

Government 157: Democracy and Dictatorship
An Introduction to Comparative Politics in the Contemporary World

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Office hours: Thursday 2-4pm

Class meetings: TTh 10:30-11:50; FISK 302

Course overview

Comparative politics is the study of politics within nations, as opposed to international relations, which is the study of politics among nations. Given the number of nations in the world, comparative politics is an immense field and a diverse one as well.

Comparative politics includes studies of the Russian revolution, party loyalties in Britain, strike activity in Argentina, corruption in Japan, decolonization in Africa, changing social values in Western Europe, modernization in developing countries, the rise of fascism in Interwar Europe, economic stabilization in Latin America. Getting acquainted with this diversity is an essential part of a higher education in political science. For those curious about the world it can be exhilarating as well.

Course objectives

Obviously no one-semester course could possibly provide a comprehensive survey of the entire field of comparative politics. This course is therefore designed to achieve two more limited goals: (1) to broaden your expectations about the nature of political institutions and the range of political behavior and (2) to help you develop plausible, well-informed expectations for similarities and differences in the political life of countries around the world.

The focus throughout the course will be on understanding the core ideas in political science and applying those ideas to particular cases. You should come away from the course with both an understanding of the diversity of the world's political systems, as well as an appreciation of the questions and concepts that inform the work of professional political scientists.

The course stresses the importance of comparison. Thinking comparatively within political science means continually asking yourself two questions:

- How do big ideas relate to particular cases? That is, how can we use the various theoretical tools available to us to explain political behavior in particular countries and regions, and how can we use the study of individual cases to test our grand theories of political interaction?

- How do individual cases relate to the goal of creating broad theories of political behavior? In other words, how can we compare a number of different cases and extract their common elements in order to create general theories?

Throughout the lectures and in your own reading and writing, you should keep both these questions in mind.

Course Requirements

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| Two in-class exams (25% each) | 50% |
| One short paper (4 pages) | 10% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Course Readings

The readings for this course contain conflicting interpretations of both theory and history. It is important that you read actively and critically. There is no single accepted “truth” in most of the topics we explore. Your job is to learn to identify, and then to compare and evaluate competing arguments.

The readings for this course complement classroom discussion; neither can substitute for the other. You will learn the most from this class if you do the reading on each topic **before** coming to class.

The following books are available for purchase:

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Roy, Arundhati. *The Cost of Living*

The other readings are available through on-line reserve. The only exceptions are the reading by Tony Blair, *The Third Way* and one of the selections on colonialism from Wright. These readings will be distributed in class. All readings, including the books, are also available on reserve at Olin.

Exams

The exams will cover readings and class materials. There will be a variety of types of questions on the exams, including, but not limited to identification questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. Each exam will cover the sections of the course immediately preceding it. Thus, the first exam (February 17th) will cover the sections on comparison and Great Britain. The second exam (April 2nd) will cover the sections on the former Soviet Union and Germany (though it may also include material from earlier in the course). The final exam will be cumulative.

Simulation / Paper

The last week of the course will be a simulation of a constitutional convention for the country SomewhereLand. You will be assigned an identity as a delegate to the convention. The paper assignment involves assessing and analyzing the process of writing SomewhereLand’s new constitution.

Participation

Attendance and active participation count for 10% of your final grade. You should come to class having done the readings and prepared to talk about the material. Because discussion is critical to the course, attendance is required. Students are allowed two absences. Absences exceeding two will result in a deduction of your participation grade. Attendance alone, however, does not guarantee a good participation grade. You must also engage in class discussion. Furthermore, there will be a variety of short assignments throughout the semester that count towards the participation grade.

Office Hours

I will have office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-5:00 in my office in PAC 409. If you have a class conflict at that time, we can arrange a different time to meet. If you find you are struggling with the readings or having difficulty speaking up in class, please come to office hours. Feel free also to stop by just to introduce yourself!

