CPO 3103: Comparative Politics

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30am - 12:20pm - - Spring 2017

Instructor: Konstantin Ash (Konstantin.Ash@ucf.edu) Office Hours: WF 1-3p @ HPH 311A

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 behavior. 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. 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 worth 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, use in-text citations and cite at least **two** academic sources. 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, April 20 at 11:59pm to Turnitin.com link on WebCourses.

Topic Approval

Topics for the writing assignment MUST be submitted for approval by **March 16** at 11:59 PM for full credit. This should include the chosen readings you will engage with and the interview subject's basic biographical information. You lose one point from your assignment grade for every day that the topic is late. Students must submit any revisions within 3 days of reply.

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 will be done during discussion sections and are intended to initiate discussion about the paper. Presentations will be graded on both style and substance. Please see rubric for detailed requirements.

Plagiarism

There is a ZERO tolerance policy on plagiarism. If you are found having copied any substantial portion of your paper from other sources without having first accredited them, you will either have large amounts of points deducted from your paper grade or will fail the class altogether. Self-plagiarism is still plagiarism – you should not reuse substantial portions of earlier papers for this class. I am looking for original work for this assignment. Please consult the UCF Office of Student Conduct's Rules of Conduct for more information.

Participation

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in lectures by asking or answering questions and required to participate in discussion sections. Participation entails both voicing opinions and criticism of the readings assigned for class and topics reviewed in lecture. Student participation will be considered

holistically at the end of the semester, but will not include their presentations (however participation outside of the presentation in the same discussion does count). Off-topic digressions or filibustering are not considered constructive, do not receive credit and are discouraged.

Quizzes

Five quizzes on the week's readings will be randomly administered during Friday discussion sections. Each quiz will be worth 2.5 points. One for attendance and 1.5 for answering short answer or multiple choice questions on the quiz correctly. The four highest scoring quizzes will be worth a total of 10% of your grade. The lowest scoring quiz will be dropped. Those who miss two quizzes can submit a *minimum* five-page critical review of readings for one of the missed classes.

Grade Breakdown

Midterm and Final – 50%:
Highest Scoring Exam – 30%
Lowest Scoring Exam – 20%
Writing Assignment – 20%:
Presentation – 10%:
Quizzes – 10%:
Participation – 10%:

Course Schedule and Readings

Each week's courses will follow the same structure. **Monday** and **Wednesday** will consist of mostly lectures regarding the week's topic that go over both content and broad theoretical debates in the field. **Friday** will be a discussion section where we go into depth and review the week's assigned readings in a critical fashion. Friday is also the day where quizzes on the week's assigned readings may be administered and where the week's discussant(s) will present and lead discussion on the reading.

Week 1 (Jan. 9-13) - Political Institutions and Behavior Around the World

Required Reading:

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

In-Class Tutorials: Giving Presentations

Week 2 (Jan. 18-20) - The State and State Capacity

Required Reading:

- Tilly, Charles. 1990. Coercion, Capital, and European States: AD 990-1990. Cambridge: Blackwell: 67-91.
- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 11-31.

WEEK 3 (JAN. 23-27) - DEMOCRACY: DEFINITIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Required Reading:

- 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 (JAN. 30-FEB. 3) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Required Reading:

- Arend Lijphart. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Chapters 5 and 8.

WEEK 5 (FEB. 6-10) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: PRESIDENTIALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM

Required Reading:

- Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." Journal of Democracy 1(1): 51-69.
- Linz, Juan J. 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 (FEB. 13-17) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: DEGREES OF ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRALIZATION

Required Reading:

- Arend Lijphart. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Chapter 9.
- The Federalist Papers: 6, 9, 10, 46.

In-Class Tutorials: Research Question Workshop

WEEK 7 - (FEB. 20-24) VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: PARTY ORGANIZATION AND PARTY SYSTEMS

Required Reading:

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

Midterm Prompt Distributed Video Conferencing Lecture on February 22. TA Leads Section on February 24.

Week 8 - (Feb. 27-March 3) Types of Autocracy

Required Reading:

- 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. 42-61.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico. New York: Cambridge University Press: pp. 1-3, 15-27.

Midterm Due Wednesday, March 1 @ 11:59pm
In-Class Tutorials: Writing Academic Research Papers

Week 9 - (March 6-10) Transitions to Democracy

Required Reading:

- 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 March 10 @ 11:59pm

Week 10 - (March 20-24) Poverty and Problems of Economic Development

Required Reading:

- William Easterly. The Elusive Quest for Growth. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002. pp. 5-15, 47-59, 101-120.

Week 11 - (March 27-31) 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. 210-213, 231-253, 258-267.

In-Class Tutorials: Linking Claims to Evidence

Week 12 - (April 3-7) Identity Politics

Required Reading:

- 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.

In-Class Tutorials: Hands-on Research Paper Reading Activity

Week 13 - (April 10-14) Social Movements and Revolutions

Required Reading:

- McAdam, D. Sidney G. Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 2001. Dynamics of Contention. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 3-28.
- Kuran, Timur (1991). "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." World Politics 44: 7-48.

Week 14 - (April 17-21) Conflict: Explaining Civil Wars and Terrorism

Required Reading:

- Crenshaw, Martha, "The Causes of Terrorism," Comparative Politics 13, no. 4 (1981): 379-389.
- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War" American Political Science Review: 475-90.

Final Prompt Distributed Friday April 21
Writing Assignment Due Thursday April 20 at 11:59pm

Final Exam Due Friday April 28 @ 11:59pm through Turnitin Link on WebCourses