

INTS 200-01: Introduction to Comparative Politics
8:00-8:50am - Fall 2013
Buckman 103 - CRN14289

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Sciubba

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Office hours: Wednesday 9-11, Thursday 9:15-10:15, and by appointment.

Course description:

The sub-field of comparative politics argues that political outcomes are determined by the interests, identities, and institutions within a country. By the end of this course, we will have the basic knowledge to answer classic comparative politics questions such as the following: Why are some countries poor while others are rich? What are the links between economic development and political systems? Why do some countries go through peaceful development and others experience violent revolution? And why are some countries democratic while others are authoritarian? We will be equipped to apply our knowledge of comparative politics concepts and theories to the events, issues, and scenarios described in our course readings and videos and will have the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge through independent research.

This course is designed to serve as a foundation for many other IS courses, particularly area studies courses. What we learn will also enhance our studies of many other fields, including anthropology, history, global health, environmental studies, and economics.

If you have a documented disability or other issue that requires assistance, please let me know by the end of the second week of classes and I will be happy to help or refer you to Student Disability Services (SDS).

Course objectives:

- 1) Acquire and demonstrate factual knowledge about the domestic politics of countries around the world
- 2) Evaluate comparative politics theories to understand how political histories, institutions, and cultures shape citizens' lives
- 3) Apply theories of comparative politics to an in-depth case study

Required text for purchase:

Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases by J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood. Oxford University Press 2012.
ISBN 9780195392104

We will read additional articles, blog posts, or chapters and engage with radio programs or films that highlight themes in comparative politics. These will be posted on Moodle and are an essential and required part of the course.

Finally, because this is an international studies course, you will benefit greatly if you read on a regular basis from the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), *BBC World News* (www.bbc.co.uk), the *Economist* (access through the library), or another reputable print news source. I highly recommend the blog from *Foreign Policy Magazine*, found at <http://blog.foreignpolicy.com>, for a quick way to catch up on the day's events.

Class policies:

This syllabus is subject to change.

Papers and other assignments:

- I strongly encourage you to consult the Writing Center for help with your writing assignments.
- Papers should be double-spaced and include page numbers. Please do not use a separate title page. Ensure that you have at least 1-inch margins and use Times New Roman 12-point font.
- We will take the Honor Code very seriously. You can read the policy at www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp.

Attendance:

- I expect you to attend class and arrive on time. If you miss more than 3 classes your Assignments and Quizzes grade will drop by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence thereafter. Any illnesses should be documented by a medical professional. Only if you provide documentation will you be allowed to make up missed work.
- We will all benefit if you are an active and respectful participant in the class, do the readings before class, and keep up with the news daily.

Make-up policy:

- If you miss an exam or deadline because of a college-sponsored event you may take the exam *before* the scheduled exam date or submit your assignment *before* the due date.
- Because you have ample opportunity to complete quizzes and assignments early, there will be no make-ups.

Contact:

- The best way to get in touch with me is via email. However, so that I may spend time with my family I often do not check or answer email after 5pm each day or on the weekends. If you have an emergency you may call me on my cell phone at ***.***.***.

Requirements:

Midterm exam 15% Friday, 10/11, in class.

Final exam 20%, Tuesday, 12/10, 1pm, in class

Country monitoring report (30%)

Presentation of country analysis (5%)

Assignments and quizzes (30%)

- You will have the opportunity throughout the semester to complete short analytic assignments as reflection on a day's class or readings, or in preparation for a class discussion. There are seven quizzes and three group assignments. There are no make-ups.

Grade scale:

93-100	= A	73-76	= C
90-92	= A-	70-72	= C-
87-89	= B+	67-69	= D+
83-86	= B	63-66	= D
80-82	= B-	60-62	= D-
77-79	= C+	59 & below	= F

Guidelines for determining grades on papers will be discussed in class in advance of assignment deadlines.

****All readings and films are listed according to the date they are DUE****

IS200-01 (Fall 2013) Course calendar:

Wednesday, 8/21– Course introduction

Friday, 8/23 – Comparative politics in practice: Turkey and Egypt (all links on Moodle)

- (1) BBC Country Profile: Turkey <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17988453>
- (2) BBC article on protests in Turkey <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22780773>
- (3) BBC Country Profile: Egypt <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13313370>
- (4) Telhami article from *Washington Post* http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/egypts-identity-crisis/2013/08/16/70d1459c-0524-11e3-88d6-d5795fab4637_story.html

Monday, 8/26 – How to think about comparative politics

- (1) CP Ch. 1
- (2) Quiz #1 opens on Moodle

Tuesday, 8/27 – Drop/add period ends

Wednesday, 8/28 – How to think about comparative politics

- (1) Ch. 2
- (2) Complete Quiz #1 on Moodle before class

Friday, 8/30 – The modern state

- (1) Ch. 3, 47-60
- (2) In-class activity on *Foreign Policy's Failed States Index*. Before class, visit the *Index* and note the sorts of factors that might predict the placement of any given state in the rankings. Think about the implications of the evidence you find there for theories of state formation and state strength. You will discuss these in small groups in class and with your group will answer the following questions: Are the measures of state strength/failure conceptually tightly linked to what the literature says a modern state does? Do you agree with the relative weighting of different elements of the index?

