

PSC/IR 101 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor: Bing Powell (Email: gb.powell@rochester.edu)
MWF 10:25-11:15

Fall 2020

Objective. This course is an introduction to the study of political science and comparative politics. We focus on how citizens may be able to use elections to control public policies in different modern democracies. We begin, in Module 1 by briefly applying some of these ideas to the American political system. We then turn explicitly to the politics of contemporary Britain (Module 2), Russia (Module 3) and Germany (Module 4). We shall be comparing these political systems with the US, with each other, and occasionally with other countries.

Organization. The course meets three times a week. Mondays and Wednesdays will be devoted primarily to (on line) lectures and Fridays usually to discussion--of both lectures and reading. We hope that these discussions will be in person, with opportunity for remote participation also. You will be assigned to a specific discussion section; all discussion sections meet on Friday, most at the regular class time. The syllabus indicates the main themes of the two lectures and required readings for that week. A midterm examination on Oct. 14 covers lectures and required reading to that point, including all of US, Britain and Northern Ireland. In the period after the midterm we shall turn to Russia and Germany. There is an optional quiz after the six lectures on each of these latter countries. Details to be announced. The final examination covers all lectures and required reading; it will be scheduled by the Registrar, probably Tuesday December 15. The announced date cannot be changed.

Grades. Grades will be based on the midterm examination (20%), two brief **optional** quizzes (10 % each,) class discussion (10%.) and the final examination (50%). Skipping a quiz increases the midterm and final weights by 5% each. Students interested in writing an optional paper (for 25% of final course grade), about ten pages long, applying the concept of citizen control/influence through elections to another country, should schedule a Zoom meeting with Professor Powell. Only papers on this topic are acceptable. It is acceptable to use other countries in the text. Papers due last day of classes, Wednesday December 9.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information available: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty Be prepared to sign Honor pledge on all exams, papers.

Assigned Readings: The assigned readings are important part of the course and assumed by the Wednesday lecture, discussed in the Friday section meetings and covered in the exams. Purchase: Most required readings in the course are from G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare Strom, Melanie Manion and Russell Dalton *Comparative Politics Today*, 12th ed., 2017, Ch. 1-7, 9, 11, 18 (CPT in the syllabus.) The readings each week are short, but dense. The country chapters will repay careful rereading; the syllabus is designed to allow for this rereading. **Reserve:** Some articles and book chapters are linked to the syllabus. Powell "Elections" is Chapter 1 from *Elections as Instruments of Democracy* (2000.) **Optional:** if you wish to learn more about US, Britain, Northern Ireland, Germany and Russia, it may be helpful to supplement the CPT chapters by reading Valelly, *American Politics: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford 2013;) Budge, et al., *The New British Politics* on Britain; McKittrick and McVea,

Making Sense of the Troubles on Northern Ireland; David Conradt, *The German Polity*; M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed* on Russia. All of the books are on Reserve in Rush Rhees Library.

Week	Lecture/Discussion Themes	Assigned Reading
Aug 26	Introduction - Democratic Systems	Syllabus; CPT Ch.1, 6. (CPT, Ch.2, skim)
Aug 28	Mod 1, Lec 1 --Comparing Democracies	CPT, Ch 5: 86-94; Powell, "Elections."
Aug 31	Mod 1, Lec 2 --U.S.A. in Comparative Perspective: Culture, Constitution, Policymaking	CPT Ch 3:39-46; Ch. 18: Kousser US esp. 611-616, 607-611, 629-632.
Sept 2	Mod 1, Lec 3 --USA: Parties, Polarization, Citizen Control Politics"	CPT Ch 18: Kousser, US, 616-638; And Blackboard: Balz, "Race in American
Sept 4	Section Meetings Begin	Discuss: Congruence, Inclusiveness, Citizen Control in US
Sept 7	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - NO LECTURE	
Sept 9	Mod 1, Lec 4 --Globalization Backlash 2016 :Trump & Brexit	Blackboard: Clarke, "Why Britain Voted Brexit;" CPT, Ch. 1, p.14; Ch 6, p.127.
		[OPTIONAL Blackboard: Rodrik "Globalization/Populism"]
Sept 11	Sections	Discuss: Globalization and Populism; Trump & Brexit
Sept 14	Mod 2, Lec 1 --Britain as Majoritarian Democracy	CPT, Ch. 7: Rose, "Britain," 143-153, 161-164. Ch.5, 99-102.
Sept 16	Mod 2, Lec 2 --British Political Culture	CPT, Ch. 7, esp. 133-142, 153-157 (Reread Ch.3)
Sept 18	Sections	Discuss: British political system (Compare to US)
Sept 21	Mod 2, Lec 3 --Britain: Party Competition	CPT, Ch. 7, "Britain," 161-4,157-9; Ch 4, 73-8
Sept 23	Mod 2, Lec 4 --Britain: Issues, Voters, Elections	Blackboard: The 2019 British Election
Sept 25	Sections	Discuss: British party competition; elections 2015-2019
Sept 28	Mod 2, Lec 5 --Britain: Consensual Style in a Majoritarian System	CPT, Ch. 7, "Britain," esp.159-161, 164-170.
Sept 30	Mod 2, Lec 6 --Britain & US: Elections, & Policy	CPT, Ch. 4, 69-78; (Reread Chs. 7, 18.)
Oct 2		Discuss: Interest groups; policymaking and citizen control--US and Britain
Oct 5	Mod 2, Lec 7 -- Majoritarian Failure: Tragedy in Northern Ireland	http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/ (CAIN Project) 1st 3 background essays (Darby, Darby, Fitzduff)
Oct 7	Mod 2, Lec 8 -- NI: Search for Accommodation	
Oct 9		Discuss: Northern Ireland and Majoritarian Government
Oct 12	Review for midterm exam	Focus Points. No Additional Reading
Oct 14	MIDTERM EXAM	Exam covers all lectures and required reading.
Oct 16	NO CLASS TODAY	

