

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor: Christopher Heurlin

Office: Asian Studies, College Street 38, Room 204

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:30

Class Time and Location: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:50-4:15

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Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the subfield of comparative politics. Through the course of the term, students will learn how it is that political scientists study and compare different political systems. This course focuses primarily on the *theoretical* aspects of political science. In doing so, however, we will explore different parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa, India, Afghanistan, China and Russia. The course will introduce students to the basic subfields of comparative politics, including state building, ethnic conflict, political violence, political economy, civil society, and democratization.

Expectations

I expect students above all to be actively involved in the learning process. This means several things. First, I expect students to attend all classes. Second, I expect students to be active in classroom discussions. Third, I expect students to have read all of the readings listed on the syllabus assigned for each class *before* coming to class. Our classroom discussions will be centered around the readings as well as the lectures. This means that doing the readings in advance is critical to your ability to participate. Fourth, I expect students to be respectful of one another's opinions and to conduct discussions in a friendly manner.

Reading Materials

Students are expected to purchase copies of the textbook from the bookstore or another source. The first book we use in the class is Timothy Lim's *Doing Comparative Politics*. This book is exemplary because of Lim's focus on the *questions* we ask in comparative politics. Each chapter asks a question about a major theoretical area of inquiry. In the final weeks of the class we will be reading Jason Brownlee's *Authoritarianism in the Age of Democratization*. For the most part, however, our readings can be found on Blackboard.

Grading

Grading for this class will have four components. First, students will be graded on the basis of the mid-term and final exams. These exams will test students on their understanding of both the readings as well as the lectures. Second, students will write a short research paper on state-building in Afghanistan. Third, students will work on a data analysis project about the relationship between democracy and economic development. Fourth, students will be graded on their in-class participation.

15% Paper on Afghanistan

25%	Mid-term
15%	Data Project on Democracy and Development
30%	Final
15%	Participation

Accommodations

Students that need special accommodations should notify me at the beginning of the term so that I can prepare reasonable accommodations for them. In order to receive these accommodations the students should follow the procedures set forth by the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Honor Code

All students are required to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code. Academic dishonesty is something I take very seriously and will treat in accordance with the Code. According to the Honor Code, “Academic Dishonesty” includes but is not limited to (1) the receiving, giving, or using of any unauthorized assistance on quizzes, tests, written assignments, examinations or laboratory assignments; (2) references to sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in preparing papers, constructing reports, solving problems or carrying out other academic assignments; (3) inadequate citation of sources; (4) acquisition, without permission, of tests, computer files or similar material which would give the student an unfair advantage on an assignment or examination; (5) submission of academic work not a student’s own original effort; (6) use of the same work for multiple courses without prior knowledge of the receiving instructors; (7) depriving learners of access, including computer access, to library information through intentional monopolization, mutilation, defacing, unauthorized removal of books or other materials from College libraries, or purposeful failure to return library materials on a timely basis; (8) unauthorized altering of academic records (transcripts, grading sheets, Course Registration Cards, etc.); (9) fabrication of research data.

Readings by date

Each reading should be completed BEFORE class on the dates indicated, as we will be discussing these readings in class. Students should PRINT OUT READINGS AND BRING THEM TO CLASS. This will facilitate classroom discussion based on the readings.

Jan. 22	Introduction
Jan. 24	Lim – “Comparing to Learn” and “Thinking Theoretically”
	Comparing State Building in Europe and Beyond
	Moore – “The Autonomous Power of the State” <i>European Journal of Sociology</i> (1984) Vol. 25, No. 2, p. 183-213
Jan. 29	Scott – “Cities, People and Language” in <i>Seeing Like a State</i>

