Comparative Politics: Theory & Practice
CPO 3010
Fall 2015

MWF 11:00-11:50 am
CP 197
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-1:45 pm

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Course Description

Over the past few decades the forces of globalization have dramatically influenced the domestic politics of states around the world. Politically, democratic regimes have increased in number, yet many authoritarian states are stronger than ever. Economically, the development of growth and equality has been transformed by the deepening of world markets. Culturally, issues of multiculturalism, ethnic conflict, and religious activism have taken on new importance in many countries. How have the theories of comparative politics attempted to explain and predict these various global trends? How can these theories help us understand the enormous amount of empirical information that we now have access to from across the globe? How can our knowledge of both these facts and theories help policy makers take sound decisions?

Course Learning Objective

This course examines three major political issues in the contemporary world within the context of growing globalization: the building and maintenance of democracy, the development of economic growth and (in)equality, and the difficulties of political inclusion and transformations. Drawing from country case studies from around the world, students will learn both the empirical details and some of the major theoretical approaches to discuss the tradeoffs inherent in these topics.

Global Learning Goals and Outcomes

Students will become aware of facts and concepts to explain the processes of democratization, development, and inclusion with special attention to different levels of analysis and then be able to discuss their interrelations in different contexts. Students will be able to present different theoretical perspectives to explain these three processes and be able to evaluate the utility of the theoretical perspectives in explaining political behaviors and outcomes. In addition, students will be asked to use their knowledge and skills to make arguments presenting and evaluating the policy implications and prescriptions inherent in the various theoretical perspectives. These learning outcomes will be achieved through active learning strategies such as discussion, debates and
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comparison of case studies throughout the semester.

Requirements

Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials before we discuss them in class, attending class regularly and carrying out all the assignments for the course on time. To do well in the course, you must think carefully about the issues discussed in your readings and in class sessions. You should also apply your learning and your thinking to class discussion and written assignments. In line with this format, a greater percentage of the grade will come from work done throughout the semester, as opposed to the work done at certain points in the semester. This is a course, then, which is not suited for students who prefer to “tune out” until mid-term and final exams come around.

1. Examinations
Students will have three exams. Each will be worth 25% of the overall grade.

2. Paper
Students will write a short paper (5-7 pages long) on a topic assigned by the instructor. The paper will allow students to apply theories and concepts to case studies. It will count for 15% of the total grade.

2. Class participation
All students must read all the assigned material before each class and come prepared to participate. I will monitor class participation if necessary, I will ask questions directly to individual students; and on the basis of this assessment a grade for class participation will be assigned, accounting for 10% of the total grade.

Course policies

1. All grades are based on a 100 point grade scale, with the following letters and corresponding numbers:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94.99</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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2. You will be tested on both lectures and reading material for the midterm and the final exams.

3. Makeups
Examinations, if missed, can only be made up if a) a student confronts sickness or medical emergency, or b) if there are other extenuating circumstances that the instructor deems justifiable. In case of sickness/medical emergency, the student will be required to present written and verifiable documentation from medical personnel. In the case of other
extenuating circumstances, the instructor will require similar documentation appropriate to the situation. Normally, such special circumstances must be communicated to the instructor before rather than after the date in question. All justification must be presented to the instructor verbally and directly, and not through written notes or phone calls to the secretaries of the Department of Political Science.

4. Academic Honesty
All students in this course are expected to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct, especially the provisions pertaining to academic dishonesty. No student in this course may claim ignorance of these rules. Accordingly, all potential violations of academic dishonesty will be vigorously prosecuted. For information on the latest policies relating to academic misconduct, see:
http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/unitinstructions.htm

5. Extra Credit and Second Chances
The instructor will not accept students’ offers to retake an exam, or to rewrite an assignment or to do extra work for extra credit.

Required Text


Assigned articles and chapters will be posted on the course’s Blackboard page

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

1. 1. Overview of course
(August 24)

1. 2. Introduction to the Concepts of Comparative Politics
(August 26-September 2)

• Drogus & Orvis, 2-37.

1. 3. The State
(September 4-9)

• Drogus & Orvis, 36-83.

1. 4. States, Citizenship, and Regimes

(September 11-16)

• Drogus & Orvis, 84-121.

1. 5. States, Identity, and Nationalism

(September 18-23)

• Drogus & Orvis, 122-153.
• Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Foreign Affairs 72:3 (Summer 1993), 22-49.

1. 6. States, the Market, and the Economy

(September 25- October 2)
In class Exam October 5, 2015

1. 7. Institutions of Governance

(October 7-14)

• Drogus & Orvis, 198-251.

1. 8. Institutions of Participation and Representation

(October 16-21)

• Drogus & Orvis, 252-299.

1. 9. Authoritarian Institutions

(October 23-28)

• Drogus & Orvis, 300-341.
• Andrew Nathan, “Authoritarian Resilience,” Journal of Democracy 14:1 (January
2003), 6-17.

1. 10. Regime Change

(October 30-November 4)

• Drogus & Orvis, 342-387.

In class Exam November 6, 2015

11. Globalization and Development

(November 9-13)

• Drogus & Orvis, 388-433.
• Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, “Yes, Globalization Has Passed Its Peak” Foreign Affairs Online, March 17, 2009.

12. 12. Public Policy

(November 16-20)

• Drogus & Orvis, 434-485.
155-166.

Deadline to submit short paper: November 20, 2015

12. 13. Inclusion and Clashing Values
(November 23-30)
• Drogus & Orvis, 486-531.

14. Conclusion and Revisiting Concepts of Comparative Politics
(December 2-4)

Final Exam: To Be Announced