PSC/IR 101 - SYLLABUS – Fall 2020

Date	Lecture Themes	Assigned Reading
Oct 19	Mod 3, Lec 1 --Russia: Transitions from Dictatorship to ... Electoral Authoritarianism	CPT, Ch. 11: Remington, Russia, esp. 299-305 also CPT, Ch 2, 33-36.
Oct 21	Mod 3, Lec 2 --Constitutional Arrangements	CPT, Ch. 11, 305-314, 333-334/.
Oct 23	Discuss:	Russian "transitions" & political culture
Oct 26	Mod 3, Lec 3 --Russia: Russian Political Culture.	CPT, Ch.11, Russia, 314-320.
Oct 28	Mod 3, Lec 4 --Russia: Parties, Elections, Voters. also read Website www.freedomhouse.org "Freedom in the World: Russia"	CPT, Ch. 11, 324-329.
Oct 30	Discuss: Russian political system	
Nov 2	Mod 3, Lec 5 --Russia: Presidential Domination	CPT, Ch.11, 305-314, 324-9, 333-4.
Nov 4	Mod 3, Lec 6 - Russia: Elections and Limits	Blackboard: Schliefer "Normal Country?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> M-Apr 2004
Nov 6	Discuss: Russian Electoral Authoritarianism, US 2020 elections.	Optional Quiz on Russia
Nov 9	Mod 4, Lec 1 --Germany: Development of a Democratic Culture	CPT, Ch. 9, Dalton & Rohrschneider: "Germany," 218-227, 231-239.
Nov. 11	Mod 4, Lec 2 --Germany: Constitutional Arrangements	CPT, Ch. 9, 227-231, 244-252; Also CPT, Ch. 5:99-103 (& 86-94)
Nov 13	Discuss: German history, culture, constitution	
Nov 16	Mod 4, Lec 3 --Germany: Competition & Coalitions	CPT, Ch 5, 99-103 and Blackboard: Taylor, <i>A Different Democracy</i> 242-244.
Nov 18	Mod 4, Lec 4 --Germany: Issues and Voters	CPT, Ch. 9 "Germany" 219-221, 241-99. Also Fass & Klinelhofer, Germany 2017 election, <i>WEP</i> (42,) 914-926.
Nov 20	Discuss	German party system, elections, government
Nov 23	The Coronavirus Crises and Government Responses in 4 Countries (US 2020 election updates if needed.)	No Additional Reading.
THANKSGIVING WEEK MONDAY LECTURE ONLY		
Nov 30	Mod 4, Lec 5 --Germany: Consensual Style Mixed System	CPT, Ch. 9: 239-241, 249-258; Reread Ch 4, 65-69.
Dec 2	Mod 4, Lec 6 --Germany: Elections and Citizen Control	To Be Assigned.
Dec 4	Discuss: German Democracy	Optional Quiz on Germany
Dec 7	Mod 1-4 --Elections & Citizen Control	Blackboard: Powell, "Elections."
Dec 9	Review for final.	Discuss Focus Points. Optional paper due.

**The examination as scheduled by Registrar week of Dec 13-17, probably Tuesday Dec 15 12:30.
Covers all lectures and reading**