

Introduction to Comparative Politics  
CPO 2002  
Summer C 2015  
HCB 212  
M-F 12:30-1:45

**Instructor:** Teresa Stanquist  
**Office Location:** Bellamy 564  
**Office Hours:** M-F 9-10:30

## Course Description

One of the primary goals of a course in comparative politics is to familiarize students with a broad array of political systems. We will approach the study of comparative politics using the tools of the scientific method. We will engage questions that explore cause and effect, and using falsifiable hypotheses and empirical data to test our theories. We will consider questions such as the following:

- What is a state and where did it come from?
- What is democracy, and how do states democratize?
- Is democracy consequential for citizens? wellbeing? If so, how so?
- Why is ethnicity politicized in some countries and not others?
- Why do some countries have many parties whereas some have very few?
- What are the implications of different kinds of governments?

Also note that this course is considered a *Liberal Studies* course:

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience.

Moreover, as a Liberal Studies Social Sciences Course, students will also meet the goals of three Social Sciences competencies:

- Competency 1: critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and/or the present.
- Competency 2: gather and analyze data using social science and/or historical methodologies to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions, assumptions, and explanatory evidence.
- Competency 3: evaluate and employ appropriate methods and technology in the collection and analysis of data.

A scientific approach to studying the political world structures our attempts to understand these types of questions by encouraging the advancement of well reasoned hypotheses that are grounded in theory, including some indication of what it would mean for our hypothesis or theory to be incorrect. The goal is to build theories that allow us to generalize beyond particular people, places, countries, or events to build causal models of the political world that are applicable to as

many specific questions as possible.

We will adopt a strategic approach to theory construction this means that we will assume that rulers and citizens are forward thinking, goal-oriented and rational and their behavior is dependent on the behavior of others. To study these behaviors we will use game theory. To test our theories, we will use real world data, and statistical analysis of quantitative data. Many of the methods we employ in this class, including logic, game theory and statistical analyses, will require students to use simple mathematical techniques. No prior knowledge of these methodological tools is required or expected; the only thing necessary is an open mind and a willingness to learn. If the scientific and mathematical approach to the study of politics is not preferred by the student, he or she should consider not continuing in the course. On the other hand, I assure you that investing time to master these skills will provide excellent preparation for other Political Science course work at Florida State University.

## Readings and Course Text

The assigned text for the course is:

Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 2nd Edition. CQ Press: Washington D.C.

In addition to the assigned textbook, you will be responsible for several outside readings. These readings will consist of academic articles and news articles relevant to course topics. The additional readings are listed in the course schedule and will be made available through Blackboard. You are expected to complete these assigned readings before each class meeting. Completing the readings is essential for success in this class.

## Grading Policy

Your grade in this class will be based on five components: two exams, a project, attendance/participation, and four homework assignments. The first assignment will be a map assignment, and will be posted on Blackboard. The final three homework assignments, which will also be posted on Blackboard, will directly assess student competency for the three Liberal Studies Social Science competencies.

Assignment #2 will assess Liberal Studies Social Science competency 1

Assignment #3 will assess Liberal Studies Social Science competency 2

Assignment #4 will assess Liberal Studies Social Science competency 3

Due Dates for all assignments and dates of tests are listed in the course schedule. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments and projects will be submitted via Blackboard.

Every component/assignment is worth 100 points, the weight of each component is listed below:

Map Assignment	15%
Liberal Studies Assignments	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

*Map Assignment:* The map assignment consists of a collection of blank maps that you be required

to label according to certain criteria. Details about the map assignment will be distributed the first day of class.

*Attendance/Participation:* I will not take attendance on a daily basis. However, your consistent attendance and participation is crucial to your success in the class. Your attendance/participation grade will be based on your performance on five, three question quizzes. Questions are based on lecture and readings. I will not announce when these quizzes are given. questions. If you are not present for a quiz, you will earn a zero, make-ups are not allowed. I will drop your lowest participation quiz grade.

*Midterm and Final:* You will have two exams, a midterm and a final. Each exam is worth 30% of your final grade. Exams will be predominately multiple choice, but short response questions are possible. I will announce the exact format of the exams prior their scheduled date.

## Grading Scale

Finally, note that I adhere to the following number-to-letter grade conversion chart for all exams, quizzes and final grades. Grades ending in .5 or higher are rounded up to the nearest whole percentage point: \*An A is the highest grade you can earn in this class

93 or above=A*	90-92=A-	87-89=B+	83-86=B	80-82=B-	77-79=C+
73-76=C	70-72=C-	67-69=D+	63-66=D	60-62=D-	0-59=F

## Email Policy

Please include your first and last name and course information in the subject line of your email. When I receive your email, I will make every effort to respond in a timely manner, usually within 48 hours. Though you may receive a reply sooner than that, you should not expect an immediate response. Please treat all email correspondences with your instructor as you would treat any other professional exchange. Accordingly, I expect emails to be respectful and polite, to use correct grammar and complete sentences. I reserve the right to summarily delete rude, disrespectful, and/or poorly written emails without reply. Please note I have structured the course and office hours so as to best assist you in mastering the materials. Please utilize office hours, in-class time and your syllabus to answer any doubts you may have. Finally, I will contact you via your FSU designated email address via Blackboard, so please see to it that your account is setup such that you are able to receive these communications.

