

GOVERNMENT 370: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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Spring 2015
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OVERVIEW

Why are some states more stable than others? Why does ethnic conflict occur? What do we mean by "democracy" and what causes states to (de)democratize? Why do dictatorships bother with elections, political parties, and other trappings of modern democracy? Does state intervention into the economy undermine economic growth? Can we talk of "states" in an era of globalization? These kinds of questions lie within the domain of comparative politics.

The rich and diverse field of comparative politics is devoted to the study of the different political institutions and behavior around the world, including the effects and implications of these differences as well as their underlying causes. As an introduction to comparative politics, this course's objective is to provide an overview of the major approaches, theories, as well as substantive issues and controversies of this particular subfield of political science. In order to enhance the analytical approach to substantive issues, this course also emphasizes different research methods and tools used by comparativists.

The substantive topics the course covers include different approaches to the state and to ethnic conflict, political regimes, democratization, classification of political institutions and consequences of institutional choice in both democratic and authoritarian regimes, political economic systems, political economy of reform and development, and globalization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand and engage major theoretical and substantive issues in the field of comparative politics
- Understand and apply different comparative research methodologies
- Create a solid theoretical and conceptual foundation for higher-level courses in comparative politics
- Improve skills in communication and critical consumption of information

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

Discussion (20%)

In addition to faithful attendance, each student is expected to complete all assigned readings and contribute to class discussions.

Reading Quizzes (10%)

15 reading quizzes will be randomly given throughout the course of the semester. Students will be allowed to use *written or printed* notes on these quizzes. All quizzes will be graded pass/fail. Missed quizzes *cannot* be retaken. Students may miss/fail up to three quizzes without penalty. Each additional pass beyond the minimum required 12 will be awarded a *small* amount of extra credit.

Papers (30%)

Students will be required to write two short papers. These papers will require students to reflect on specific course themes in greater detail. Instructions for the written assignments will be provided at a later date.

Midterm (20%)

The midterm exam will be a hand-written, in-class exam on March 13. It will test student knowledge of key course concepts and themes through a series of short answer and essay questions. A study guide will be provided.

Final (20%)

The format of the exam will be similar to that of the midterm. The final exam will be *cumulative*.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	97–100
A	93–96
A-	90–92
B+	87–89
B	83–86
B-	80–82
C+	77–79
C	73–76
C-	70–72
D	60–69
F	0–59

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are no required textbooks for this course. All materials will be made available online and/or placed on reserve at the NMSU Library.

OTHER POLICIES

Late Work

As a general principle, late work will not be accepted and missed exams cannot be made up at a later date. Exceptions can be made in the case of valid, extenuating circumstances.

Computer Use

Computers are to be used *solely* for the purpose of taking notes and actively participating in class discussion. I reserve the right to ask you not to use your computer if I have reasons to suspect that you are using it to surf the web, check email or engage in other non-course-related activities.

Academic Conduct

All students are bound by the Student Code of Conduct as detailed in the *NMSU Student Code of Conduct*. The Student Code of Conduct is found on the NMSU web site at

<http://deanofstudents.nmsu.edu/student-handbook/1-student-code-of-conduct/>. It is recognized by New Mexico State University that students are adults and expected to obey the law and take personal responsibility for their conduct. Academic misconduct and nonacademic misconduct can result in disciplinary procedures being instituted against the student. Refer to the *Student Code of Conduct* for more detailed information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>

Students with Disabilities

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
Corbett Center, Rm. 244
Phone: (575) 646-6840
E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu
Website: www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment and retaliation. For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX or NMSU's complaint process contact:

Gerard Nevarez, Executive Director or Agustin Diaz, Associate Director
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
O'Loughlin House
Phone: (575) 646-3635
E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

Email Communications

Your NMSU email account is the official means of communicating with the university. Information critical to your success at NMSU is delivered to you via this account, and you are expected to follow rules and policies provided to you via this communication method. Any email from you to the instructor should be sent either through the CANVAS course management system or through your official NMSU email account. Please be advised that due to privacy and security concerns, we are unable to respond to emails from or about students that do not originate from an official NMSU email address.

Important Dates

The last day to withdraw from this class with a “W” is Monday, March 16. The last day to withdraw from the University is Friday, April 17. The midterm exam is in class on Friday, March 13. The final exam is Wednesday, May 6, 10:30-12:30.

