

Spring 2015

Lecture: MW 1:00-1:50 2BH 209

Discussion: F 10:00-10:50 2ETMSW 2219 OR F 11:00-11:50 2BSB 369

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Office hours: M 2:00-3:00, W 10:00-11:00
and by appnt.

Ph. 312-413-2187

Office hours: W 2:00-3:00

and by appnt.

Ph. 312-413-9742

Pols 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course is designed to provide students a comprehensive introduction to Comparative Politics through the discussion of a broad range of thematic topics. These are supplemented with a selection of academic readings and real world case studies from various regions of the world. In general, Mondays will be dedicated to the basic concepts of the week's readings (ECP), Wednesdays - to the related scholarly readings (ERCP) and Fridays (discussion sections) will focus on the comparative cases (CCP) as a platform for applying what was learned in the other readings.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts

O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics (4th Edition) **ECP**

O'Neill, P. and R. Rogowski, Essential Readings in Comparative Politics (4th Edition)
ERCP

O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics (4th Edition) **CCP**

All books have been ordered through UIC bookstore and are available used through multiple online vendors.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class.

3 in-class exams (25% each)

Map quizzes (3%)

Discussion Paper (7%)

Attendance (5%)

Participation in discussion sections (10%)

Grading Scale

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 E: < 60

Attendance: Note that class attendance is required for this course. This includes attendance at lectures and weekly discussion sections. Attendance will be monitored as necessary during lectures (roll) and through participation in in-class assignments. Attendance and participation grades in sections will be determined by the section

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instructor. Repeated absences will unquestionably affect your performance on exams since they will be based on class lectures, section discussions, as well as readings. Lecture notes and other related course materials discussed or distributed during class will not be posted online or otherwise distributed.

Discussion Paper: Each student will choose a date as when to prepare a discussion paper on some aspect of the material covered during one particular week of the course. Sign up for discussion paper will take place during the second week of class, on **Friday Jan 23**. Submission of discussion papers will start on **Friday Jan 30** and will continue until **Friday May 1**, as indicated in the syllabus and class schedule. There will be multiple discussion papers submitted each week, which is fine. This assignment consists of:

1. Reading the assigned material at least one week ahead of the class and choosing one or two topics to be highlighted in the paper; when choosing topics it is important to focus on issues that do indeed lend themselves to discussion
2. The student researches, prepares and writes a discussion paper (5-7 pages) covering the most pertinent points and prepares presentation material for Friday's class
3. Students turn in an electronic copy of the paper by 10:00am of each Friday via the SafeAssign section of the class' Blackboard site.
4. The student presents his/her paper and its findings to the class during Friday's session; Presentations should take no more than 5 mins each and should raise interesting points for discussion. Both the paper and the presentation should include references to relevant political events and links to the materials covered in the lectures.
5. After the presentation, the student submits a hard copy of their paper to the TA (no later than the end of the class).

The papers and presentations must be student's own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be punished in accordance with UIC policy. **Discussion papers will be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard to check for plagiarism.** A presentation on how to avoid plagiarising will be made during the first discussion section.

Failing to schedule a presentation or missing a scheduled one without having a documented acceptable event will result in a failing grade for this assignment. *Acceptable events include medical emergency or hospitalization involving the student, immediate family emergency, and participation in approved school events.* **Please speak to the instructor if you need clarification as to what constitutes an acceptable event for an excused absence.**

There are three exams taking place on **Feb 18, Mar 30, and Apr 29** during class time. The exams will not be cumulative and will be only of the material covered since the start of semester (for first exam) or since the previous exams (for the second and the third exams). Exams will each consist of 25 multiple choice questions.

Map quizzes on the world regions will be administered throughout the semester on the dates announced in the syllabus and the class schedule. Together all quizzes will account for 3%

Spring 2015

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of the final grade. Quizzes will be administered during discussion section and will consist of a blank outline map for each region and a list of countries. Students will be asked to place the number for each country in the corresponding location on the blank outline map. The quiz dates will be announced at the beginning of the semester and all outline maps to be used will be posted on Blackboard under the Information section.

Missing an exam or a quiz, unless for a documented and excused reason, will result in forfeiting the points for that exam/quiz. Make-ups will be allowed only when there is a valid, documented reason for missing the exam or the quiz. Please discuss with the instructor as to what are acceptable reasons.

Students with disabilities must inform the instructor of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

Course Drops: Only a student can initiate the dropping of a course. The student can drop a course through Banner up through the 10th day of the semester; there is no academic penalty nor does a 'W' appear on the transcript. After the 10th day and through Friday of the 10th week, the student may drop courses by seeing a college academic advisor. These late drops are indicated by 'W' on the transcript and are limited to a total of four for the student's entire UIC career.

Enrollment in class: Campus policy requires that students be properly registered for a class in order to earn academic credit for that class.

