54.

7: February 5: Civil Society

* Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 6, no. 1 (1995), pp. 65-78.

* Michael W. Foley and Bob Edwards, "The Paradox of Civil Society," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 7, no. 3 (July 1996), pp. 38-52.

* Timothy C. Lim, "What Makes a Social Movement? Explaining the Rise and Success of Collective Mobilization" in *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues* (Lynne Reinner, 2010).

8: February 7: Protest, Rebellion, Revolution

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 7, "Political Violence."

* Stathis Kalyvas, "The Ontology of 'Political Violence': Action and Identity in Civil Wars," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (September 2003), pp. 475-494.

III. THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT

9: February 12: Early Modernizers

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 3, "Nations and Society," (sections on political attitudes and ideology), pp. 77-95; and ch. 4, "Political Economy."

10: February 14: Late Developers

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 10, "Developing Countries."

IV. DEMOCRATIC REGIMES: THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY

11: February 19: The emergence of democracy

O'Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 8, "Developed Democracies," (skim section on EU, read the rest).

* Sheri Berman, "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 18, no. 1 (January 2007), pp. 28-41.

12: February 21: Political Dynamics in the UK

O'Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, United Kingdom, pp. 34-76 (up through Political Economy).

13. February 26: Political dynamics in Germany – Guest lecturer: Marko Zilovic

O'Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, Germany, pp. 214-257 (up through Political Economy).

* Clay Risen, "Recounting German Lessons," *Democracy*, no. 15 (Winter 2010), <https://democracyjournal.org/magazine/15/german-lessons/>

14: February 28: Policy challenges in UK and Germany

O'Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, "Political Economy," "Foreign Relations and the World," and "Current Issues" sections for UK and Germany cases, pp. 76-91 and 257-273.

* Thiemo Fetzer, "Austerity Swung Voters to Brexit – and Now They Are Changing Their Minds," *LSE Blog*, Nov. 19, 2018, <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2018/11/19/austerity-swung-voters-to-brexit-and-now-they-are-changing-their-minds/>

* Garvan Walshe, "Brexit is Destroying Britain's Constitution," *Foreign Policy*, Dec. 12, 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/18/brexit-is-destroying-britains-constitution/>

* Claus Offe, "Germany: What Happens Next?" *Social Europe*, Oct. 3, 2017, <https://www.socialeurope.eu/germany-happens-next>

15: March 5: Mid-Semester Review

16. March 7: MIDTERM EXAM

*** * * MARCH 11-16: SPRING BREAK * * ***

V. AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICA

17: March 19: Transitions to democracy – Guest Lecturer: Dennis Li

* Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest*, No. 16 (Summer 1989), pp. 3-18

* Samuel P. Huntington, “Democracy’s Third Wave,” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 2, no. 1 (Spring 1991), pp.12-34.

* Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, “How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know About Modernization,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, no. 2 (March-April 2009), pp. 33-48.

18: March 21: Political and economic development in Brazil

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, chapter 12 on Brazil.

19. March 26: Political and economic development in South Africa

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, chapter 13 on South Africa.

VI. COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM: RUSSIA AND CHINA

20: March 28: Communism in theory and practice

O’Neil, *Essentials*, ch. 9 “Communism and Post-Communism.”

21: April 2: Comparing variants of communism in the USSR and PRC

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, “Introduction” section for Russia and “Introduction” and “Regime” sections and China cases, pp. 336-349 and 386-415.

22: April 4: Post-communist transition in Russia – Guest Lecturer: Adam Lenton

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, “Political Regime,” “Political Conflict and Competition,” “Society,” and “Political Economy” sections for Russia, pp. 349-375.

* Karen Dawisha, “The Putin Principle: How It Came to Rule Russia,” *World Affairs* (May/June 2015), Web. <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/putin-principle-how-it-came-rule-russia>

* Daniel Treisman, “Why Putin Took Crimea: The Gambler in the Kremlin,” *Foreign Affairs*, April 18, 2016.

* Henry E. Hale, “25 Years after the USSR: What’s Gone Wrong,” *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 27, no. 3 (July 2016), pp. 24-35.

* Tatyana Stanovaya, “Russia’s Social Agenda,” Carnegie Moscow Center, Nov. 29, 2018, <https://carnegie.ru/commentary/77824>.

23. April 9: China’s capitalist economy within a communist state

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, “Political Conflict and Competition,” “Society,” and “Political Economy” sections for China, pp. 415-436.

* Scott Kennedy, “The Myth of the Beijing Consensus,” *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 19, no. 65 (June 2010), pp. 461-477.

24: April 11: The future of post-communism in Russia and China– Guest lecturer: Siobhan Kirkland

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, “Foreign Relations and the World,” and “Current Issues” sections for Russia and China cases, pp. 375-385 and 436-449.

* David Shambaugh, “Contemplating China’s Future,” *Washington Quarterly* vol. 39, no. 3 (Fall 2016), pp. 121-130.

* Bruce J. Dickson, “The Survival Strategy of the Chinese Communist Party,” *Washington Quarterly*, vol. 39, no. 4 (Winter 2017), pp. 27-44.

VII. SECULARISM VS. FAITH IN IRAN AND EGYPT

25: April 16: Islam and politics

* Marina Ottaway and Thomas Carothers, "Think Again: Middle East Democracy," *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004), pp. 22-28.

* F. Gregory Gause III, "Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring: The Myth of Authoritarian Stability," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2011), pp. 81-90.

* Alfred Stepan and Juan J. Linz, "Democratization Theory and the 'Arab Spring,'" *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 24, no. 2 (April 2013), pp. 15-30.

26: April 18: Iran

O'Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, chapter 10 on Iran.

27: April 23: Egypt

* Marc Lynch, "How the Media Trashed the Transitions," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 26, no. 4 (October 2015), pp. 90-99.

* Shadi Hamid, "Muslim Brothers: The Rivalry That Shaped Modern Egypt," *Foreign Affairs*, (September/October 2018).

* "Egypt," Freedom House Report 2018.

VII. SUMMARY

28: April 25: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship: What Have We Learned?

O'Neil, Fields, and Share, *Cases for Comparative Politics*, chapter 1.

FINAL EXAM: TBA