

# Comparative Politics

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**Professor:** Miguel Carreras

**Course meets:** Tuesday & Thursday: 11:10 am - 12:30 pm

**Location:** Bourns Hall (BRNHL B118)

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**Office:** 2232 Watkins Hall

**Office hours:** Thursday 1:30 pm - 4 pm

## Course Description

After a brief introduction to the logic of comparative inquiry and the different methods of comparative analysis in political science, this course will be organized thematically. We will discuss important concepts in comparative politics, such as democratization, the state, institutions, political culture, civil society, political participation, and incorporate these into the comparative analysis of various countries around the world. Each class will start with a presentation of a set of theories linked to a specific concept in comparative politics (e.g. the different theories explaining democratization). This presentation will be followed by the discussion of some concrete examples from different regions of the world.

## Course Requirements

There will be two exams, held in week 5 and finals' week. The first exam will count for 35% of your grade and the final exam 45%. Exams will be comprised of short questions (definition of terms and brief explanation of concepts) and longer essay questions. The remaining portion of your grade (20%) will be based on your participation in section. That participation will be evaluated based on your attendance, contribution to the discussion and on quizzes or assignments to be determined by your TA. You will receive a separate syllabus for the section and you should first address any concerns you may have regarding the section with the TA.

## Grading

\*Mid-term exam: 35%

\*Final exam: 45%

\*Participation in section: 20%

## Readings

There are no books required for purchase as we will be reading articles and chapters from many different books, although you might consider making some of the titles part of your personal library. While the lectures are extremely important, it will be difficult to gain an adequate understanding or to do well on the exams without paying attention to the readings. *All the readings are available on iLearn.*

## **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend every lecture, every week. I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

In addition to the lectures, students must participate in a weekly discussion section. Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of these discussion sections. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. Your TA will provide more detailed information about the expectations regarding participation and assignments in the sections.

Every effort should be made to be present for the exams. Students who miss an exam will be given an alternate test at a mutually convenient time *only if the absence was excused*. Excused absences require official documentation and are at the discretion of the TA and the professor.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact me or your TA as early as possible in the course about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially and with the resources provided by Student Special Services.

## **Academic Integrity**

Cheating in any form is a deeply serious offense. Students who attempt to cheat will be subject to disciplinary procedures. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with UCR's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures and are *required to read the Academic Integrity Guidelines posted on iLearn*. More information on what constitutes cheating and other forms of academic misconduct is available at: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnpolicies/academicintegrity.html>

## **Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices**

Silence or shut off your phone and stow it away before class begins. Absolutely no texting during class will be tolerated. Laptops and other devices are to be used for note-taking only; internet browsing and other distracting activities during class time are unacceptable. Failure to abide by these rules will result, at minimum, in a significant reduction of the participation grade.

## Course Schedule and Readings

### March 29 - General Introduction

No readings.

### March 31 - The Comparative Method

Landman, Todd (2013). *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-49.

### April 5 - States and State Formation

Shively, W. Phillips (2012). "The Modern State" in *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. New York: McGraw Hill, pp. 49-75.

Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation," in O'Neill & Rogowski (eds.) *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, pp. 39-45

### April 7 - NO CLASS

### April 12 - Political Identities: Nations and Ethnicities

Hobsbawm, Eric J. & Terrence Ranger -eds.- (1983). *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-14 & 263-308.

### April 14 - Authoritarianism I: Different Types of Authoritarian Regimes

Hague, Rod & Martin Harrop (2013). "Authoritarian Rule" in *Comparative Government and Politics: an Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

### April 19 - Authoritarianism II: How do Authoritarian Regimes Govern?

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce & Alastair Smith (2011). *Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior Is Almost Always Good Politics*. New York: Public Affairs, pp. 1-20 & 75-99.

### April 21 - Democratic Regimes

Schmitter, Philippe & Terry Karl (2002). "What Democracy Is... And Is Not" *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 51-65.

### April 26 – Democratization

Acemoglu, Daron & Robinson, James (2006). *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 75-87.

### April 28 - MIDTERM EXAM

### **May 3 - Presidential and Parliamentary Governments**

Linz, Juan (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism" *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69.

Mainwaring, Scott & Shugart, Matthew (1997). "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal" *Comparative Politics* 29(4): 449-471

### **May 5 - Policy-Making and Implementation**

Gupta, Dipak (2001). "The Policy Process" in *Analyzing Public Policy: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, pp. 46-69

### **May 10 - Regional Organization of Power**

Watts, Ronald (1998). "Federalism, Federal Political Systems, and Federations" *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 117-137.

### **May 12 - Political Parties and Party Systems**

Hofmeister, Wilhelm & Karsten Grabow (2011). *Political Parties: Functions and Organisation in Democratic Societies*. Singapore: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, pp. 11-59.

### **May 17 - Elections and Electoral Systems**

Lijphart, Arend (1999). "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods Versus Proportional Representation," in *Patterns of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 143-170.

### **May 19 - Voting Behavior**

Dalton, Russell (2008). *Citizen Politics*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, pp. 143-217.

### **May 24 - Political Culture and Political Attitudes**

Inglehart, Ronald & Welzel, Christian (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-47.

### **May 26 - Political Participation**

Dalton, Russell (2008). *Citizen Politics*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, pp. 32-76.

### **May 31 - Social Movements**

Tarrow, Sidney & Tilly, Charles (2009). "Contentious Politics and Social Movements" in Boix & Stokes (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp 435-460.

### **June 2 - Review Session**

### **June 8 - FINAL EXAM ( 08:00A.M. - 11:00A.M.)**