

POL 305 Introduction to Global/Comparative Politics

Tue/Thurs 10:30-11:45 am

Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Tue and Thurs 3-4 pm or by appointment

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Course Description

Why are some countries democratic and others authoritarian? Why do some countries have stable democracies while others suffer from constant threats of military coup? Why and how do mass demonstrations unfold and why do some people risk their lives to participate in protests while others sit home and watch on television? This course introduces students to big questions in the field of comparative politics. We will address a series of real world issues organized around broad themes, including the state, democracy and authoritarianism, civil society, and social movements. To ground theories of politics in real places, the readings and lectures will draw upon cases from diverse regions of the world, including Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia, with periodic references to the U.S. The goal of this course is for students to generate and evaluate competing explanations for important substantive questions and events in world politics.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Gain a clear understanding of key concepts and theories in comparative politics
- Apply concepts to real world examples
- Critically assess and analyze contemporary issues from multiple perspectives in comparative politics

Course Requirements

- 1) Attendance and Participation (10%): All students are expected to attend class meetings and to participate actively in discussion throughout the semester. You are allowed two (2) free absences over the course of the semester before your grade will be affected. Further absences will result in a deduction of points from your participation grade. **If you miss five (5) or more class sessions, you will get a zero for your attendance grade.** Students who miss ten or more classes are subject to failure in the course. You are responsible for all the readings, class discussions, and lecture material covered in your absence. Participation is strongly encouraged and repeated tardiness will affect your participation grades.

- 2) Reading quizzes (20%): There will be five quizzes given throughout the semester. Students' top four quizzes will be used for this grade, and the remaining grade will be dropped. Each quiz is worth 5 points. **In-class quizzes cannot be made up.**
- 3) Two exams (midterm 20% and final 30%—50% total): There will be a mid-term and a final. Both will be in-class exams. Both exams will consist of short answer questions (definitions and concepts) and a short essay question. All the questions will be based exclusively on course materials (readings and lecture notes). The midterm will take place on **October 6 (Thursday)**. The date of the final will be designated by the university calendar.
- 4) Group presentation (20%): In the last week of the course, your group will be asked to do a 10-minute presentation on a country of your own choice (except for the US). Using some concepts and theories covered in class, you will discuss the situations of your country. More details will be handed out in class later this semester.

Grade Scale

A	94 and above	B+	87-90	C+	77-80	D	61-70
A-	91-93	B	84-86	C	74-76	F	below 61
		B-	81-83	C-	71-73		

I am happy to explain why you received the grade you did on any assignment or exam and to discuss how you might improve your performance in the future. But be advised that grades are not for negotiation. No begging, pleading, crying, arguing, bribing (!), or any other means will persuade me to change your grade for any reason other than a case of mathematical error.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this class.

All required readings are available at the course website.

A Word of Advice

Succeeding in this course is in part a function of your own effort. Here are some tips:

- 1) *Do the reading.* You are expected to complete all of the readings for a given lecture **BEFORE** that lecture. If you start to fall behind in the readings, you will find that you get much less out of the lectures. The lectures are not a substitute for the readings. Exams and quizzes will demand familiarity with material not covered in lecture but found in the readings.
- 2) *Come to class.* Likewise, lectures may include material not in the readings and will help you to build up critical thinking skills.

- 3) *Read critically*: Focus on the big picture to glean the main arguments in the texts. Think about the logic of the arguments and draw linkages and contrasts between the texts. This is a course on *comparative* politics, so think comparatively.
- 4) *Ask questions*. Do not hesitate to ask questions or raise issues in class. Your comments will enrich the course.
- 5) *Come to the professor's office hours*. I am here to help, and I also invite you to share your responses and reactions to the material.
- 6) *Follow relevant issues outside of class*. Reading about current (or not so current) events in important journals and newspapers will help you to assess and apply the concepts you encounter in the course. Try to look at newspapers such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and/or periodicals such as the *Economist*, *New Yorker*, and *Atlantic Monthly*.

Course Policies and Etiquette

Please come to class and be in class on time. Tardiness, in addition to absences, will affect your grade and are strongly discouraged. Unless you become ill or speak to me about leaving early for a specific purpose, expect to stay for the entire class. **The use of any electronic devices—including laptops—will be banned in class.** If you use electronic devices inappropriately, you will be asked to leave class without hesitation (and will remain responsible for what you missed).

Plagiarism includes copying some or all of your work from a book, a website, or another student's paper. Penalties range from a failing grade for the assignment to permanent expulsion from the University. As an instructor, I am obligated to report all suspected violations to the Dean and s/he then will make recommendations. Please refer to the UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues.

