

Political Science 260 Introduction to Comparative Politics (Section 003)

Classroom: TBA
09:10 am-10:05 am
Dr. Timothy S. Rich
timothy.rich@wku.edu
Office: GH 311

Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Wednesdays or by appointment

Required Text:

Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, William Roberts Clark. 2012. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (2nd edition). ISBN:978-1-60871-679-1

Other articles and materials will be posted on Blackboard and/or available elsewhere online.

Comparative politics is the branch of political science that studies the similarities and differences across different political regimes. The subfield is organized around major questions such as why some countries are democracies and others are not and why some countries have a multitude parties while some only have a few. Each of these broad questions yields a larger number of issues and puzzles that need to be addressed. The goal of this class is to connect big theoretical ideas to particular contemporary issues.

Assignments:

Homework Assignments and Quizzes (10) 10%

Paper (including proposal) 25%

Exams (3): 20% each

Participation 5%

All assignments are due prior to the start of class. All late assignments will be deducted 10% for each 24-hour period (including weekends) from the time due.

Grading Scale: A = 90% or higher; B = 80 to 89.99%; C = 70 to 79.99%; D = 60 to 69.99%; F = 59.99% and lower

Explanation of assignments:

Homework assignments (5 total) aid to reinforce the reading and/or lecture materials by applying concepts to specific situation. All of these are posted on Blackboard. Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class.

Pop quizzes (5 total) will cover either the readings from the previous or current class period. For those who keep up with the readings, even if students do not understand everything in the text, the questions on pop quizzes should not be overly difficult. Pop quizzes cannot be made up due to being late or an absence.

The paper (7-8 pages) requires students to combine what they have learned in this course regarding electoral systems and apply it to a fictitious situation. Details can be found on Blackboard. To assist in this, we will spend a day debating potential options on November 5 (Week 11). For this day, students must prepare in advance a one-page proposal, briefly highlighting your proposed electoral system and the rationales behind this. After the class discussion, students are free to deviate from this original proposal, but they should be prepared to defend why they choose a particular system. Notice that the final paper is due November 19 (Week 13), not the end of the semester.

Papers are to be submitted in class, not via email/Blackboard. Papers that are not stapled will automatically be deducted 10%. It is your responsibility to turn in an intact and properly formatted paper.

Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and possibly an essay question. Make up exams, when applicable, may not necessarily follow the same format of the original.

Finally, class participation accounts for 5% of the final grade. This course requires participation and interaction. Conversely, behavior which is disruptive, causes a distraction, or impedes in participation and interaction will lead in a deduction of your participation credit (this includes but is not limited to reading non-class related materials, browsing the internet—Facebook can wait until after class—texting and making phone calls in class).

Please read through the syllabus carefully to be sure that you understand the course requirements. The details of the homework and writing assignments are available on the Blackboard website under Contents (in the Assignments folder).

Most of the readings will be available through Blackboard or through Google. It is your responsibility to find and read these articles.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is critical for success, both for participation but also since we often discuss materials beyond the readings. That said, I do not take attendance as a graded component, but in accordance to WKU reporting requirements. Students are adults and as such must realize actions have ramifications and prioritize accordingly. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me for any class handouts or assignments you may have missed. You are also responsible for getting any missed notes from another student. If you wish to discuss the material you missed, you are welcome to come to my office hours or set up an appointment.

Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from Student Disability Services.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

I expect all students to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Western Kentucky University Student Handbook with regards to all forms of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). I take academic integrity as serious and violating these standards will result in an “F” in this course without exceptions. That means if you cheat, plagiarize, engage in any sort of academic dishonesty including failure to cite sources appropriately on any portion of the course and are caught—you will automatically receive an “F” for that assignment and I reserve the right to assign a 0 for the entire course. If you have any questions about what does and does not constitute academic misconduct, please speak with me.

Student work may be checked by plagiarism detection software.

If you have any doubts as to when you should cite, click on the links below. You can also go to the Writing Center for guidance.

Similarly I do not accept materials from online dictionaries or encyclopedias such as Wikipedia as a source for citation.

How to Communicate with your Professor:

Communication should be done first and foremost before or after class or during office hours. If it is a general question, it should be asked in class so that others can benefit from the information as well. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Questions can also be posted in the Discussions forums on Blackboard, thus others can respond if they know the answer as well.

