Course Syllabus

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CPO 3103 - Comparative Politics

Instructor: Konstantin Ash Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 3-5p (Skype ID: kash264) or by appointment.

Instructor E-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu (mailto:konstantin.ash@ucf.edu)

Teaching Assistant:

Teaching Assistant E-mail:

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 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 after Modules 6 and 13 of class and be due at midnight a week after posting.

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 15%. 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: fieldwork. 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, December 3 at 11:59pm to WebCourses.

Topic Approval

Topics for the writing assignment MUST be submitted for approval by Monday, October 26 at 11:59 PM for full credit to my e-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu. 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.

Discussion Participation

Discussion threads will be posted for each week's readings and lectures at 6pm on Friday and open until 6pm the following Monday. Details on how credit for each posting is distributed are listed in each individual post.

To gain a baseline of credit for participation, you must reply to the main question of the week and reply to *at least two* other replies made by students in response to that question or the post you made. 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.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given weekly and are worth a total of 15% of your grade (1% for each quiz and two free percent for the Student Engagement Assignment). Quizzes are available from the time each Lecture is posted on Monday until 6pm 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	45%
Field Writing Assignment	25%
Discussion Participation	15%
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.

As this is an online course, extensions will only be granted for documented involvement in university-approved activities or documented mental or physical incapacitation. Please do not invent excuses as a way of getting an extension. Evidence of fake excuses will be considered academic dishonesty and will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for investigation.

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 6pm. Discussion threads will be active starting on Friday at 6pm until 6pm on the following Monday.

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 (AUGUST 24 - 31) - POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND BEHAVIOR AROUND THE WORLD

Required Readings:

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

Tutorial: Reading Academic Articles

WEEK 2 (AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 7) - 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 (SEPTEMBER 7 - 14) - 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 (SEPTEMBER 14 - 21) - 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 (SEPTEMBER 21 - 28) - 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.

Tutorial: Research Question Workshop

WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 5) - 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/)**

WEEK 7 - (OCTOBER 5 - 12) 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 Prompt Distributed.

Tutorial: Writing Academic Research Papers

WEEK 8 - (OCTOBER 12 - 19) 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.

Midterm Due Monday, October 19 @ 11:59pm

Tutorial: Interview Questions

WEEK 9 - (OCTOBER 19 - 26) POVERTY AND PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Optional Readings:

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

WEEK 10 - (OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 2) CORRUPTION AND NATURAL RESOURCE POLITICS

Required Readings:

- 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.

Writing Assignment Topic Due on Monday, October 26 @ 11:59pm

Tutorial: Paraphrasing

WEEK 11 - (NOVEMBER 2-9) 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.

Tutorial: Linking Claims to Evidence

WEEK 12 - (NOVEMBER 9 - 16) 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 13 - (NOVEMBER 16 - 23) 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 4.

Writing Assignment Due Thursday, December 3 at 11:59pm.

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

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 28, 2020	Week 1 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674100)	due by 6pm
	Student Engagement Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674127)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 30, 2020	Week 1 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674121)	due by 6pm
Fri Sep 4, 2020	Week 2 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674097)	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 6, 2020	Week 2 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674120)	due by 6pm
Fri Sep 11, 2020	Week 3 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674094)	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 13, 2020	Week 3 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674119)	due by 6pm
Fri Sep 18, 2020	Week 4 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674104)	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 20, 2020	Week 4 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674118)	due by 6pm
Tue Sep 22, 2020	Extra Credit Survey (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674122)	due by 12pm
Fri Sep 25, 2020	Week 5 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674106)	due by 6pm
	Week 7 Quiz hidden (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674107)	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	Week 5 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674117)	due by 6pm
	Week 7 Discussion hidden (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674115)	due by 6pm
Fri Oct 2, 2020	Week 6 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674103)	due by 6pm

Date	Details	
Sun Oct 4, 2020	Week 6 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674116)	due by 6pm
Fri Oct 9, 2020	Week 7 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674096)	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	Week 7 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674114)	due by 6pm
Mon Oct 12, 2020	Pre-Midterm Extra Credit Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674126)	due by 12pm
Fri Oct 16, 2020	Week 8 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674101)	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 18, 2020	Week 8 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674113)	due by 6pm
Mon Oct 19, 2020	Midterm Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674124)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 23, 2020	Week 9 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674095)	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 25, 2020	Week 9 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674112)	due by 6pm
Mon Oct 26, 2020	Writing Assignment Topic Proposal Due Through E-mail (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1909295&include_contexts=course_1360648)	11:59pm
Fri Oct 30, 2020	Week 10 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674105)	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 1, 2020	Week 10 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674111)	due by 6pm
Fri Nov 6, 2020	Week 11 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674098)	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 8, 2020	Week 11 Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674110)	due by 6pm

Date	Details	
Fri Nov 13, 2020	**Week 12 Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674099)	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 15, 2020	**Week 12 Discussion** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674109)	due by 6pm
Fri Nov 20, 2020	**Week 13 Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674102)	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 22, 2020	**Week 13 Discussion** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674108)	due by 6pm
Mon Nov 23, 2020	**Pre-Final Extra Credit Opportunity** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674125)	due by 12pm
Thu Dec 3, 2020	**Writing Assignment** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674128)	due by 11:59pm
	Writing Assignment Supplemental Files (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674129)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 11, 2020	**Final Exam** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1360648/assignments/6674123)	due by 11:59pm