

POLI 240 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2022

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Maybank Hall 316, Tuesday and Thursday 10:50-12:05

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Course Syllabus

Course Objectives:

This course provides an introduction to the concepts, theories, and debates related to the study of different countries. In Political Science, this field is known as "Comparative Politics." It analyzes the differences and similarities among the political, social, and economic aspects of countries and determines how and why these matter. The course has three goals. The first is to encourage students to engage with contemporary political events around the world. The second introduces a few basic concepts used to explain these political events. Unlike the field of "International Relations," which focuses on relations between countries, in this course we look at what happens within countries. The third goal is to give students a general idea of how political scientists think and engage with the wider world. This means learning about theories of politics, how political scientists study politics, how they make causal arguments, and how they provide proof for these arguments.

This course also offers empirical analyses of government and politics in a select group of countries. Comparative politics involves the cross-national study of governments, political systems, and of the social variables which condition their formation and operation. We examine key aspects of the origins and uses of power, as well as in the formal institutions of the state, focusing particularly on the relations between state and society. These relations are obviously affected by the broader international processes of modernization and globalization. We will examine the similarities and differences between political and economic systems (looking at institutions, elections, participation, civil rights, and other aspects). This will provide us with greater insight into the countries of the world as well as into our own system of government. We also look at similarities and differences between democratic and non-democratic systems, the challenges of development, and the impact of systems (for example, parliamentary and presidential) on political outcomes. In addition, we examine critical questions such as who governs? What are the consequences of who governs for the governed? What are states, how do they emerge, and how can we measure their capacity, autonomy, and efficacy? How do markets function, and what kinds of relationships exist between states and markets? Why do some states thrive while others fail? How do political institutions vary and why do these differences matter?

How do societal components like nationalism, ethnicity, and ideology shape political values? And how does “globalization”—the increasing integration of economies and intermingling of cultures—affect politics and people’s well-being? We will cover topics in the comparative study of contemporary politics as they relate to the development of the state, the growth and consolidation of democratic regimes, the persistence of non-democratic and hybrid regimes, economic growth, ethnicity, and political violence.

Learning Outcomes:

Explain the methods political scientists used to understand politics around the world.
Describe the field of comparative politics and comparative political analysis.
Define key institutions and processes and make comparisons across different types of political systems.
Demonstrate an understanding of basic facts about the world.
Demonstrate capacity to theorize or explain political outcomes.
Demonstrate skills in critical thinking.
Demonstrate knowledge of social scientific inquiry norms and standards.
Design basic comparative research, identifying independent and dependent variables as related to comparative politics theory and concepts.
Demonstrate familiarity with current political debates.
Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations.
Distinguish your own views from those of others and be able to defend your independent perspective. Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, and effectively write papers. Apply theories and concepts to explain politics, social interactions, and political institutions.
Understand contending theoretical and methodological approaches to studying comparative politics and apply appropriate approaches in your independent research.

The following course requirements are designed to achieve these learning outcomes:

Required Readings:

Textbooks (available at the College of Charleston Bookstore and via e-book):

1. Patrick H. O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 7th edition, New York: W. W. Norton, 2021.
2. Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share. *Cases of Comparative Politics*, 7th edition, New York: W. W. Norton, 2021.
3. Patrick H. O’Neil and Ronald Rogowski eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 4th edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2013.

4. *The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations*. See <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
5. *The World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives*. See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2021>
6. *The New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/> free online access through <https://nytimesineducation.com/access-nyt/>
7. *The Economist*, <https://www.economist.com/> online access through https://link.gale.com/apps/pub/3210/STND?u=cofc_main&sid=STND

Other readings will be made available on OAKS.

