

POLI130.007

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2018
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Instructor: Claire Dunn (cedunn13@live.unc.edu)
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30-4:45pm
Classroom: Venable G307
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00am -12:00pm Hamilton 459

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides an overview to important themes in Comparative Politics, one of the major subfields of Political Science. Over the course of the semester we will discuss key concepts such as the state, democracy and authoritarianism. We will seek to answer questions such as: Why are some countries democratic while others are not? What are the different ways a government can be organized and what are the strengths and weaknesses of different systems? How can elections be organized? To study such questions, we will look at cases from around the world including countries with which you may be less familiar. This is an introductory class so no previous coursework or knowledge of the subject is required.

In the first part of the class, we will focus on democratic regimes. We will discuss what it actually means to be a democracy and how countries become democratic. Additionally, we will consider different ways democratic states can be organized and consider why different states choose different models. Finally, we will look at the current state of democracy in the world, focusing on where and why democracy is in decline.

In the second part of the class, we will focus on non-democratic regimes. There are many types of non-democratic regimes and we will look closely at some common varieties. We will discuss how these regimes hold onto power as well as whether they are stable or likely to transition to democracy.

Finally, we will look beyond regime types to some key issues in comparative politics today. We will consider issues such as globalization, populism, political violence, and corruption. All of these issues are likely things you've heard about, and will continue to hear about, in the news. By looking at these topics more closely, you will not only become more familiar with the academic study of political science, but also be better able to understand important events that you see or hear about on a daily basis in the news.

This course will combine lecture, discussion, and small group activities.

Readings:

There is one required reading for this course: Patrick O'Neil (2018). *Essentials of Comparative Politics, 6th Edition*, W.W. Norton and Company. Other readings will be posted on the course Sakai website or can be accessed through the UNC library.

Attendance:

Attendance and participation are required for this course. I will take attendance every day. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences over the course of the semester. After that, your grade will reflect your failure to attend. Excused absences are allowed provided you notify me beforehand.

Classroom Policies:

Electronics- Laptops, cellphones, and tablets are not allowed in class. While some of you may prefer to take notes using these devices, it is easy to get distracted. Additionally, evidence suggests that students are better able to remember course material when they take handwritten notes.

Respect- I expect everyone to treat each other with respect in the classroom. Different opinions are welcome in the classroom and, even if you disagree, you can learn from listening to dissenting opinions. I also expect you to respect me and the time and effort I put into this course. I expect that you will arrive on time and generally not be a distraction during class.

Email Etiquette: One of my pet peeves is receiving emails from students that are not written in a professional manner. Your emails should have a proper greeting and sign-off. Likewise, you should look at the resources you have (i.e. read your syllabus!) before emailing me about anything administrative. I will aim to respond to all emails promptly and thoroughly. If you send me an email the morning before an assignment is due, I cannot guarantee you'll get a response in time or that the response will be as thorough as you may have wanted. You should be planning ahead!

Office Hours: I highly encourage you to ask questions in class. If you are not sure about something, it is likely that others have a question too. If you have more in depth questions or find yourself struggling at any point, please come to my office hours. I am more than happy to talk to you. If you can't make it to my office hours, feel free to email me and we will find a mutually convenient time to talk.

Honor Code:

The University's Honor Code applies to all assignments for this course. This means all work must be original and completely your own – plagiarism, cheating and other violations will not be tolerated. For more information on the honor code, please visit <http://honor.unc.edu>. If you would like more information on what plagiarism means and how to avoid it in your work, you can take a look at the library's tutorial (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagarism/>). You should also feel free to come talk to me if you have any questions.

Grading:

10%- Participation

5%- Current Event Presentation

10% Midterm 1

- 15%- Midterm 2
- 15%- Paper 1
- 20%- Paper 2
- 25%- Final Exam

If you want to get full credit for participation, you will need to do more than just show up to class. Your participation grade will be determined based on your active contribution to class discussions.

In addition, an important part of comparative politics is understanding how our class discussions apply to the real world. As a result, I want you to be aware of important current events and this will account for the other 5% of your participation grade. Every student will be required to do a brief (5 minutes) current event presentation. These presentations should be based on reliable news sources and provide a brief overview of the event and discussion of how it connects to what we covered in class. Some students find it useful to make a powerpoint for these presentations and you certainly can do this if you want, but it is not required. During the first week of classes you will all sign up for a day to present as well as discuss considerations for being an intelligent consumer of news.

You will have two midterms and a final exam. Each exam will weigh more on your grade than the previous exam so if your first exam does not go as well as you'd like, remember the next exam is worth more so improvement is rewarded. Your first midterm will be held on **September 27th** and your second midterm will be on **November 1st**. Makeup exams will not be offered except for in extenuating circumstances and proper documentation will be required. If you do not take the exam on time and I have not approved you to take a make-up exam before-hand, your grade on the exam will be penalized.