Incompletes will not be allowed except in a case of a medical emergency resulting in hospitalization.

****PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. AS MUCH ADVANCE WARNING AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS. CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE SCHEDULE, ASSIGNED READINGS, OR OTHER ASPECTS AS DEEMED NECESSARY. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO GRADING SCALE OR CORE UIC POLICIES AS NOTED ABOVE. ****

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (FOR M, W)

WEEK 1 (Jan 12 & 14): Introduction to the Course and Comparative Politics

- What is comparative politics
- The comparative method

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 1
- ERCP Chapter 1 (first two readings)
- CCP Chapter 1

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WEEK 2 (Jan 19 & 21): Introduction to Comparative Politics (cont) and The origin and Role of States

- What is a state?
- The 'modern' state
- Comparing states

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 2
- ERCP Chapter 2 – ALL
- CCP Chapter 2

NO CLASS JAN 19 MLK DAY

WEEK 3 (Jan 26 & 28): Nations, Nationality and Identity I

- Ethnic identity vs. national identity
- Citizenship

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 3
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 4 (Feb 2 & 4): Nations, Nationality and Identity II

- Ethnic and nationalist conflict
- Political identity and ideology

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 3
- ERCP Chapter 3 – (1) Fearon and Laitin; (2) Hobsbawm; (3) Baldwin and Huber
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 5 (Feb 9 & 11): Political Economy

- Systems of political economy
- Evaluating political-economic systems

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 4
- ERCP Chapter 4 – (1) Smith;(2) North; (3) Mankiw
- CCP Chapter 6

WEEK 6 (Feb 16 & 18) Review and Exam I

- Review

Readings:

- Catch-up & Review

EXAM ONE TO TAKE PLACE IN CLASS ON FEB 18

WEEK 7 (Feb 23 & 25): Democracy and Democratic Regimes

- Democracy and democratization
- Institutions and political systems (variations on a theme)

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 5
- ERCP Chapter 5 – (1) Lijphart; (2) Schmitter and Karl; (3) Stephan, Linz and Yadav
- CCP Chapters 4

WEEK 8 (Mar 2 & 4): Non-Democratic Regimes

- Origins and characteristics of non-democratic governance

Spring 2015

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- Types of non-democratic systems

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 6
- ERCP Chapter 6 – (1) Linz and Stapan; (2) Levitsky and Lucan; (3) Diamond
- CCP Chapters 10 & 13

WEEK 9 (Mar 9 & 11): Political Violence & Advanced Democracies

- Origins of political violence
- Types of political violence
- Defining and understanding ‘advanced democracies’
- New modes of sovereignty, identity and political values

Readings on Political Violence:

- ECP Chapter 7
- ERCP Chapter 7 – (1) Skocpol; (2) Kuran; (3) Goldstone
- CCP Chapter 14

Readings on Advanced Democracies:

- ECP Chapter 8
- ERCP Chapter 8 – (1) Przeworski; (2) Duverger; (3) Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson and Yared
- CCP Chapter 5

WEEK 10 (Mar 16 & 18): Advanced Democracies (cont.), Review

- Review

Readings:

- Catch-up & Review

WEEK 11 (Mar 23 & 25) NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12 (Mar 30 & Apr 1): Exam II, and Communism and Post-Communism

EXAM TWO TO TAKE PLACE IN CLASS ON Mar 30

- Communism: ideal versus reality
- Post-communism – political, economic and social transformations

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 9
- ERCP Chapter 9 – (1) Marx and Engels; (2) Bunce and Wolchik; (3) Gat
- CCP Chapters 7 & 8

WEEK 13 (Apr 6 & 8): Communism and Post-Communism (cont)

WEEK 14 (Apr 13 & 15): Less developed and Newly Industrializing Countries

- Defining and understanding ‘less-developed’ countries (origins and implication)
- Industrialization and democracy

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 10
- ERCP Chapter 10 – (1) Collier and Gunning; (2) Krugman; (3) Acemoglu and Johnson
- CCP Chapter 9 & 12

WEEK 15 (Apr 20 & 22): Globalization (cont)

- Defining ‘globalization’
- Evaluating globalization

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Spring 2015

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- ECP Chapter 11
- ERCP Chapter 11 – (1) Florida; (2) Jiang; (3) The Economist
- CCP Chapter 11

WEEK 16 (Apr 27 & 29): Review and Exam III

Readings:

- Catch-up & Review

EXAM THREE TO TAKE PLACE IN CLASS ON APR 29

UIC RESOURCES

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.

Public Computer Labs are available throughout campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For a list of labs and the hours they're open, go to www.accc.uic.edu/pclabs. *NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to print out papers. Sometimes labs have long lines of students waiting for access.*

The Academic Center for Excellence can help if you feel you need more individualized instruction in reading and/or writing; study skills, time management, etc. phone (312) 413-0031.

Counseling Services are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center www.counseling.uic.edu. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building; you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535.