

Political Science 123

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Instructor: Li Shao

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042 Eggers Hall

Office Hours: 2pm-3pm, Mons and Weds, or by appointment

1 Course Objectives

1. The primary purpose of this course is to survey the classic research topics and major theories in the field of Comparative Politics.
2. The course will increase students' understanding of the following topics: state formation, institutions of democracies and non-democracies, political economy of development and contentious politics.
3. This course aims to prepare students to be familiar with the literature and the academic readings so that they can get ready for higher level of class.

2 Assignment and Grading

2.1 Grading System

I grade to a high standard. It is difficult to pass the course, and very difficult to earn a B or an A. That said, I do not grade on a curve, in which students compete against each other for a pre-determined number of A's and B's. Rather, I set a standard and grade based on that standard. It is thus possible for everyone in the course to receive an A or for everyone in the course to receive an F. My goal, of course, is for all students to pass. But it is worth noting that *even though this is a required course for some students, it is possible for students to fail the course.*

- In-class Participation: 25%
- Exam #1: 25%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Exam #3: 25%

I reserve the right to increase grades if a student participates well in class or in section, or if a student shows marked improvement over the course of the semester. I also reserve the right to decrease grades in rare cases if participation is substandard (e.g., not showing up for an exam, frequently failing to attend lectures).

2.2 Grading Standards

For both problem sets and exams, you need to follow the instruction to answer the questions to get full credits. For example, if the question asks you to explain, you need to write at least one paragraph to explain your answer.

The scale:

A = 95 – 100

A- = 90 – 94
B+ = 85 – 89
B = 80 – 84
B- = 75 – 79
C+ = 70 – 74
C = 65 – 69
C- = 60 – 64
D = 50 – 59
F = *Fail*

2.3 Grading Appeals

Grade appeals are extremely unlikely to be successful; I suggest that students spend their time elsewhere unless there are clear errors in the grading. That said, errors do happen, and in such cases I want to know about them. Grade appeals should be addressed to me. They should also be in writing (rather than in person) and submitted no sooner than 48 hours after the grade is received.

3 Course Materials

Most materials can be acquired via Syracuse Library system. The rest will be sent via Email from the instructor.

4 Exams

There are three exams in total. All exams require students to write several essays to answer questions. The first two exams are not cumulative, the final exam will be cumulative to the entire semester.

5 Attendance and Class Discussion

Since the exam materials mainly come from the lectures, I will not take attendance in extra. However, those who would like to inform me that they will not be able to attend class due to a religious observance should do so via the required on-line notification form via MySlice during the first two weeks of the semester (see the following section on religious observances).

6 Electronic Devices

1. Phones: must be turned off. You cannot use them in the classroom in any circumstances. If you have an emergency, please leave the classroom quietly before you use the phones.
2. Laptops and tablets: you are allowed to use them only when you are required to read the materials on the laptops, although I strongly recommend you to bring a paper-copy.
3. You can only take notes by *writing*. That means you are not allowed to take notes by typing. And you will find that it is not convenient to type. You can bring your notebooks to take notes. If you want to use digital stylus and take notes on your tablet/touch-screen laptop, you need my permission.
4. You cannot use your devices to view contents irrelevant to the class. Violation will lead to deduction of participation grade with no further notice.

7 Email Policy

My email account is the best way to reach me; of course, students are welcome to drop by during office hours as well. I will usually respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. You may expect delay of response on weekends. Students are expected to check their email accounts regularly, as I will be using email to provide announcements and updates about the course. See Syracuse's email policy at <http://supolicies.syr.edu/it/email.htm>.

8 Religious Observances

SU's religious observances policy, at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, is intended to recognize the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protect the rights of students (as well as faculty and staff) to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance – again, provided they notify their instructors no later than the end of the second week of classes. Student deadlines are posted in My Slice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

9 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

I am committed to supporting Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This means that in general no individual who is otherwise qualified shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, solely by reason of having a disability.

If you believe that you may need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. For more information, see: <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/faculty-staff/contact-us/>. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs, although I cannot arrange for disability-related accommodations; only ODS can do that.

10 Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy is intended to hold students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university policy. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

11 Privacy and Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) sets forth requirements regarding the privacy of student records. FERPA governs both the access to and release of those records, known as education records, and the information they contain. Under FERPA, faculty have a legal responsibility

to protect the confidentiality of student records. For additional information about FERPA and SU's FERPA policy, see: <http://www.syr.edu/registrar/staff/ferpa>

12 Course Schedule

1. 01/22 Introduction to the syllabus; what is Comparative Politics? What does this subfields study?
Reading: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1996. "American Exceptionalism: A Double Edged Sword." WashingtonPost.
2. 01/29 State and state formation
Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *The American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567.
3. 02/05 State-making
Taylor, Brian D., and Roxana Botea. 2008. "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World." *International Studies Review* 10(1): 27–56.
4. 02/12 Regime types
Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is. . . and Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75–88.
5. 02/19 Democracy Institution I: Presidential versus Parliamentary
Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51–69. Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew S. Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29(4): 449–71.
6. 02/26 Democracy Institution II: Electoral System
Horowitz, Donald L. 2003. "Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers." *Journal of Democracy* 14(4): 115–27.
7. 03/05 Non-democracies: Totalitarianism
George Orwell. 1989. "Animal Farm", Harlow: Longman,
8. 03/12 Non-democracies: Authoritarianism
Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2(1): 115–144.
9. 03/19 Regime Change I: Democratization
Huntington, S. P. (1991). *Democracy's Third Wave*. *Journal of Democracy* 2(2), 12-34.
Stepan, Alfred, and Juan J. Linz. 2013. "Democratization Theory and the 'Arab Spring.'" *Journal of Democracy* 24(2): 15–30.
10. 03/26 Regime Change II: the Collapse of Democracies
Steven Levitsky & James Loxton (2013) *Populism and competitive authoritarianism in the Andes, Democratization*, 20:1, 107-136, DOI: 10.1080/13510347.2013.738864
11. 04/02 Politics and Development
Huntington, Samuel P. 1965. "Political Development and Political Decay." *World Politics* 17(3): 386–430.
12. 04/09 Politics and Development II
Wibbels, Erik. 2006. "Dependency Revisited: International Markets, Business Cycles, and Social Spending in the Developing World." *International Organization* 60(02).

13. 04/16 Political Contention and Participation

Opp, Karl-Dieter. 2009. *Theories of Political Protest and Social Movements: A Multidisciplinary Introduction, Critique, and Synthesis*. London; New York: Routledge.

14. 04/23 Political Contention and Participation II

Opp, Karl-Dieter. 2009. *Theories of Political Protest and Social Movements: A Multidisciplinary Introduction, Critique, and Synthesis*. London; New York: Routledge. (Continued)