Course Policies

Students are required to complete all readings and attend each class period prepared to talk about the readings. **All participation assignments are due at the beginning of class. No late participation assignments will be accepted.** Extensions and incompletes will not be granted under any circumstances other than significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in family).

All work that you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources used in completing the assignments using a standard form of citation. If you are unsure how to use proper citation form, please ask me. Failure to use proper citation is plagiarism. Taking materials off the internet without citing them is plagiarism. You must adhere to all aspects of the honor code. Please write on each assignment: “No aid. No violation.” Please sign your name next to that statement.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

HOW WE COMPARE

- Jan 22 **Introduction and Comparative Method**
- Jan 27 **Tradition and Modernity**
- Readings: Puzo, Mario. 1969. *The Godfather*. New American Library. Pp. 1-27, pp. 29-33.
- Jan 29 **Different Paths Toward Modernity**
- Reading: Gershenkron, Alexander. 1962. "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap/Harvard University Press. pp. 5-30.

GREAT BRITAIN

- Feb 3 **Liberalism: What Is It and Where Did It Come From?**
- Readings: Dunn, Richard. 1979. *The Age of Religious Wars 1559-1715*. Pp. 1-9, 45-53, 164-178, 189-198.
- Milton Friedman. 1982. *Capitalism and Freedom*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 1-21.
- Feb 5 **Sources of Economic Liberalism: The Birth of Capitalism**
- Readings: Weber, Max. 1930. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
 Author's Introduction
 Chapter I: Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification
 Chapter IV: The Religious Foundations of Worldly Asceticism, Part A.
 Calvinism
 Chapter V: Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism
- Feb 10 **The Institutions of Liberalism: The British System**
- Readings: Heffernan, Richard. 2003. Political Parties and the Party System. In *Developments in British Politics*, edited by Patrick Dunleavy, Andrew Gamble, Richard Heffernan and Gillian Peele. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 119-139.
- Feb 12 **The Third Way: Liberalism in Action (or not)?**

Readings: Blair, Tony. 1998. *The Third Way: New Politics for the New Century*. London: Fabian Society. Series title: Fabian pamphlet 588. 0307-7535, Fabian pamphlet 588.

The Labour Party Home Page. 2008. Labour in Government: Labour's policies (including asylum and immigration, crime and anti-social behavior, schools, supporting hard-working families, NHS, democracy and citizenship). http://www.labour.org.uk/labour_policies (accessed Jan. 20, 2008).

Feb 17 **FIRST EXAM**

THE FORMER SOVIET UNION / RUSSIA

Feb 19 **Marxism**

Readings: Isaiah Berlin. 1963. "Introduction." *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-22.

Karl Marx. 1977. "The Communist Manifesto" in David McLellan, ed., *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 221-246.

Feb 24 **Lenin and The Russian Revolution**

Readings: William Henry Chamberlin. 1965. *The Russian Revolution, 1917-1921, Vol 1*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap. pp. 1-17.

Robert Tucker. 1974. "Lenin as Revolutionary Hero" in Robert Tucker *Stalin as Revolutionary*. Norton. pp. 18-63.

Lenin, V. I. 1986. "What Is To Be Done?" *Political Leadership: A Source Book*. Ed. Barbara Kellerman. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. Pp. 445-448.

Feb 26 **Stalin and Stalinism**

Readings: Nikita Khrushchev. 1970. "Secret Speech," in Crankshaw, ed. *Khrushchev Remembers*. Boston: Little Brown. pp. 561-587.

Robert Tucker. 1965. "Introduction" in Robert Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen, eds., *The Great Purge Trial*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap. pp. IX-XLVIII.

March 3 **Post-Soviet Politics**

Readings: Fish, M. Steven. 2005. "Can Democracy Get Back on Track?"
in *Democracy Derailed in Russia: The Failure of Open Politics*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 246-271.

The Economist. Special Report on Russia. November 29, 2008.

GERMANY

March 5 **Fascism I : The Concept**

Reading: Mussolini, Benito. 1968. "Fundamental Ideas" in Benito Mussolini
Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions. New York: Howard Fertig. pp. 7-31.