Monday, 9/2 – NO CLASS, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Wednesday, 9/4 – The modern state

- (1) Ch. 3, p. 60-79
- (2) Case study: European welfare state, readings on Moodle

Friday, 9/6 – The modern state

- (1) Watch *The Hunger Games*, streaming through the library (also available on Netflix streaming)
- (2) Complete Quiz #2 on Moodle before class

Monday, 9/9 – Economic and social development

- (1) Ch. 4, p. 81-91

- (2) United Nations Human Development Report 2013, summary (Moodle)
- (3) Begin work on group assignment #1 on Moodle

Wednesday, 9/11 – Economic and social development

- (1) Ch. 4, p. 91-105
- (2) View Ted talk on bottom-up development

Friday, 9/13 – Economic and social development

- (1) Group assignment #1 due

Monday, 9/16 – Analyzing the state and development

- (1) Brazil case study from *CP* text
- (2) “A Real War on Inequality,” *Foreign Policy*
- (3) “Could Brazil’s Stadiums Help the Economy?”

Wednesday, 9/18 – Analyzing the state and development

- (1) Japan case study from *CP* text
- (2) “Enforced democratization in Japan: lessons for Iraq and Afghanistan” article on Moodle

Friday, 9/20 – Analyzing the state and development

- (1) Nigeria case study from *CP* text
- (2) View TED Talk on investing in Africa

Monday, 9/23 – Democracy and democratic regimes

- (1) Ch. 5, p. 112-122
- (2) View Freedom House “Freedom in the World” rankings and report for 2013 on Moodle

Wednesday, 9/25 – Democracy and democratic regimes

- (1) Ch. 5, p. 122-137
- (2) “Democratization Theory and Arab Spring” on Moodle

Friday, 9/27 – Cases: democracy and authoritarianism

- (1) United States case in *CP* text. Think ahead of time: Is the US a model democracy? Why and why not

Monday, 9/30 – Cases: democracy and authoritarianism

- (1) India case in *CP* text
- (2) Read *Foreign Affairs* article on “The Rise of the Rest of India”
- (3) Complete Quiz #3 before class (open-book and open-note)

Wednesday, 10/2 – Authoritarianism and authoritarian regimes

- (1) Ch. 6 pg. 141-153
- (2) “Southeast Asia: Strong-State Democratization in Malaysia and Singapore” on Moodle
- (3) Begin group assignment #2 on regime type

Friday, 10/4 – Authoritarianism and authoritarian regimes

- (1) Ch. 6, p. 153-167
- (2) Complete Quiz #4 on regime type before class

Monday, 10/7 – Authoritarianism and authoritarian regimes

- (1) “The Durability of Revolutionary Regimes” on Moodle
- (2) Group assignment #2 presentations

Wednesday, 10/9 – Cases: democracy and authoritarianism

- (1) China case study, *CP* text
- (2) 17 min video on Mao’s Cultural Revolution – think about questions ahead of time
- (3) “Top-Level Reform or Bottom-Up Revolution?” on Moodle

Friday, 10/11 – Midterm exam

Monday, 10/14 – NO CLASS, FALL BREAK

Wednesday, 10/16 – Revolutions and contention

- (1) Ch. 11, 278-298 (all)
- (2) Begin group assignment #3

Friday, 10/18 – Revolutions and contention

- (1) Goldstone (on Moodle)

Monday, 10/21 – Cases: revolution and contention – The Arab Spring

- (1) Ch. 11, 298-303
- (2) Arab Spring articles on Moodle
- (3) Group assignment #3 due

Wednesday, 10/23 – Cases: revolution and contention – rights for older people

- (1) Comparative politics in practice: Sciubba research article (on Moodle)

Friday, 10/25 – Cases: revolution and contention – France

- (1) France
- (2) *French National Identity and Integration* report on Moodle p. 1-16

Monday, 10/28 – Groups and identities

- (1) Ch. 12, p. 307-331

Wednesday, 10/30 – Groups and identities

- (1) Film: Hotel Rwanda (streaming through Media Center)
- (2) Ch. 13, p. 333-343
- (3) Quiz #5 opens

Friday, 11/1 – Groups and identities

- (1) Ch. 13, p. 343-356
- (2) Selection from Half the Sky
- (3) Quiz #5 due

Monday, 11/4 – Cases: groups and identities

- (1) Mexico case in *CP* text
- (2) Reading on Mexican nationalism (Moodle)

Wednesday, 11/6 – Cases: groups and identities

- (1) Russia case in *CP* text

Friday, 11/8 – Cases: groups and identities

- (1) Film: *My Perestroika*
- (2) Assignment on *My Perestroika* due

Monday, 11/11 – Ideology and religion

- (1) Ch. 14, p. 358-368
- (2) Cincotta and Kaufmann “Changing Face of Israel” on Moodle

Wednesday, 11/13 – Ideology and religion

- (1) Ch. 14, p. 368-379
- (2) “The Threat from the Populist Left” on Moodle

Friday, 11/15 – Cases: ideology and religion

- (1) Germany case in *CP* text

Monday, 11/18 – Cases: ideology and religion

- (1) Iran case in *CP* text
- (2) Complete Quiz #6 before class

Wednesday, 11/20 – Comparative politics and international relations

- (1) Ch. 15

Friday, 11/22 – Presentation and discussion of country analysis

Monday, 11/25 – Presentation and discussion of country analysis

Wednesday, 11/27 – Friday, 11/29 – NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, 12/2 – Presentation of discussion of country analysis

Wednesday, 12/4 – LAST DAY OF CLASSES

- (1) Complete Quiz #7 on peer country analysis presentations before class

Final exam, Wednesday, 12/10 – 1pm in class