Your final exam will be on **December 13th at 4pm**. This time is assigned by the registrar and cannot be changed without following the proper procedures.

You will also be required to write two analytical papers (4-5 pages each). These papers will be due on **October 11th** and **December 4th**. Paper topics will be announced a month prior to the due date and prior to the first paper we will review expectations in class. Late assignments will be penalized half a letter grade for each day that passes after the deadline.

It is a university policy that I cannot discuss your grades with you over email. If you have questions about your grade, please come to office hours or email me to set up an alternate time for us to talk in person. If you disagree with a grade you received on an assignment and would like me to regrade it, you will need to provide me with a justification for why you believe you deserved a different grade. In addition, any regrading can result in your grade being decreased as well as increased so think carefully before making this request.

I use the following grading scale:

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-93	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	F	0-59

Class Schedule:

Below is the course schedule. All readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are listed. I reserve the right to make any changes to this schedule and will notify you of any such adjustments.

August 21:	Introduction
	O'Neil Chapter 1: Introduction
August 23:	Core Concepts I: States
	O'Neil Chapter 2: States
August 28:	What is Democracy?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• O'Neil (2018) pgs. 137-139• Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy is... and is Not." <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. 2(3): 75-88.
August 30:	Democratization:
	Barbara Geddes. 2011. "What Causes Democratization". Oxford Handbook of Political Science.
September 4:	Democratization II:
	No new Readings
September 6:	Varieties of Democracies I: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems
	O'Neil Pg 147-156 (Through end of Benefits and Drawbacks Section) Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 1(1): 51-69.
September 11:	Varieties of Democracy II: Majoritarian vs. Consensual Democracy
	Introduction 1-8 Arend Lijphart. 2012. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. Second Edition. Yale University Press. New Haven.
September 13:	No Class (Hurricane Florence)

September 18:	Varieties of Democracy III: Electoral Systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Neil pgs. 156-165 (Electoral Systems Section)
September 20:	Varieties of Democracy IV: Political Parties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Neil pgs. 77-85, pgs. 156-157 (Political Parties Section) • Frances Hagopian. 2009. "Voters and Parties". <i>Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i>. Pp. 1-19.
September 25:	Varieties of Democracy V: Federalism
	Steven Johnson. "When Rich Places Want to Secede" The Atlantic, October 28, 2017.
September 27:	Midterm 1
October 2:	Democratic Backsliding
	<p>Anna Lührmann and Matthew Wilson. 2018. "One-third of the world's population lives in a declining democracy. That includes the United States". The Washington Post. July 4 2018.</p> <p>Zselyke Csaky. "Poland's Radical Break from Democratic Norms Leaves Hungary in the Dust". <i>Freedom At Issue Blog</i>. <i>Freedom House</i>. September 25, 2017</p>
October 4:	Introduction to Authoritarian Regimes
	O'Neil Chapter 6: Non-democratic Regimes
October 9:	Why Some States Are Non-Democratic: Colonization
	O'Neil Chapter 10: Developing Countries
October 11:	Why Some States Are Non-Democratic: Resource Curse
	Paper 1 Due
	Larry Diamond and Jack Mosbacher. "Petroleum to the People: Africa's Coming Resource Curse and How to Avoid it". <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . 92(5): 86-98.
October 16:	Varieties of Non-Democratic Regimes I: Dominant Party
	Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo. 2012. Mexico. In Case Studies in Comparative Politics. Ed. David Samuels. Read pgs 236-250, skim the rest of the chapter
October 18:	Fall Break
October 23:	Varieties of Non-Democratic Regime II: Communism
	O'Neil Chapter 9: Communism and Post-Communism

October 25:	Varieties of Non-Democratic Regimes III: Developmental State
	Joseph Wong. 2004. "The Adaptive Developmental State in East Asia". <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> . 4(3):345-362.
October 30:	Varieties of Non-Democratic Regimes IV: Hybrid Regimes
	Larry Diamond. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes". <i>Journal of Democracy</i> . 13(2):21-35
November 1:	Midterm 2
November 6:	Political Economy
	O'Neil Chapter 4: Political Economy
November 8:	Globalization
	O'Neil Chapter 11: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics
November 13:	Moving Beyond the State?: The EU
	O'Neil 246-254
	The Economist "The Future of the European Union" March 25, 2017
November 15:	Populism and the Backlash Against Globalization
	Michael Cox. "Understanding the Global Rise in Populism." <i>LSE IDEAS Strategic Update</i> . February 12, 2018.
November 20:	Political Violence
	O'Neil Chapter 7: Political Violence
November 22:	Thanksgiving
November 27:	Corruption
	Claire Felner and Rocio Cara Labrador. 2018. "Brazil's Corruption Fallout". <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i> .
November 29:	Diversity and Politics
	Mala Htun (2004) "Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups". <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> . 2(3):439-458.
December 4:	Review Paper 2 Due
December 13:	Final Exam 4pm

