
Introduction to Comparative Politics II (POLS220)

Spring 2017

Location: Tarbutton Hall 105

Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-6:45pm

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Office Hours: Thursdays 4:30-6:00pm

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Description

This course is intended as an intermediate-level introduction to the study of comparative politics. The course is framed around two core challenges of democratic and autocratic governance. How is power constructed and maintained? How are policies and outcomes generated? We consider the extent to which distinct regimes share and respond to these problems in the context of institutional and sociocultural variation.

Course Goals

Students should understand the questions around which the course is framed and the theories that provide answers to these questions. Students should be able to evaluate the empirical evidence testing implications of these theories.

Prerequisites

- POLS 120 Introduction to Comparative Politics I

Some of the articles that we will read involve testing causal claims and researchers use a variety of techniques to that end. Because of this, some of the readings are technical. In the first two sessions of the semester, I will give a brief overview of the most common techniques employed in the articles. In this presentation, I will focus on the interpretation of statistical results and the intuitive justification for the use of specific techniques. You will be expected to identify the main substantive arguments of all the assigned readings *and* to have a basic understanding of the methodologies used.

Course Structure

There will be student led presentation sessions and lectures. The 15 minute student presentations of assigned readings should address the readings' central question, methodology, findings, and conclusions. If you are having trouble understanding any part of the readings, or want to discuss other aspects of your presentation, you should go to my office hours prior to your scheduled presentation.

Grading

- 25% Presentations: You will be graded on your ability to identify the relevant parts of the assigned reading and on the clarity of your presentation.
- 15% Participation: You must come to class having carefully read all the assigned material for each session. At the end of each student presentation we will have short discussions about the readings. In principle, I expect participation to be voluntary, but I reserve the right to call on students to ask them questions.
- 30% Midterm exam: The in-class midterm exam will require short, essay-style responses to questions concerning core issues we cover in class. Students should be able to define concepts and describe theoretical arguments as well as summarize the empirical tests of the theories we cover. The date of the midterm is Wednesday, March 1.
- 30% Final exam: The final exam will have the same format as the midterm. It is non-cumulative. See Registrar's website for date and time.

Texts

The required textbook is:

- Clark, William, Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Second edition. Los Angeles: SAGE

We will also read significant portions of

- Diamond, Larry and Marc Plattner, eds. 1996. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP.

Journal articles can be found online. The online Course Reserves through Woodruff Library will have all remaining readings (e.g., working papers and book chapters).

Outline

Readings that will be presented by students are denoted by (s)

- Session 1. Introduction: questions, theories, and testing (01/11/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 2.
- Session 2. Interpreting regression estimates (01/18/17)
 - Angrist, Joshua and Jorn-Steffen Pischke. 2014. *Mastering Metrics. The Path from Cause to Effect*. Chapters 1 and 2 (Appendixes are optional).
- Session 3. What is democracy? (01/23/17)
 - Schmitter, Philippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl. 1996. "What Democracy Is... and Is Not," in Larry Diamond and Marc. F. Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. (s)

- Diamond, Larry. 1996. Three Paradoxes of Democracy, in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. (s)
- Session 4. Can we identify the common will by voting for it? (01/25/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 11.
- Session 5. Elections and electoral systems (01/30/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 13. (s)
 - Brams J. Steven. 2008. *Mathematics and Democracy: Designing Better Voting and Fair-Division Procedures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. (s)
- Session 6. Parties and electoral systems (02/01/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 14.
 - Octavio Amorim Neto and Gary Cox. 1997. “Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures and the Number of Parties.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 41 (1): 149-174. (s)
- Session 7. Economic outcomes and electoral systems I (02/06/17)
 - Lijphart, Arend. 1996. “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies.” In Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
 - Lardeyat, Guy. 1996. “The Problem with PR.” In Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
 - Quade, Quentin. 1996. “PR and Democratic Statecraft.” In Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
- Session 8. Economic outcomes and electoral systems II (02/08/17)
 - Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini. 2006. “Electoral Systems and Economic Policy.” In B. Weingast and D. Wittman, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*. Oxford UP.
- Session 9. Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism (02/13/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 12.
 - Linz Juan. 1996. “The Perils of Presidentialism,” in Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
- Session 10. Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism II (02/15/17)
 - Linz Juan. 1996. “The Virtues of Parliamentarism,” in Diamond and Plattner, eds, *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
 - Donald Horowitz. 1996. “Comparing Democratic Systems,” in Diamond and Plattner, eds, *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)