If you do email me, follow these standards:

1. Include the class title (e.g. PS260) and a substantive heading (e.g. question about Taiwan). Emails without a subject title or which do not follow this format (e.g. a title of “Hey”) will not be answered.
2. Use a salutation such as “Dr. Rich”. Again, using “hey” or other informal variations will likely lead to me ignoring your email.
3. I expect emails to be coherently written, which means punctuation, capitalization, and a signature. Signing your email is especially important if you are not using your WKU email account. I will not spend time trying to guess which student is partyallnight@gmail.com nor am I likely to respond if no signature is included.

I generally respond within 24 hours, but I seldom respond after 10pm. Thus if emailing about an assignment, test, etc. due the next day, I strongly recommend that you plan ahead accordingly.

Class Schedule

Below is a class schedule with assigned readings. I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule if necessary. I will announce any changes to the syllabus in class and post changes to the Blackboard course website.

Week 1

August 27

Introduction to the Class
Chapter 1

August 29

What is Comparative Politics
Chapter 2

August 31

The Science in Political Science
Chapter 2

Week 2

No class September 3

September 5

Cultural, Structural, and Rationalist Approaches
Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman. "Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics"

September 7

What is the State?
Chapter 4 (skip 102-108, 110-113)

Suggested Reading: Vera Simone. *The Asian Pacific*: pp. 172-178

Homework 1 (Approaches) due

Week 3

September 10

Identity, the Nation, and Nationalism

Excerpts from The Nationalism Project

Ernest Renan. "What is a Nation": <http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/renan.htm>

Benedict Anderson. "The Nation as Imagined Community":

<http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/anderson.htm>

Richard Handler. "Defining Nationalism": <http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/handler.htm>

Ernest Gellner: "Defining Nation": <http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/gellner2.htm>

Michael Hechter: "Types of Nationalism": <http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/hechter.htm>

George Orwell. "Notes on Nationalism". http://orwell.ru/library/essays/nationalism/english/e_nat

Suggested Reading: Ashutosh Varshney. "India, Pakistan and Kashmir: Antinomies of Nationalism." *Asian Survey*. Vol. 31, No. 11 (Nov. 1991), pp. 997-1019.

September 12

Electoral Systems –Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems

Chapter 12: pp. 457-480

September 14

Parliamentary Systems

Chapter 12: pp. 481-511

Week 4

September 17

Presidential vs. Parliamentary Survival

Ch. 16: pp. 805-823

Suggested Reading: Jose Cheibub and Fernando Limogi. "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Revisited". *Annual Review of Political Science* 2002. Vol. 5: 151-179.

September 19

Electoral Systems –How Legislators are Elected

Chapter 13: pp. 535-563 (majoritarian)

September 21

Electoral Systems –How Legislators are Elected

Chapter 13: pp. 564-597 (PR)

Week 5

September 24

Electoral Systems –Federalism

Chapter 15: pp. 673-691

Homework 2 (Proportionality) Due

September 26

Electoral Systems –Bicameralism and Judiciary

Chapter 15: pp. 691-705

September 28

TEST #1

Week 6

October 1

Political Parties: What is their purpose? Are they necessary?

Chapter 14: pp. 603-619

Micah Weinberg. “Why Parties?”

<http://www.newamerica.net/blog/political-reform/2009/why-parties-10257>

October 3

Cultural Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Political Parties

Chapter 14: pp. 619-638; 640-641

Tribal divide on Kenyan campus

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/8071638.stm

No class October 5 (break)

Week 7

October 8

Institutional Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Parties

Chapter 14: 641-667

October 10

Puzzles in Electoral Competition

Chapter 14: pp. 639-640

Daniel N. Posner. 2004. “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi”. *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.

October 12

What is a Democracy and How Do We Measure Them?
Chapter 5: pp. 143-168

Suggested Reading: Larry Diamond. "Defining and Developing Democracy", in *Developing Democracy: Towards Consolidation*. Johns Hopkins UP: 1999, p. 1-23.

Week 8

October 15

What Makes a Democracy Work? Economics Determinants
Chapter 6: pp. 171-192, 200-209

Homework 3 (Democracy) Due

October 17

What Makes a Democracy Work? Cultural Determinants
Chapter 7: pp. 213-247, 257-259

October 19

Democratic Transitions: Bottom-Up Approaches
Chapter 8: pp. 265-290

Week 9

October 22

Democratic Transitions: Top-Down Approaches
Chapter 8: pp. 290-307

October 24

The Transition Paradigm
Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transition Paradigm," *Journal of Democracy*, 13, 1 (January 2002): pp. 5-21.