Jan 31	O'Neil "States" in <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> ; Tilly, Chapter 1 "Cities and States in World History," pp. 1-37 in <i>Coercion, Capital and European States</i>
Feb 5	Herbst - "War and the State in Africa" <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 14. No. 4, 1990 Migdal – “The Weakening of Patterns of Social Control” in <i>Strong States and Weak Societies</i>
Feb 7	Dorronsorro "Taliban's Winning Strategy in Afghanistan" <i>Carnegie Endowment</i> Rotberg "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure" in O'Neil and Rogowski's <i>Essential Readings in Comparative Politics</i>
Feb 12	Luebbert "Introduction" and "Ties that would Divide" in <i>Liberalism, Fascism or Social Democracy</i>
	Political Violence in India and Beyond
Feb 14	Lim "What Makes a Terrorist?" in <i>Doing Comparative Politics</i> ; Weinstein – “Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment” in <i>Inside Rebellion</i>
Feb 19	Collier - "Ethnic Diversity: An Econometric Analysis” in O'Neil and Rogowski's <i>Essential Readings in Comparative Politics</i> Brown - "The Causes of Internal Conflict" in Brown, Cote, Lynn-Jones and Miller's <i>Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict</i>
Feb 21	Kohli - "India" in O'Neil's <i>Cases in Comparative Politics</i> Varshney - "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society" <i>World Politics</i> , Vol. 53, April 2001.
Feb 26	Brass - "Kala Bachcha" in <i>Theft of an Idol</i>
	The Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment
Feb 28	Acemoglu and Robinson – “The Making of Prosperity and Poverty” in <i>Why Nations Fail</i> North - "Intitutions" in O'Neil and Rogowski's <i>Essential Readings in Comparative Politics</i>
Mar 5	Collier and Gunning - "Why has Africa grown slowly?" Bates – “The Market as Political Arena and the Limits of Voluntarism” and “Rental Havens and Protective Shelters” in <i>Markets and States in Tropical Africa</i>

Mar 7	MIDTERM
Mar 26	Hellman – “Winners Take All” <i>World Politics</i> , Vol. 50, No. 2 (1998) p. 203-234. Malesky – “Gerrymandering-Vietnamese Style” <i>Journal of Politics</i> (2009) Vol. 71, No. 1 p. 132-159.
Mar 28	Kohli – “State and Economy” in <i>Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India</i>
Apr 2	Huang – “How Did China Take Off?” <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , (2012) Vol. 26, No. 4, p. 147-170 McGregor – “China, Inc” in <i>The Party</i>
	Democracy and Civil Society
Apr 4	DATA ANALYSIS IN THE LIBRARY ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM Inglehart and Welzel – “Development and Democracy” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2009) March
Apr 9	Puntam - "Tuning In and Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America" <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i> , Vol. 28, No. 4, 1995 Henderson – “Selling Civil Society” <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> , Vol. 35, No. 2 2002.
	Between Democracy and Dictatorship in Russia
Apr 11	Diamond - "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002. Levitsky and Way "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Vol. 13, No. 2 2002
Apr 16	Remington - "Parliament and the Dominant Party Regime" in Wegren and Herspring's <i>After Putin's Russia</i> Rutland - "The Oligarchs and Economic Development" in Wegren and Herspring's <i>After Putin's Russia</i> DEMOCRACY DATA ANALYSIS PROJECT DUE
Apr 18	Robertson – “Managing Society: Protest, Civil Society and Regime in Putin’s Russia” <i>Slavic Review</i> Vol. 68, No. 3, 2009 Hale – “Regime Cycles: Democracy, Autocracy and Revolution in Post-Soviet Eurasia” <i>World Politics</i> Vol. 58, No. 1 (2005):133-165

	Dictatorships in the Middle East and Southeast Asia
Apr 23	Ross – “Does oil hinder democracy?” <i>World Politics</i> , Vol. 53, No. 3 2001 Collier – “The Natural Resource Trap” in <i>The Bottom Billion</i>
Apr 25	Lust – “Competitive Clientalism in the Middle East” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Vol. 20 No. 3 2009. Fish – “Islam and Authoritarianism” in O’Neil and Rogowski’s <i>Essential Readings in Comparative Politics</i>
Apr 30	Bellin – “Rethinking the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East” <i>Comparative Politics</i> (2012) Vol. 44, No. 2, p. 127-149 Way – “The Lessons of 1989” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> (2011) Vol 22., No. 4, p. 17-27.
May 2	Slater – “To Extract and to Organize” and “States and the Regimes that Run Them” in <i>Ordering Power</i>
May 7	Slater – “Protection and Provision in Authoritarian Leviathans” in <i>Ordering Power</i>