Course Syllabus

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CPO 3103 - Comparative Politics

Instructor: Konstantin Ash Office Hours: Mondays 3-5p and Tuesdays 1-3p.

Instructor E-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu (mailto:konstantin.ash@ucf.edu) Office: HPH 311A or through course chat page

TA: Meet by appointment.

Course Description

Comparative politics is the study of the differences and similarities in political institutions and behavior in countries around the world. This course is an introduction to both the concepts and ideas within comparative politics and research on the subject. Throughout the semester, we will look at numerous subjects relating to politics within countries around the world and how those politics vary along numerous dimensions. Our core question will relate to political institutions -- rules and structures that govern political behaviour. Specifically, we will analyze whether the extent to which these institutions influence political behavior and vice versa. Thus, the primary objective of this course is for students to develop an understanding of and ability to analyze research in comparative politics.

A secondary goal of the class is to develop writing and basic research skills through assignments that supplement the traditional exam structure. Students will be asked to give succinct presentations on certain weeks' readings as a way of opening discussion on the subject and to generate a writing assignment based on an interview with an individual who was born and lived a major part of their life in another country and the theories we have reviewed in class. These assignments will reinforce communication, interview and research skills that have broad applications to careers beyond that of the traditional political science major.

Assignments

Exams

The course will include both a midterm exam and a final exam. Both will be **take-home** prompts in essay format. They will be posted on the Friday of Weeks 7 and 15 of class and be due at midnight on the following Friday.

Students will be asked to apply the theories and cases they learned about in class and contribute with novel analysis of the subject. Grading will be on a relative scale: your highest scoring exam will be worth 30% of your grade, your lowest will be world 20%. The final exam will only require coverage of information from the second half of the course -- although bringing in materials from the first half is encouraged.

Writing Assignment

Students will be asked to develop a writing assignment throughout the quarter that involves an important aspect of comparative politics: field work. Since Central Florida is a diverse place with many people from other backgrounds, it is a good opportunity to learn about political systems in other parts of the world. The assignment requires choosing one theme which we have covered at

any point in the course (may be an article or an entire week) and a country. Students will be asked to interview another person that was born in and spent a substantial part of their lives in that country. Using evidence from the interview, students will be asked to apply a theory relating to their chosen theme to the evidence they have gathered and evaluate the effectiveness of that theory in their chosen country.

Papers should be at least 7 pages (before citations), 12-point Times New Roman font and use in-text citations. Students are required to consult with me through either e-mail or in office hours before proceeding with their topic. Please see rubric for detailed requirements.

Papers MUST have in-text citations. Papers are due Thursday, November 30 at 11:59pm to WebCourses.

Topic Approval

Topics for the writing assignment MUST be submitted for approval by October 22 at 11:59 PM for full credit. This should include your research question, the reading(s) whose theories you will be testing through your interview, the interview subject's basic biographical information and some possible interview questions. You lose one point from your assignment grade for every day that the topic is late. If revisions are needed, students are required to consult with me in person or over Skype to develop their topic.

Reading Presentation

Students will be required to present on one assigned reading during the semester (readings to be chosen through Qualtrics poll during the first week of classes). In their presentations, students must discuss the argument, motivation and findings of the reading and to generate at least three discussion questions.

Presentations should be narrated PowerPoints made using the **ISpring Free Cam** **(https://www.ispringsolutions.com/ispring-free-cam)** screen recorder application and be between 5 and 7 minutes long. They must be uploaded by Friday on the week of the assigned reading as a new discussion post. Please refer to tutorial on presentations from the first week for style tips.

Discussion Participation

Discussion threads will be posted for each week's readings and lectures at noon on Friday. These will be based on both my questions and questions from those presenting in that week.

To gain a baseline of credit for participation, you must reply to one of the threads and reply to *at least two* other comments made by students in response to a thread. Additional credit will be given based on the quality of your replies and your engagement with the ideas in the readings and lectures. The best replies will both challenge the ideas in the readings or lectures and seek to extend them to other facets of the course.

Because of the number of people in the course, you will be separated into groups - the groups will answer the same questions, but they will only see one another's answers. I will assign the groups on Friday, August 25 - as soon as the drop deadline passes.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given weekly and are worth a total of 15% of your grade (1% for each quiz and one free percent for the Student Engagement Assignment). Quizzes are available from the time each Lecture is posted on Monday until noon on every Friday. Quiz content includes **both** readings *and* lectures. Any tutorials that are given each week will also be part of the quiz.

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Midterm and Final Exams	50%

Reading Presentation	5%
Field Writing Assignment	20%
Discussion Participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Total	100%

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

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. 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 (http://www.sds.sdes.ucf.edu/)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Schedule and Readings

Each week's courses will follow the same structure. Lectures and quizzes will be made available on Monday until Friday at noon. Discussion threads will be active starting on Friday at noon until the following week's lecture is posted and presentations on readings are due on Friday at noon.

All readings will be made available on WebCourses under the "Files" tab. Below is a schedule of readings and major course events.

Please consult the **Reading Focus Questions** before starting each reading.

WEEK 1 (AUG 21-28) - POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND BEHAVIOR AROUND THE WORLD

Required Readings:

- Adam Przeworski, "Institutions Matter?" Government and Opposition 39, 2004: 527-540

Tutorials: Presentation Workshop

WEEK 2 (AUG 28-SEP 4) - THE STATE AND STATE CAPACITY

Required Readings:

- Tilly, Charles. 1990. Coercion, Capital, and European States: AD 990-1990. Cambridge: Blackwell: Chapter 67-91.
- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 98-116, 133-136.