<http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html>

Disability Issues: Please see me and refer to the UH Kokua Program on issues related to disability. <<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>> I am more than happy to make accommodations on all aspects of the course on a case-by-case basis.

Course Outline

Jan 10. Introduction and Course Overview

No readings.

Jan 12 and Jan 17. What Is Comparative Politics and How Do You Do It?

Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, chapter 1 (pp. 3-24).

Arend Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method," *American Political*

Science Review 65, 3 (1971): 682-693.

Jan 19. The Comparative Method

Jean Dreeze and Amartya Sen (1989). "China and India." In *Hunger and Public Action*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Jan 24. Power

John Gaventa (1982). *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Ch. 1.

Jan 26. Power (cont.)

John Gaventa (1982). *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Ch. 7.

Jan 31. States

O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, chapter 2 (pp. 26-55).

Feb 2. States (cont.)

Charles Tilly (1985). "War Making and State-Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peters Evans, et al. New York: Cambridge U. Press, pp. 169-91.

Feb 7. What is Democracy?

O'Neil, chapter 5, pp. 126-136.

Philippe Schmitter and Terry Karl. "What Democracy is...And is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2 (Summer 1991).

Robert Dahl (1998), *On Democracy*, New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 166-79.

Feb 9. Nondemocratic Regimes

O'Neil, chapter 6, pp. 162-191.

Feb. 14. Authoritarianism in East Asia

Fareed Zakaria. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew" *Foreign Affairs*. April 1994.

Kim Dae Jung. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 6 (1994): 189-94.

Feb 16. Democratic Transitions

Samuel Huntington (1984). "Will More Countries Become Democratic?" *Political Science Quarterly* 99, no. 2 (Summer).

Feb 21. Democratic Transitions: Arab Spring

Ellen Lust (2011), "Why Now? Micro Transitions and the Arab Uprisings," *Comparative Democratization* 9(3).

Elegati, Mohammed. 2011. "The Arab Spring: Common Roots, Common Challenges." *Jadaliyya*. http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/2240/the-arab-spring_common-roots-common-challenges

Feb 23. China's Democratic Transition?

Andrew Nathan (2003), "Authoritarian Resilience", *Journal of Democracy* 14 (1), pp. 6-17

Minxin Pei, "Is China Democratizing?" *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 77, no. 1, pp. 68-82.

Feb 28 *IN-CLASS MIDTERM*******Mar 2. Institutional Design: Governmental Structure and Electoral Systems**

O'Neil, pp. 136-154.

Mar 7. Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Debate: Presidents v. Parliaments in *Journal of Democracy* 1, no. 4 (Fall 1990): pp. 71-90.

- Donald L. Horowitz, "Comparing Democratic Systems"
- Seymour Martin Lipset, "The Centrality of Political Culture"
- Juan J. Linz, "The Virtues of Parliamentarism"

Mar 9. In-Class Film Screening: *Machuca* (2003)**Mar 16. In-Class Film Screening: *Machuca* (2003)****Mar 21. Civil Society**

Robert Putnam, Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Y. Nanetti (1993). *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ch. 4.

Mar 23. Civil Society (cont.)

Sheri Berman (1997). Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic. *World Politics* 49(3): 401-429.

Mar 28 and Mar 30. Spring Break!

April 4. Political Economy

O'Neil, Chapter 4, pp. 90-110

April 6. Economic Development in East Asia

Atul Kohli (1994). "Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come From: The Japanese Lineage of Korea's 'Developmental State.'" *World Development*, September, pp. 1269-93

April 11. Identity Politics: Islamism

Bernard Lewis. Revolt of Islam, *The New Yorker* Nov. 21, 2001.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2001/11/19/the-revolt-of-islam>

George Packer. Exporting Jihad, *The New Yorker* Mar. 28, 2016.

April 13. Identity Politics: The Surge of the Radical Right

Andrew Higgins. "Right Wing's Surge in Europe Has the Establishment Rattled" in the *New York Times*, Nov. 8, 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/09/world/europe/right-wings-surge-in-europe-has-the-establishment-rattled.html>

Palko Karasz. "Voices from Europe's Far Right" in the *New York Times*, Jul. 12, 2016.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/13/world/europe/voices-from-europes-far-right.html?_r=0

Jan-Werner Müller. "Behind the New German Right." *The New York Review of Books*.

Apr. 14, 2016. <http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2016/04/14/behind-new-german-right-afd/>

April 18. Ethnic Conflict

O'Neil, pp. 47-57.

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond", *World Politics*, April 2001.

April 20. Discussion of Group Projects

April 25, April 27, May 2. Student Presentations