## Technology Policy

The use of technology in the classroom can be wonderful way to directly engage with the political world and bring course materials 'to life' in the classroom. From time to time, I may utilize videos, youTube clips, Twitter or Facebook because it can be a fun way to keep us all motivated and engaged with real life politics as it happens on the ground. That said, cell phones and laptops are generally a distraction and detrimental to the classroom experience. They have the tendency to take students away from the lecture and impede the active engagement with students? instructors and/or peers. I encourage you to leave your laptops at home, to take notes with a pen or a pencil

and to engage in classroom discussions. Given the time and effort I invest in planning each course period, I am hard pressed to see a reason as to why you would need to have your phone available to you during class time. Please consider turning your cell phones off, not on silence or vibrate. Texting under your desk fools no one. I can assure you that you won't find the answers which may be pertinent to our class discussion on Facebook or Twitter.

### **Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

### **Academic Accommodations**

In keeping with the Americans With Disabilities Act and University policy, students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:  
Student Disability Resource Center  
874 Traditions Way 108  
Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
[sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu)  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

### **Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services? comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

### **Final (perhaps reiterative) Notes on Course Protocol:**

- I cannot make my lecture slides or notes available, so make friends with your neighbor today! If you must be absent from a class, please get the class notes from one of your colleagues.

- Arriving late and leaving early is disruptive to all of us who made it a priority to get to class on time and be here. Please enter and exit the classroom quietly with minimal interruptions and take a seat close to the door.
- Please keep private conversations private. Discussions with your neighbor are distracting for me as well as other students. If you have a thought on the course material or a question, speak up so we can all hear you! Please feel free to share your thoughts on the lecture topic with all of us.
- I reserve the right to dismiss individual students from the classroom for disruptive use of technologies. I also reserve the right to have everyone close or put away their laptop/tablet etc. if the use of these technologies detracts to our classroom experience, as defined by me.
- I reserve the right to dismiss disruptive individuals from the classroom and report them to the Dean of Students.
- I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form, and will pursue the full penalties for violations thereof. For your reference, the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy is listed above.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect parameters of evaluation, including grading and the scheduling of the final exam, this syllabus is subject to change at discretion of the instructor. I will provide you with advance notice in class and via your university registered email contact.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

The course schedule is listed below. Topics covered and dates are subject to change with advance notice. Due dates of projects and assignments will not change. The dates of the Midterm and Final are set and are not subject to change.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>What is Comparative Politics?</b>	
June 29	Syllabus Overview Introduction/What is Science	None
June 30	What is Science?	CGG Chp. 2 (p. 19-29)
July 1	What is Science?/ What is Politics?	CGG Chp. 2 (p. 30-44) CGG Chp. 3 (p. 49-65)
July 2	What is Politics?	CGG Chp. 3 (p.66-79)
	<b>HW #1 MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>	
<b>July 3</b>	<b>HOLIDAY-NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>The Modern State: Democracy or Dictatorship? I</b>	
July 6	The Origins of the Modern State	CGG Chp. 4 (p. 87-100) Rotberg, "Failed States in a World of Terror"
July 7	Contractarian View v. Predatory View	CGG Chp. 4 (100-120)
July 8	Measuring Regime Type	CGG Chp. 5 Dahl, "Polyarchy"
July 9	Economics and Regime Type	CGG Chp. 6
July 10	Culture and Regime Type	CGG Chp. 7
	<b>HW # 2 DUE</b>	
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>The Modern State Democracy &amp; Dictatorship? II</b>	
July 13	Democratic Transitions	CGG Chp. 8
July 14	Does it Make Difference	CGG Chp. 9
July 15	Review for Midterm	None
July 16	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
July 17	TBA-Activity	
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Varieties of Democracy &amp; Dictatorship I</b>	
July 20	Varieties of Dictatorship	CGG Chapter 10
July 21	Problems with Group Decision Making	CGG Chapter 11
July 22	Parliamentary Systems	CGG Chp. 12 (p. 457-498)
July 23	Presidential Systems	CGG Chp. 12 (p. 499-524)
July 24	Majoritarian Electoral Systems	CGG Chp. 13 (p. 535-564)
	<b>HW #3 DUE</b>	
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Varieties of Democracy &amp; Dictatorship II</b>	
July 27	Proportional & Mixed Electoral Systems	CGG Chp. 13 (p. 564-598)
July 28	Political Parties	CGG Chp. 13 (p. 603-641)
July 29	Duverger's Theory	CGG Chp. 13 (p. 641-668)
July 30	TBA-Activity on Elections	BBC News (Articles TBD)
July 31	Institutional Veto Players	CGG Chp 15
	<b>HW #4 DUE</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Special Topics</b>	
August 3	Democratic Survival	Linz, "Perils of Presidentialism"
August 4	Civil Conflict PROJECTS DUE	TBA
August 5	Failed States Course Evaluations	TBA
August 6	Review for Final	None
<b>August 7</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	