Adaptability

Please note that this syllabus is a *working* document. The course schedule and reading list are subject to change.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

I. INTRODUCTION

Monday, January 12th: No Class

Wednesday, January 14th: No Class

Friday, January 16th: Course Introduction

Monday, January 19th: No Class

Wednesday, January 21st: What is Comparative Politics?

- Clark, W. R., Golder, M., and Golder, S. N. (2009). *Principles of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press, Washington D.C, pages 2–6
- O’Neil, P. H. (2010). *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 3rd edition, pages 1–13

Friday, January 23rd: Ways of Knowing in Comparative Politics

- Clark et al. 2009, Chapter 2

Monday, January 26th: Qualitative vs. Quantitative Methods

- Mahoney, J. and Goertz, G. (2006). A tale of two cultures: Contrasting quantitative and qualitative research. *Political Analysis*, 14:227–249

Wednesday, January 28th: Mapping Causes in Comparative Politics

- Drogus, C. A. and Orvis, S. (2012). *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*. CQ Press, Washington, DC, 2nd edition, pages 18–26; 28–29

Friday, January 30th: No Class

II. STATES, NATIONS, AND IDENTITIES

Monday, February 2nd: No Class

Wednesday, February 4th: Origins of the State

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 92–95
- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 39–45
- Taylor, B. D. and Botea, R. (2008). Tilly Tally: War-making and state-making in the contemporary third world. *International Studies Review*, 1:27–56

Friday, February 6th: Why States?

- Spruyt, H. (1994). *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, Chapters 1, 8

Monday, February 9th: Nations and Identities

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 146–154
- Hechter 2004, Chapters 1-2

Wednesday, February 11th: Nationalism: Good or Bad?

- Muller, J. Z. (2008). Us and them: The enduring power of ethnic nationalism. *Foreign Affairs*, 87(2):18–35
- Billig, M. (1995). *Banal Nationalism*. SAGE Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, pages 1–9
- Laitin, D. D. (2007). *Nations, States, and Violence*. Oxford University Press, New York, Chapter 1

Friday, February 13th: Strong, Weak, and “Failed” States

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 51–60
- The Economist (2014). Two Arab countries fall apart. *The Economist*. June 14, 2014
- Peltier, J.-P. N. (2009). Interstitial space: A new, more realistic lens. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, 31:261–270

Monday, February 16th: Will the State Survive?

- Barber, B. (1992). Jihad vs. McWorld. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 269(3):53–65
- Khanna, P. (2013). The end of the nation-state? *The New York Times*. Accessed on 16 October 2013 from: <http://www.nytimes.com>
- Spruyt, H. (2002). The origins, development, and possible decline of the modern state. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 5(1):127–149

Wednesday, February 18th: Clash of Civilizations?

- Huntington, S. P. (1993). The clash of civilizations? *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3):22–49
- Sen, A. (2002). Civilizational imprisonments: How to misunderstand everybody in the world. *New Republic*, 226(22):28–33

III. REGIMES

Friday, February 20th: Democracy

- Clark et al. 2009, Chapter 5

Monday, February 23rd: Authoritarianism(s)

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 110–127; 132–136
- Paper 1 Due

Wednesday, February 25th: Semi-Authoritarianism

- Levitsky, S. and Way, L. (2010). *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*. Cambridge University Press, New York, pages 5–23
- Scheppele, K. L. (2013). Not Your Father’s Authoritarianism: The Creation of the “Frankenstate.” *EPS Newsletter*, Winter 2013: 5–9

IV. DEMOCRATIZATION

Friday, February 27th: Economic Growth and Resource Curses

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 169–195; 198–201

Monday, March 2nd: Inequality and Democratization

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 195–198
- Kaufman, R. (2009). The political effects of inequality in Latin America: Some inconvenient facts. *Comparative Politics*, 41(3):359–379

Wednesday, March 4th: Democracy and the Civic Culture

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 208–221
- Putnam, R. (1995). Bowling alone: America’s declining social capital. *Journal of Democracy*, 6(7):65–78

Friday, March 6th: Cultural Incompatibilities with Democracy?