WEEK 3 (SEP 4-11) - DEMOCRACY: DEFINITIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Required Readings:

- Schmitter, Philippe C, and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is. . . and Is Not." Journal of Democracy 2(3): 75–88.
- Robert A. Dahl. Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971. Read pages 1-16.

WEEK 4 (SEP 11-18) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Required Readings:

- Arend Lijphart. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Chapter 8.
- William H. Riker, "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law." American Political Science Review 76, 4 (December 1982), 753-766.
- Patrick Dunleavy. 2012. "**Duverger's Law is a dead parrot. Outside the USA, first-past-the-post voting has no tendency at all to produce two party politics** **(http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/duvergers-law-dead-parrot-dunleavy/)** " London School of Economics.

WEEK 5 (SEP 18-25) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: PRESIDENTIALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM

Required Readings:

- Linz, Juan J. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” 1(1): 51–69.
- Linz, Juan J. (Juan José). 1990. “The Virtues of Parliamentarism.” Journal of Democracy 1(4):84–91.
- Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew S. Shugart. 1997. “Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal.” Comparative Politics 29(4): 449–71.

WEEK 6 (SEP 25-OCT 2) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: DEGREES OF ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRALIZATION

Required Readings:

- Arend Lijphart. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Chapter 10.
- **The Federalist Papers: 6, 9, 10, 46.** **(http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1786-1800/the-federalist-papers/)**

Tutorial: Research Question Workshop

WEEK 7 - (OCT 2 - 9) VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: PARTY ORGANIZATION AND PARTY SYSTEMS

Required Readings:

- John Carey and Matthew Shugart. 1995. “Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote.” Electoral Studies 14(4): 417-39.

Midterm Prompt Distributed.

WEEK 8 - (OCT 9-16) TYPES OF AUTOCRACY

Required Readings:

- Zakaria, Fareed. November/December 1997. The Rise of Illiberal Democracy. Foreign Affairs. 22-43.
- Gandhi, Jennifer 2008, Political Institutions Under Dictatorship. Cambridge University Press. pp. 42-72.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico. New York: Cambridge University Press: pp. 1-3, 15-28.

Midterm Due Sunday, October 15 @ 11:59pm

Tutorial: Writing Academic Research Papers

WEEK 9 - (OCT 16-23) TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

Required Readings:

- Huntington, Samuel. 1991. ``Democracy's Third Wave.'' Journal of Democracy 2(2): 12-34.
- Haggard, Stephen and Kaufman, Robert R. The Political Economy of Authoritarian Withdrawals. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 25-44.

Writing Assignment Topic Due on October 21 @ 11:59pm

WEEK 10 - (OCT 23-30) POVERTY AND PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Required Readings:

- William Easterly. The Elusive Quest for Growth. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002. pp. 5-15, 101-137.

Tutorial: Paraphrasing

WEEK 11 - (OCT 30 - NOV 6) CORRUPTION AND NATURAL RESOURCE POLITICS

Required Reading:

- Keefer, Philip, and Stuti Khemani. 2004. “Why Do the Poor Receive Poor Services?” Economic and Political Weekly 39(9): 935-43.
- Dunning, Thad. 2008. Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes, Cambridge University Press. pp. 210-231, 258-267.

Tutorial: Linking Claims to Evidence

WEEK 12 - (NOV 6-13) IDENTITY POLITICS

Required Readings:

- Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. ``What Is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?" Annual Review of Political Science 9(1): 397-424.
- Posner, Daniel. 2004. The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi. American Political Science Review, 98(4): 529-545.

WEEK 13 - (NOV 13-20) SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND REVOLUTIONS

Required Readings:

- Kuran, Timur (1991). “Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989.” World Politics 44: 7–48.

WEEK 15 - (NOV 27-DEC 4) CONFLICT: EXPLAINING CIVIL WARS AND TERRORISM

Required Readings:

- Crenshaw, Martha, ”The Causes of Terrorism,” Comparative Politics 13, no. 4 (1981): 379-389.
- Sandler, Todd and Enders, Walter. 2006. Political Economy of Terrorism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 24-40.
- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War” American Political Science Review.

Final Prompt Distributed Friday December 1.

Writing Assignment Due Thursday Novemeber 30 at 11:59pm

FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 11:59PM THROUGH WEBCOURSES

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 25, 2017	**Week 1 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5251303)**	due by 12pm
Sat Aug 26, 2017	**Student Engagement Assignment: Rank Your Reading Presentation Preferences (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214089)**	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Fri Sep 1, 2017	Week 2 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5251440)	due by 12pm
Fri Sep 8, 2017	Week 3 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5251430)	due by 11:59am
Fri Sep 15, 2017	Week 4 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5274469)	due by 12pm
Fri Sep 22, 2017	Week 5 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5274615)	due by 12pm
Fri Sep 29, 2017	Week 6 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276326)	due by 12pm
Fri Oct 6, 2017	Week 7 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276355)	due by 12pm
Fri Oct 13, 2017	Week 8 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276356)	due by 12pm
Sun Oct 15, 2017	Midterm Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214087)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 20, 2017	Week 9 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276357)	due by 12pm
Fri Oct 27, 2017	Week 10 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276359)	due by 12pm
Fri Nov 3, 2017	Week 11 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276360)	due by 12pm
Fri Nov 10, 2017	Week 12 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276361)	due by 12pm
Fri Nov 17, 2017	Week 13 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276362)	due by 12pm
Thu Nov 30, 2017	Writing Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214090)	due by 11:59pm
	Writing Assignment Supplemental Files (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214091)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 1, 2017	Week 15 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5276363)	due by 12pm
Fri Dec 8, 2017	Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214086)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Grade (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5251323)	
	Reading Presentation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1257558/assignments/5214088)	