

Comparative Political Systems

PSCI 102

Fall 2018

Professor: Jason Jordan

Office: Smith House 301

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 – 11:00

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the methods, theories, and common core questions of comparative political science. We will survey many of the central motivating questions of comparative political research: Why are some states stable (e.g. the United States and Japan) while so many others fail (e.g. Somalia and Iraq)? Why are some countries ruled by authoritarian governments (e.g. China and Saudi Arabia) while others have transitioned to democracy (e.g. India and Denmark)? How do authoritarian rulers stay in power? How do democracies differ in their efforts to represent and remain accountable to voters? What implications do these differences have for democratic performance?

The purpose of the course is to provide each student with a foundation in comparative politics that will assist them as they pursue more advanced courses in political science and international relations. In the process, students should learn about a large number of countries and world regions as well as gain a deeper understanding of world political history. The course should provide insight into a host of current events and issues around the world by placing them into a broader historical and comparative perspective.

Course Objectives

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Interpret contemporary political events around the world in the context of the historical processes of “nation-state building.”
- Discuss the predominant theories of democratization and evaluate them in the light of current evidence.
- Identify the major institutions of democracy and how they vary across countries.
- Identify the distinct forms of authoritarian governance and describe how they function to shape politics in these societies.

Required Readings

The required reading for this course are:

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce & Alastair Smith (2012) *The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics*. Public Affairs.

All other readings in the course are available on Moodle in the “Readings” folder.

Grading

Your grade in this course consists of the following assignments:

- Weekly Reading Assignments (15%)
- Paper (15%)
- Mid-Term Exam (30%)
- Final Exam (40%)

Weekly Reading Assignments: Each week you will receive a reading assignment which is due the first class day the following week. These assignments are typically 4 to 5 questions concerning the week's readings. The assignments are designed to help facilitate your reading of course material and to highlight the most important elements of what is often quite dense reading. The first assignment is due the second week of class (September 5th) and will cover the readings "Fukuyama – Tribal Societies & Holsit – War, the State, and the State of War." The lowest 3 assignment grades will be dropped for each student. No late assignments will be accepted.

Paper: The paper is a 5-page response to a set of questions dealing with *The Dictator's Handbook*. A full description of the paper along with the prompt will be provided separately. The paper is due on the final day of the course (December 7th). LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. (Do not test this – you will be disappointed.)

Exams: There are two exams for the course. Each exam is structured as a combination of multiple choice and short essays. The mid-term exam is scheduled for October 12th. The final exam will be on the final exam date (TBD).

Course Schedule

Week 1	29-Aug 31-Aug	Introductions The State
Week 2	5-Sep 7-Sep	Rise of the State in Europe The Legitimacy Question - Weber
	Readings	Fukuayama (2011) Tribal Societies Holsti (1996) War, the State, and the State of War
Week 3	12-Sep 14-Sep	The Legitimacy Question - Nationalism Colonization, Decolonization, and the New State Crisis
	Readings	Fukuyama (2011) The Coming Leviathan Fukuyama (2014) Nation Building
Week 4	19-Sep 21-Sep	Nationalism, State Building, and the Modern Middle East Democratic Waves
	Readings	Fukuyama (2014) From 1848 to the Arab Spring Ahram (2014) The Qasi-State System of the Middle East
Week 5	26-Sep 28-Sep	Modernization Theory Modernization Theory
	Readings	Fukuyama (2014) Why did Democracy Spread? Inglehart (2009) How Development Leads to Democracy
Week 6	3-Oct 5-Oct	Genocide Center Talk: 4:15 LC 28 Civic Culture
	Readings	Putnam (1993) Making Democracy Work - Chapter 4

Week 7	10-Oct	Fall Break
	12-Oct	Mid-Term Exam
Week 8	17-Oct	Democratic Institutions - Presidents & Parliaments
	19-Oct	Democratic Institutions - Representation and Accountability
	Readings	Lijphart (1999) Executive and Legislative Relations Linz (1990) The Perils of Presidentialism Weaver (2002) Electoral Rules & Governability
Week 9	24-Oct	Democratic Institutions - Representation and Accountability
	26-Oct	Democratic Institutions - Separation vs. Concentration of Power
	Readings	Stepan (1999) Federalism & Democracy: Beyond the US Model Fukuyama (2014) America the Vetocracy
Week 10	31-Oct	Types of Authoritarianism
	2-Nov	Corruption & Kleptocracy
	Readings	Fukuyama (2011) "Corruption" Magaloni and Kricheli (2010) Political Order and One-Party Rule
Week 11	7-Nov	China - The Rise, Fall, and Return
	9-Nov	China Today
	Readings	Fukuyama (2014) China Shirk (2007) Fragile Superpower
Week 12	14-Nov	Electoral Authoritarianism
	16-Nov	Putin's Russia
	Readings	Diamond (2002) Thinking about Hybrid Regimes Dobson (2013) The Czar
Week 13	21-Nov	Revolutions - Theories
	23-Nov	Thanksgiving
	Readings	Kuran (1991) - Now out of Never Hale (2013) - Regime Change Cascades
Week 14	28-Nov	Revolutions - Collective Action Problems
	30-Nov	Global Capitalism and Global Poverty
	Readings	Lim (2010) Why are Poor Countries Poor?
Week 15	5-Dec	Why are Poor Countries Poor?
	7-Dec	Challenges to the Democratic Order?
	Readings	Fukuyama (2015) Why is Democracy Performing So Poorly? Diamond (2015) Facing up to the Democratic Recession Levitsky & Way (2015) The Myth of Democratic Recession Available online when logged into a Drew computer through ProQuest ebrary at the following site: http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.drew.edu/lib/drew/reader.action?docID=11077530&ppg=24

Academic Honor Policy

All students are required to uphold the highest academic standards. Any case of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in Drew University's "Standards of Academic Integrity: Guidelines and Procedures," which is located in the academic policies section of the catalog.

Accommodations

Students who wish to disclose a disability for the first time are instructed to contact Accessibility Resources, Brothers College, 119B; 973-408-3962. Although disclosure may take place at any time during the semester, students are encouraged to do so early in the semester, because, in general, accommodations are not implemented retroactively. For additional information, visit: <http://www.drew.edu/academic-services/disabilityservices>

Returning Students with Approved Accommodations: Requests for previously approved accommodations for the current semester should be sent to Accessibility Resources ideally within the first two weeks of class. This allows the office sufficient lead time to process the request. Please call 973-408-3962, email disabilityserv@drew.edu, or complete the accommodations request at: <http://www.drew.edu/academic-services/disabilityservices/request-for-accommodations>.

Late Work Policy

No late work will be accepted in this course without extenuating circumstances.