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 221–239
- Fish, M. S. (2002). Islam and authoritarianism. *World Politics*, 55(1):4–37

Monday, March 9th: Democratic Transitions

- Way, L. and Levitsky, S. (2007). Linkage, leverage and the post-communist divide. *East European Politics and Societies*, 21(1):48–66
- Ukraine Crisis (newspaper articles)

Wednesday, March 11th: Transition vs. Consolidation

- Schedler, A. (1998). What is democratic consolidation? *Journal of Democracy*, 9(2):91–107

Friday, March 13th: Midterm Exam

V. INSIDE DEMOCRACIES

Monday, March 16th: Parliamentary vs. Presidential Systems

- Linz, J. J. (1990). The perils of presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy*, 1(1):51–69
- Fukuyama, F., Dressel, B., and Chang, B.-S. (2005). Facing the perils of presidentialism? *Journal of Democracy*, 16(2):102–116

Wednesday, March 18th: Electoral Systems...

- Clark et al. 2009, Chapter 12

Friday, March 20th: ...And Their Consequences

- Hill, S. (2015). Political democracy. In *Lessons from Europe?: What Americans Can Learn from European Public Policies*, pages 163–181. CQ Press, Los Angeles
- Reilly, B. and Reynolds, A. (1999). *Electoral Systems and Conflict in Divided Societies*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C, pages 27–43

Monday, March 23rd: Spring Break

Wednesday, March 25th: Spring Break

Friday, March 27th: Spring Break

Monday, March 30th: Federalism, Decentralization, Devolution

- Clark et al. 2009, pages 604–620
- Articles on Scottish Independence (TBD)

Wednesday, April 1st: Why Federalize?

- Ziblatt, D. (2004). Rethinking the origins of federalism: Puzzle, theory, and evidence from nineteenth-century Europe. *World Politics*, 57(1):70–98
- Erk, J. and Koning, E. (2010). New structuralism and institutional change: Federalism between centralization and decentralization. *Comparative Political Studies*, 43(3):353–378

Friday, April 3rd: No Class

VI. INSIDE AUTOCRACIES

Monday, April 6th: Authoritarian Institutions

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, Chapter 8

Wednesday, April 8th: Political Parties & Judicial Politics

- Geddes, B. (2006). Why parties and elections in authoritarian regimes? Unpublished manuscript. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC
- Moustafa, T. and Ginsburg, T. (2008). Introduction: The functions of courts in authoritarian politics. In Moustafa, T. and Ginsburg, T., editors, *Rule by Law: The Politics of Courts in Authoritarian Regimes*, pages 1–22. Cambridge University Press, New York

Friday, April 10th: Case Study: North Korea

- Film Screening: *Secret State of North Korea*

VII. POLITICAL ECONOMY

Monday, April 13th: It's the Economy, Stupid

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, Chapter 5

Wednesday, April 15th: Regulating Market Failures: Social Welfare Policy

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 539–564
- Paper 2 Due

Friday, April 17th: No Class

Monday, April 20th: Regulating Market Failures: Health and Environmental Policy

- Drogus and Orvis 2012, pages 564–596

Wednesday, April 22nd: How Much Market Intervention?

- Radcliff, B. (2013). *The Political Economy of Human Happiness: How Voters' Choices Determine the Quality of Life*. Cambridge University Press, New York, pages 29–76

VIII. ISSUES, TRENDS, DEBATES

Friday, April 24th: Advanced Industrial Societies

- O'Neil 2010, Chapter 7

Monday, April 27th: After Communism

- O'Neil 2010, Chapter 8
- Pye, L. W. (2000). Traumatized political cultures: The after effects of totalitarianism in China and Russia. *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 1(1):119–128

Wednesday, April 29th: Less Developed Countries and Post-Colonialism

- O'Neil 2010, Chapter 9
- Collier, P. and Gunning, J. W. (1999). Why has Africa grown slowly? *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 13(3):3–22

Friday, May 1st: Development and Stability in Latin America

- Karl, T. L. (2000). Economic inequality and democratic instability. *Journal of Democracy*, 11(1):149–156
- Lagos, M. (2001). How people view democracy: Between stability and crisis in Latin America. *Journal of Democracy*, 12(1):137–145
- Weyland, K. (2004). Neoliberalism and democracy in Latin America: A mixed record. *Latin American Politics and Society*, 46(1):135–157

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 6, 10:30-12:30

REFERENCES

- Barber, B. (1992). Jihad vs. McWorld. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 269(3):53–65.
- Billig, M. (1995). *Banal Nationalism*. SAGE Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks.
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- Mahoney, J. and Goertz, G. (2006). A tale of two cultures: Contrasting quantitative and qualitative research. *Political Analysis*, 14:227–249.
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