October 26

Democratization: Experience in Iraq
Adeed Dawisha and Karen Dawisha. "How to Build a Democratic Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*. Vol. 82 Issue 3 (May/June 2003): 36-50.
Chappel Lawson, "How Best to Build Democracy: Laying a Foundation for the New Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 4 (Jul. - Aug., 2003): 206-209.

Suggested Readings: "Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience" Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Report: Wednesday, April 15, US Government.
http://www.cfr.org/publication/18021/office_of_the_special_inspector_general_for_iraq_reconstruction_report.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2F405%2Firaq

Carlos Pascual and Kenneth M. Pollack. "The Critical Battles: Political Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Iraq," *Washington Quarterly* Summer 2007, Vol. 30, No. 3: 7–20.
http://www.twq.com/07summer/docs/07summer_pascual_pollack.pdf

Week 10

October 29

Liberal and Social Democracies

Dahl, Robert, "Polyarchal Democracy," from *The Democracy Sourcebook*, edited by Dahl, Shapiro and Cheibub, pages 48-54.

Paul Pierson. "The New Politics of the Welfare State," *World Politics*, Volume 48, Number 2, January 1996, pp. 143-179.

October 31

Test # 2

November 2

Class Canceled for ISA-MW conference

Week 11

November 5

Debate on Electoral System For Our Fictional Country (see paper assignment)

paper proposal due

November 7

Varieties of Dictatorships

Chapter 10 pp. 349-373

Suggested Reading: Richard Snyder "Beyond Electoral Authoritarianism: The Spectrum of Non-Democratic Regimes". In Schedler (ed.), *Electoral Authoritarianism*, pp. 219-231

November 9

Totalitarianism

Richard J. Bernstein, "The Origins of Totalitarianism: Not History, but Politics," *Social Research*, Summer 2002, pp. 381-401 (focus on 388-401)

Week 12

November 12

North Korea

Mike Kim *Escaping North Korea* Chapter 2: Inside the Hermit Kingdom
"Satellites Uncover North Korea"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8110093.stm>

November 14

Hybrid Systems

Chapter 10: pp. 365-370

Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy*, 13(2):21–35 (focus on 21-28, 30-31)

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51-65 (focus just on 51-58)

Suggested Reading: Zakaria, Fareed. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, 76(6):22–43.

November 16

Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it Matter?

Chapter 9 pp. 325-346

Week 13

November 19

Dictatorships and Regime Survival

Chapter 10 pp. 374-403

Paper due at the beginning of class

Homework 4 (Democracy vs. Dictatorship) Due

November 21 and 23 Thanksgiving

Week 14

November 26

Failed States

Robert I. Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2002.

NPR. "A Trip to Somalia, 'The Most Failed State'." December 10, 2009.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121292541>

Foreign Policy Magazine: Failed State Index 2011

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/06/17/2011_failed_states_index_interactive_map_and_rankings

November 28

Famine

Amartya Sen. 1999. "Democracy as a Universal value". *Journal of Democracy* 10(3): 3-17.

Michael Massing. March 1, 2003. "Does Democracy Avert Famine?" *The New York Times*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/01/arts/does-democracy-avert-famine.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

November 30

Corruption

Daniel Kaufmann. 1997. "Corruption: The Facts". *Foreign Policy* 107: 114-131.

Corruption Index Perceptions 2011: <http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results/>

Suggested Reading:

Gabriella R. Montinola and Robert W. Jackman. 2002. "Sources of Corruption: A Cross-Country Study." *British Journal of Political Science* 32: 147-170 (just read 147-155; 167-170).

John Gerring and Strom C. Thacker. 2004. "Political Institutions and Corruption: The Role of Unitarism and Parliamentarism." *British Journal of Political Science* 34: 295-330 (just read 295-311 and conclusion)

Jana Kunicova and Susan Rose-Ackerman. 2005. "Electoral Rules and Constitutional Structures as Constraints on Corruption." *British Journal of Political Science* 35: 573-606

Week 15

December 3

The Resource Curse: An Introduction

Textbook pp. 198-199, 339 (Aesop's Fable)

Thomas Friedman. April 25, 2006. "The First Law of Petropolitics". *Foreign Affairs*.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2006/04/25/the_first_law_of_petropolitics

Homework 5 (Resource Curse) Due

December 5

The Political Economy of the Resource Curse

Michael L. Ross. 1999. "The Political Economy of the Resource Curse." *World Politics*. 51(2):297-322

December 7

Wrap Up and Discussion

FINAL: December 13th: 8am-10am