UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
CPO 6091-0001: SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
SPRING 2013

Professor: Myunghee Kim
Class: Th 6:00 – 8:50 pm
Credit Hours: 3
Class Room: BA 115
E-mail: Myunghee.kim@ucf.edu

Office: PH311f
Office Hours: M 1:00 – 3:20 pm
WF 1:00 – 2:30 pm
(& by appointment)
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CPO 6091, Seminar in Comparative Politics, explores comparative politics as a subfield of political science. This course is designed to develop the understandings and skills to students in political science by familiarizing cutting-edge research on the development and consequences of political institutions, their performance, and individuals' behavior toward political systems. The course will: 1) discuss the principal theoretical frameworks of comparative government; 2) analyze the ways how institutions constrain behavior, both mechanically and psychologically, and how they endow actors with resources; 3) conduct comparative analysis, with strong awareness of methodological opportunities and dangers involved in such an exercise.

REQUIREMENTS

Readings

Béland, Daniel, and Robert Henry Cox. 2010. *Ideas and Politics in Social Science Research*. Oxford University Press.

Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes. Eds. 2007. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Dalton, Russell J., and Christopher J. Anderson. Eds. 2010. *Citizens, Context, and Choice: How Context Shapes Citizens' Electoral Choices*. New York: Oxford University Press.

(these are available through library website: go to http://library.ucf.edu/ → click "articles & database" → click "O" under database titles → click "Oxford Scholarship Online")

Research Project

Research Paper

Final research paper is required for this class (approximately 8-12 pages excluding bibliography and table/figure, type-written, double spacing, times new roman, 12 font) which consists of following sections: Introduction, Literature Review or Previous Studies, Findings or Case Studies, and Conclusion (also has to include at least one table and figure). The contents need to show your understandings of theories in contemporary comparative politics and apply to empirical phenomena. The paper needs to include bibliographic and in-text citations following the American Political Science Association (APSA) style. The paper consists of **30** percent of your total grade: Title and abstract 3% (due January 24), Bibliography and outlines 4% (February 14), Draft 8% (February 28), Final version 15% (March 21).

Presentation
Presentation on the research project is **10** percent of the total grade (April 4, 11, 18). If you are absent the presentation day, either presenter or audience, it will be regarded as three-day absence. A presenter has to deliver his/her research project efficiently and effectively. Schedules and details on the evaluation criteria for presentation will be discussed during the class.

Review Papers

For each week, one critical review paper focusing on the readings is recommended (about 3 pages excluding bibliography and title page). The paper has to be type-written, double spacing, one-inch margin for all four sides, and times new roman with 12 font size (the paper format on review paper will be distributed in class). The paper reviews, analyzes, and criticizes the readings of the week. A sample review paper is available in *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, and so on. The paper needs to include bibliographic and in-text citations following the APSA style. That is, the paper has to follow academic writing style. If you need assistance for your writing, please visit the Writing Center. Each review paper (highest grade) consists of **10** percent of the total grade (total minimum five papers beginning the second week). Paper is due on every Monday noon, 12 pm (January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 11, 18, 25).

Participation/Attendance

Participants in this course are required to be present in the class as well as to participate in the discussions. In each class, participants have to follow the readings to contribute seminar discussion. Participation consists of **10** percent of your total grade. If a participant has to be absent a class, it is the participant's responsibility to provide an appropriate (official) document. Without official documents, the absence will be subjected to be penalized.

FINAL GRADE

In sum, the grade that you will be received is determined by:

30%: research paper
10%: presentation on research project
50%: review papers (10% each, 5 papers)
10%: participation

100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; lower than 60 F

POLICIES

- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Any disruptive and disrespectful behavior to me and to other participants will result in an F or administrative withdrawal. Be professional, courteous and sensitive to the rights of others.
- Raise your hand and ask to be recognized. Do not interrupt.
- Late submissions are discouraged. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade, and the deduction is cumulated by each class day. No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- Plagiarism, the purposeful or *accidental* use of source material by other writers without giving appropriate credit, is a crime! If any indication of plagiarism is shown in a participant's assignment, the participant will receive an F for the assignment.
- No extra credit assignments will be permitted.
- Homework assignment or paper as a form of e-mail attachment is not accepted.
- Homework, if it is given, should be type-written and stapled.
- Do not be late for class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- If you need to leave earlier, inform me at the beginning of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- Voice recording and videotaping are NOT allowed without instructor's permission in advance.
- Turn off your cell phone, blackberries, and other electronic devices (including headsets and i-pod). You are NOT allowed to answer your phone calls or to send text messages during the class meeting time.
- Laptop computer is not allowed.
- I often communicate via e-mail, e.g., changes of schedule, announcement, etc. Thus, pay attention to the e-mail messages from me. It is your responsibility to manage your e-mail account. I do not have an obligation to respond to any "non-knight" e-mails.
- An individual who is not enrolled in this course is not allowed to be in the classroom during the class time.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus in the course of the semester/session.

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations (Please notify me no later than the end of the first week of class concerning any academic accommodations you will need). No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Day 1 (January 10): Introduction to the Course, Review of Syllabus

Day 2 (January 17): Social Science Research
Readings:
- King, Keohane, and Verba. Ch. 1
- Béland and Cox. Chs. 1-4.
- Boix and Stokes. Chs, 3, 4, 7

Day 3 (January 24): Nations, States, Citizens
Readings:
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 9-12.
- Dalton and Anderson. Ch. 1

Title and Abstract Due

Day 4 (January 31): Political Regimes
Readings:
- Béland and Cox. Ch. 8
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 13-16

Day 5 (February 7): Political Parties I
Readings:
- Dalton and Anderson. Chs. 4-5, 8
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 21-22

Day 6 (February 14): Political Parties II
Readings:
- Dalton and Anderson. Chs. 2-3
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 23-26

Bibliography and Outline Due

Day 7 (February 21): Institutional Design I
Readings:
- Boix and Stokes. Chs.27-28, 32
- Béland and Cox. Ch. 10

Day 8 (February 28): Institutional Design II
Readings:
- Carles Boix and Stokes. Chs. 29, 31
- Dalton and Anderson. Ch. 9

Draft Due

Day 9 (March 14): Public Policies
Readings:

- Dalton and Anderson. Chs. 10-11
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 33-34

Day 10 (March 21): Performance
Readings:

- Dalton and Anderson. Chs. 6-7
- Boix and Stokes. Chs. 36-38, 19

Final Research Paper Due

Day 11 (March 28): Global Perspectives
Readings:

- Boix and Stokes. Ch. 35.
- Béland and Cox. Chs. 6-7

Day 12 (April 4): Presentation I

Day 13 (April 11): Presentation II

Day 14 (April 18): Presentation III