- *Readings*. You are expected to have completed the readings *before* class sessions. Keeping up with these readings will be vital to your overall course performance, and it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind. The knowledge acquired in the readings will be cumulative. That is, each week you will be introduced to new ideas that will become part of the "tool-box" you will use to analyze readings and lectures in subsequent weeks.
- *Lectures*. Lectures serve as the anchor for this course. Each week will feature a specific set of topics and corresponding lectures that will tie together the readings and class discussions with key terms, concepts, cases, and historical context.
- *Independent research and group presentations*. A significant part of this course will be your independent research and writing of the analysis papers. You will write a Historical and Political Analysis Paper and a Contemporary Socioeconomic Analysis Paper. You will make two group presentations based on your analysis papers. Your papers will be based on critical analysis of *Cases in Comparative Politics*.
- *Current events*. Students are expected to independently follow current events and trends in world politics. As students at the College of Charleston, we have full access to *The New York Times*. Please subscribe to the www.nytimes.com using your College of Charleston email. You also have free access to *The Economist* magazine. A great way to keep up with current events is get a 12-week subscription to *The Economist*, which you can find here: https://subscription.economist.com/DA/PPC/BASE12_P/Google_Extension-Sitelink-Digital?gclid=CjwKCAjw4MP5BRBtEiwASfwAL5nxsPXv4tijuDImj9FIEqlh vqlh30geF1S5LyxTRHGEEvPL0UhS4BoCFyYQAvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

You are expected to (1) complete and carefully study all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues, (3) complete two analysis papers and make two group presentations of your papers, (4) complete five quizzes based on readings

and lectures; and (5) actively participate in class and complete two participation and current events papers.

Historical and Political Analysis Paper (10%). See pages 10-11 for a guide for this paper.

Contemporary Socioeconomic Analysis Paper (10%). See pages 12-13 for a guide for this paper.

Group Presentation (10%). Everyone will join two group presentations of your analysis papers.

Five Quizzes on Readings and Lectures (50%). Study guides will be available on OAKS.

Two Participation and Current Events Papers (20%). See pages 14-15 of this course syllabus for a guide for the papers.

Since the lectures and classroom discussions are an essential part of the course, attendance is important for your success. If you have special reasons for missing a class, please let me know and we can work together so you can make up any missed work.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	A	93-100	A-	90-92
	B+	88-89	B	83-87
	B-	80-82	C+	78-79
	C	73-77	C-	70-72
	D+	68-69	D	63-67
	D-	60-62	F:	Below 60

OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted. OAKS is the College of Charleston's learning management system. To access OAKS go to <http://my.cofc.edu> and login to My Charleston. The OAKS icon is the acorn located in the upper righthand corner of the screen.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity:

<http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/pdf/honor-code-sample-language-for-syllabi.pdf>

“Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>.”

Disability/Access Statements. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged. [Center for Disability Services/SNAP](#).

Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction. If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

Center for Student Learning: The Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services provide assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. Services include tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

Mental & Physical Wellbeing: At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu> or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit <http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php>, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

Food & Housing Resources: Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php>). Also, you can go to <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php> to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please also consider reaching out to Professor ABC if you are comfortable in doing so.

Extra Credit. Periodic extra credit opportunities may be available during the semester. Please note that these opportunities are EXTRA credit, not SUBSTITUTION credit for missed assignments. You can have a maximum of two extra credits.

For complete access to the digital contents of these newspapers and journals, go to the CofC Libraries site <https://library.cofc.edu/>. Use the “Ask Us” (online chat) service <http://answers.library.cofc.edu/> if you need assistance accessing these or any other sources. <https://libguides.library.cofc.edu/politicalscience/home> provides excellent resources for political science research.

Newspapers and Magazines

The Washington Post
The Wall Street Journal
The Financial Times
TIME

TV/Radio

The PBS NewsHour
This Week (ABC)
Face the Nation (CBS)
Nightly News (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN)

Journals

Comparative Politics
African Studies
Asian Survey
Journal of Contemporary China
Journal of European Studies
International Journal of Middle East Studies
Slavic Studies
International Organization
International Security
Political Science Quarterly
International Political Science Review
Foreign Affairs

Comparative Political Studies
Journal of Asian Studies
China Quarterly
Europe-Asia Studies
Journal of Latin American Studies
Russian Review
Journal of American Studies
World Politics
International Studies Quarterly
International Affairs
American Political Science Review
Foreign Policy

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Introducing Comparative Politics
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 1.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 1.
Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, “Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction from Comparative Politics.”
Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, “The Science in Social Science,”
Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Interest in Qualitative Research (Princeton University Press, 1994, pp. 3-12).
(Deadline for completing the readings, January 13, 2022)
2. States and State Power
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 2.

Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 2.
Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," from H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds. trans. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Galaxy, 1958), pp. 77-87.
Stephen D. Krasner, "Sovereignty," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2001), pp. 20-29.
(January 18)

Quiz 1, January 25.

3. Nations and Society
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 3.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 3.
James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review*, 97, no. 1 (2003), pp. 75-90.
Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49.
(January 25)
4. Political Economy
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 4.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 4.
Adam Smith, "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations," Edwin Cannan ed., Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1976. Originally published in 1776.) Book I, pp. 7-19. Book IV, pp. 474-81, 208-209. You can read the whole book here: https://www.ibiblio.org/ml/libri/s/SmithA_WealthNations_p.pdf
Douglass C. North, "Institutions," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 5, no. 1 (Winter 1991), pp. 97-112.
World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives.
(February 1)

Quiz 2, February 8.

5. Democratic Regimes
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 5.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 5.
Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is and Is Not," *Journal of Democracy* (Summer 1991), pp. 67-73.
Robert D. Putnam, "Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America," *PS: Political Science & Politics* (December 1995), pp. 664-683.
(February 8)

Historical and Political Analysis Paper due on February 10, 2022.

6. **Group Presentation of Historical and Political Analysis Paper**
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 6.
(February 15 & 17)

First Participation and Current Event Paper due on February 22, 2022.

7. Nondemocratic Regimes
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 6.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 7.
Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, "Modern Nondemocratic Regimes, from Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation," *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 38-54.
Erika Weinthal and Pauline Jones Luong, "Combating the Resource Curse: An Alternative Solution to Managing Mineral Wealth," *Perspectives on Politics*, 4, no. 1 (March 2008), pp. 35-53.
(February 22)

Quiz 3, February 24.

8. Political Violence
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 7.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 8.
Theda Skocpo, "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 18, no. 2 (April 1976), pp. 175-203.
Martha Crenshaw, "The Causes of Terrorism," *Comparative Politics*, 13, no. 4 (July 1981), pp. 379-399.
(March 1)

Spring Break. No Classes. March 6-12, 2022.

9. Developed Democracies
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 8.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 9.
Alexis de Tocqueville, "Author's Introduction," from *Democracy in America* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1945), pp. 3-16. You can read the whole book *Democracy in America* here <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/815/815-h/815-h.htm>
"Is Government Disappearing?" *The Economist* (September 27, 2001), pp. 14-18.
(March 15)

Contemporary Socioeconomic Analysis Paper due on March 17, 2022.

10. **Group Presentation of Contemporary Socioeconomic Analysis Papers**
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 10.
(March 22 & 24)
11. Communism and Postcommunism
Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 9.
Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 11.

Valerie Bunce, "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-Communist Experience," *World Politics*, 55 (January 2003), pp. 162-192.

Azar Gat, "The Return of Authoritarian Great Power," *Foreign Affairs*, 86, no. 4 (July/August 2007), pp. 59-69.

(March 29)

Quiz 4, March 31

12. Developing Countries

Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 10.

Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 12.

William Easterly, "To Help the Poor," from *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2001), pp. 5-19.

Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 13, no. 3. (Summer 1999), pp. 3-22.

(April 5)

13. Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics

Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 11.

Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapter 13.

Richard Florida, "The World Is Spiky: Globalization Has Changed the Economic Playing Field, But Hasn't Leveled It," *The Atlantic Monthly*, (October 2005), pp. 48-51.