Hitler, Adolf. 1986. (selection from) "Mein Kampf." *Political
Leadership: A Source Book*. Ed. Barbara Kellerman. Pittsburgh:
University of Pittsburgh Press. Pp. 438-444.

Weber, Max. 1947. "IV. Charismatic Authority." *The Theory of Social
and Economic Organization*. Ed. Talcott Parsons. New York: Free Press.
Pp. 358-363.

SPRING BREAK!!!

March 24 **Fascism II: The Causes**

Reading: Chirot, Daniel. *Social Change in the 20th Century*. New York: Harcourt
Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Pp. 89-119.

Henry Ashby Turner, Jr. 1972. "Fascism and Modernization" *World
Politics*, Vol. 24, No. 4., pp. 547-564.

Lindholm, Charles. 1990. "The 'Possessed Servant': Adolf Hitler and the
Nazi Party." *Charisma*. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell. Pp. 93-116.

March 26 **The German Model: Post-war Success**

Reading: Farrell, David M. 2001. "Mixed Electoral Systems," *Electoral Systems:
A Comparative Introduction*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 97-
120.

March 31 **Legacies of Fascism: Citizenship and Immigration**

Reading: Green, Simon. 2007. "Divergent Traditions, Converging Responses: Immigration and Integration Policy in the UK and Germany," *German Politics*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 95-115.

Wiliarty, Sarah. 2008. Angela Merkel's Path to Power: The Role of Internal Party Dynamics and Leadership. *German Politics* Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 81-96.

April 2 **SECOND EXAM**

JAPAN

April 7 **Late Development: The East Asian Model—Japan**

Readings: Chalmers Johnson. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 305-324.

T.J. Pempel. 1987. "The Unbundling of 'Japan, Inc.': Changing Dynamics of Japanese Policy Formation," in Kenneth Pyle, ed. *The Trade Crisis: How Will Japan Respond?* Seattle: Society for Japanese Studies. pp. 117-152.

April 9 **Late Development: Success or Failure?**

Readings: Richard Katz. 2003. "The Long and Bumpy Road to Revival," *Japanese Phoenix: The Long Road to Economic Revival*. New York: M.E. Sharpe. Pp. 3-22.

Francis Fukayama. 1995. "Confucianism and Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, 6:2(April 1995). pp. 20-33.

April 14 **Japanese Political Institutions**

Readings: Krauss, Ellis S. and Robert Pekkanen. 2008. Reforming the Liberal Democratic Party. In *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*, edited by Sherry L. Martin and Gil Steel. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. Pp. 11-37.

April 16 **Japanese Democracy**

Ellis S. Krauss and Takeshi Ishida. 1989. "Japanese Democracy in Perspective," in Ishida and Krauss, eds., *Japanese Democracy*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. pp. 327-339.

Martin, Sherry L. and Gil Steel. 2008. Contemporary Japanese Democracy. In *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*, edited by Sherry L. Martin and Gil Steel. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. Pp. 213-219.

INDIA

April 21 **Colonialism**

Reading: Eric J. Hobsbawm. 1987. *The Age of Empire*, Pantheon. pp. 56-83.

April 23 **Theories of Colonialism**

Reading: Selections from Wright. Harrison M. (ed.). 1976. *The "New Imperialism": Analysis of Nineteenth-Century Expansion*. Second Edition. D. C. Heath and Company: Lexington, MA. Pp. 5-59; pp. 69-88.

April 28 **Decolonization**

Reading: Roy, Arundhati. 1999. "The Greater Common Good," in Arundhati Roy, *The Cost of Living*. New York: The Modern Library. pp. 1-90.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

April 30 **Constitutional Convention**

Reading: Arend Lijphart. 1999. "Introduction," "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods Versus Proportional Representation," "Division of Power: The Federal-Unitary and Centralized-Decentralized Contrasts," in Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp. 1-9, 143-170, 185-199.

May 5 **Constitutional Convention and Conclusion**