Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Meguid
Office: 306 Harkness Hall
Phone Number: 275-2338
Email: bonnie.meguid@rochester.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

MaryClare Roche, maryclare.roche@gmail.com, Harkness 336, office hours: Monday 3:30-5pm

Course Description
This course will introduce students to comparative politics – the study of domestic political institutions, processes, and outcomes across and within countries. These important themes and concepts of contemporary comparative politics include the vibrancy of democracy, the centrality of political and electoral institutions, the possibility of revolution and the power of ethnicity. Cases will be drawn from different countries and historical periods to give students a grounding in the method of comparative analysis. This course is recommended for those thinking about a major, minor, or cluster in political science or international relations and others who are simply interested in learning more about the politics of developed and developing countries.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend lectures every Monday and Wednesday and keep up with the readings. All students will be assigned to a section which meets once a week (most likely on Friday during the normal course time). Attendance is mandatory. Sections will serve as an opportunity to discuss the readings, and thus, regular and active participation is expected. Participation in section will count for 20% of the final grade. An in-class midterm examination will be worth 35% and a final examination will count for 45% of the final grade. According to the Registrar’s website (https://www.rochester.edu/registrar/assets/pdf/FinalExams-Fall2017.pdf), the final exam will tentatively be held Tuesday, December 19 at 12:30pm. However, because exam schedules can change, DO NOT arrange to leave for break before the end of the exam period. Barring extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up midterm or final exams.

An optional 5-7 page paper on the Institutions weeks’ readings can be written for extra credit. The paper topic will be handed out November 13 and due by noon on November 22 (hard copy only, no email submissions accepted). If interested, please contact Professor Meguid in November.
Readings
In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore or, alternatively, are on reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through the Library’s electronic reserves on Blackboard.

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore (but you can buy them from any source)


Academic Honesty Policy
All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty

In this course, the following additional requirements are in effect:
You are encouraged to discuss course readings and lectures with your fellow students. However, all written work – exams or papers – must be done independently and not in collaboration with another.

Wednesday, August 30: Course Introduction

No class on Sept 1 or 4
September 6 and 8: What is Democracy?


September 11, 13 and 15: How does Democracy Come About? Theories of Democratization


September 18 and 20: Democracy and Democratization: Cases


September 25 and 27: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Theories


October 2 and 4: Ethnic Conflict: The Case of Yugoslavia


NB: No class Monday, October 9: Fall Break

October 11 and 16: Revolutions


October 18, 23 and 25: Revolutions around the World: Cases


October 30: Midterm review
No new readings

November 1: In-class MIDTERM

No recitation November 3

November 6 and 8: Do Institutions Matter? Presidentialism versus Parliamentaryism


**November 13 and 15: Do Institutions Matter? Electoral Systems**


**November 20: Do Institutions Matter? Political Party Systems**


*No class November 22 or 24*

**November 27, 29 and December 4: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital**


December 6 and 11: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital (cases)


December 13: Course wrap-up

**Note: There is a cumulative final exam. See Registrar’s website for date and time.**