- S.E. Lipset. 1996. “The Centrality of Political Culture,” in Diamond and Plattner, eds, *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (s)
- Session 11. Federalism (02/20/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 15, pp.673-690.
 - Montinola, Gabriella, Yingyi Qian, and Barry Weingast. 1996. “Federalism, Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success.” *World Politics* 48 (1): 50-81. (s)
- Session 12. Varieties of dictatorships (02/22/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 10, 349-384.(s)
 - Svobik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.(s)
- Session 13. Authoritarian power sharing (02/27/17)
 - Svobik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.
- Midterm I (03/01/17)
- Session 14. Authoritarian control (03/13/17)
 - Quinlivan, James. 1999. “Coup-Proofing.” *International Security*. 24 (2): 121-165. (s)
 - Svobik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.
- Session 15. Citizens’ role in policymaking in authoritarian regimes (03/15/17)
 - Truex, Rory. 2014. “Consultative Authoritarianism and its Limits.” *Comparative Political Studies* 1-33.(s)
 - Miller, Michael K. 2014. “Elections, Information, and Policy Responsiveness in Autocratic Regimes.” *Comparative Political Studies*. 48 (6): 691 - 727. (s)
- Session 16. Culture and Democracy (03/20/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 7.
 - Robert, Putnam D. 1995. “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital.” *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1): 65-78. (s)
- Session 17. Civic society and social capital (03/22/17)
 - Berman, Sheri. 1997. “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic.” *World Politics* 49 (3): 401-29. (s)
 - Fiorina, Morris. 1999. “Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement.” In Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds. *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. Chapter 11.(s)
- Session 18. Ethnicity (03/27/17)

- Harold Isaacs, “Basic Group Identity: The Idols of the Tribe,” in Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, eds, *Ethnicity: Theory and Experience*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975. 29-52. (s)
- Hale, Henry E. 2004. “Explaining Ethnicity.” *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Session 19. When is ethnicity important? (03/29/17)
 - 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. (s)
 - Bates, Robert H. 1983. *Modernization, ethnic competition, and the rationality of politics in contemporary Africa*. In *State Versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Westview Press. (s)
- Session 20. Electoral accountability (04/03/17)
 - Manin Bernard, Adam Przeworski and Susan Stokes. 1999. “Elections and Representation.” in Adam Przeworski, Susan Stokes, and Bernard Manin eds. *Democracy Accountability, and Representation*. London: Cambridge University Press. (s)
 - Fearon, James. 1999. “Electoral Accountability and the Control of Politicians: Selecting Good Types vs. Sanctioning Poor Performance” in Adam Przeworski, Susan Stokes and Bernard Manin eds. *Democracy Accountability, and Representation*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- Session 21. Political failures (04/05/17)
 - Keech William R. and Michael Munger. 2015. “The Anatomy of Government Failure.” *Public Choice*. 164 (1): 1-42 (s)
 - McMillan, John and Pablo Zoido. 2004. “How to Subvert Democracy: Montesinos in Peru.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18(4): 69-92. (s)
- Session 22. Economic determinants of regimes I (04/10/17)
 - CGG, Chapter 6. pages 171-197
 - Acemoglu Daron and James Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Chapter 2.
- Session 23. Economic determinants of regimes II (04/12/17)
 - Robinson, James A. 2006. “Economic Development and Democracy.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 503-527.
- Session 24. Development and human welfare: markets and central planning I (04/17/17)
 - Hayek, F.A. 1945. “The Use of Knowledge in Society.” *American Economic Review* 35 (4): 519-530 (s)
 - Marx, K. 1888. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Edited by Friedrich Engels. Raleigh, N.C.: Alex Catalogue.(s)

- Session 25. Development and human welfare: markets and central planning II (04/19/17)
 - Friedman, Milton and Rose Friedman. 1979. Free to Choose. New York: Harcourt. Chapters 1 and 2
- Session 26. Political institutions and long term development I (04/24/17)
 - Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2012. Why Nations Fail. New York: Crown Publishers. Chapters 1-3 and 5.
 - EconTalk Podcast. Acemoglu on Why Nations Fail. http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2012/03/acemoglu_on_why.html

Others

- The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. Any form of academic misconduct will be reported to the honor council. <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>
- Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide me with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. Students are expected to give two weeks-notice of the need for accommodations.