"Leviathan Stirs Again; The growth of the state." *The Economist*, January 23, 2010, 23(US). Gale OneFile: News (accessed December 20, 2021).

https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A217089503/STND?u=cofc_main&sid=bookmark-STND&xid=3215c153.

The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

(April 12)

Quiz 5, April 14.

14. Review and Prospects

Essentials of Comparative Politics in China, Chapter 1.

Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Chapters 1 & 14.

(April 19)

Second Participation and Current Events Paper due on April 21, 2022.

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Histoical and Political Analysis Paper Assignment

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on historical and political issues of a single country and develop an independent position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of the following chapters *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*. Please pay special sections on “historical development of the state,” “political regime,” and “political conflict and competition” in your selected chapter. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least **six** additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at <http://polisci.cofc.edu>).

Please select your topic no later than January 20, 2022. No more than three people can select the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between **4-5 pages**. The paper is due by **Thursday, February 10, 2022**. We will have group presentations of the papers on February 15 (topics 1-7) and February 17 (topics 8-13).

Paper Topics:

1. United Kingdom
2. United States
3. France
4. Germany
5. Japan
6. Russia
7. China
8. India
9. Iran

10. Mexico
11. Brazil
12. South Africa
13. Nigeria

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Contemporary Socioeconomic Analysis Paper Assignment

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on contemporary socioeconomic issues of your selected country and develop an independent position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of the topics from *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*. **You must choose a country that is different from the case study of your Historical and Political Analysis Paper.** Please pay special attention to “society,” “political economy,” and “current issues” in your selected chapter. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least **six** additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at <http://polisci.cofc.edu>).

Please select your topic no later than Thursday, February 17, 2022. No more than three people can select the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between **4-5 pages**. The paper is due by **March 17, 2022**. We will have group presentations of the papers on March 22 (topics 1-7) and March 24 (topics 8-13).

Paper Topics:

1. United Kingdom
2. United States
3. France
4. Germany
5. Japan
6. Russia
7. China
8. India
9. Iran

10. Mexico
11. Brazil
12. South Africa
13. Nigeria

Participation and Current Events Papers

Active class participation by everyone is very important for the success of our seminar. The participation and current events papers are designed to encourage you to actively and constructively contribute to our joint academic endeavor. You are required to submit two papers. The first paper is due on **Tuesday, February 22, 2022**. The second paper is due on **Thursday, April 21, 2022**. Please limit each paper to **a total of five pages**.

Rubric for Evaluating Discussion and Participation

	Exemplary	Accomplished	Developing	Beginning
	<i>(10 points)</i>	<i>(8 points)</i>	<i>(6 points)</i>	<i>(4-2 points)</i>
Demonstrates Application and Comprehension of Unit Materials	Demonstrates grasp of key concepts and ideas.	Demonstrates grasp of most concepts and ideas.	Demonstrates a shallow/superficial grasp of the material.	Shows no understanding or familiarity with content.
Supporting Evidence	Provides ample examples as supporting evidence.	Provides some evidence to support opinions.	Offers inadequate levels of support.	No evidence or examples offered to support opinions.
Clarity of Ideas	Ideas are expressed clearly and appropriate vocabulary is used.	Some signs of disorganization with expression.	Ideas are not clearly articulated such that the message is difficult to discern.	Posts and/or comments read more like Facebook or Twitter feeds.

The participation and current events papers reflect your contribution to the class and your analysis of key current events. Please include the following in your papers:

1. Comments and questions about the required readings;
2. A summary of your comments and engagement in class;
- 3. Analysis of two interesting and significant current events;**
4. Additional readings that you have done for the class;
5. Additional comments and suggestions about the class;
6. Comments about the paper presentations by classmates;

7. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our textbooks? Please comment on all main textbooks that you have read. Please answer this question in more details in your second participation paper.
8. An objective of your papers is for you to review your course experience. You can carefully examine your main objectives, progress, and achievements for the class. What is your best experience and what are the main challenges?