

University of Rochester – PSCI 101/INTR 101
Fall 2023
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:25am – 11:15am
Goergen 108

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Meguid

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Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm (with mask)

Teaching Assistants:

Theu Dinh, t.dinh@rochester.edu, Harkness 308B, Wednesdays 8:45-10:15am

Jefferson Leal, jefferson.leal@rochester.edu, Harkness 109A (in the Wallis Institute), Tuesdays 2-3:30pm

Kevin Wu, twu35@ur.rochester.edu, Harkness 309, Tuesdays 10-11:30am

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 Friday at the beginning of the semester) and keep up with the readings. All students will be assigned to a recitation section which meets once a week. 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, the date of the in-person final exam is December 19 at 12:30pm. But because the date could 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.*

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 (either under PSCI or INTR 101) or, alternatively, are on reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through the syllabus tab on the PSCI/IR 101 course page on Blackboard.

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

Allen, William Sheridan. The Nazi Seizure of Power. New York: Watts, 2014. (DO NOT PURCHASE EARLIER VERSIONS) 978-1626548725

Archer, Jeffrey. First Among Equals. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1984.

Crnobrnja, Mihailo. The Yugoslav Drama. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996.

Diamond, Larry and Marc Plattner, eds. The Global Resurgence of Democracy Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996.

Putnam, Robert D. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.

This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets three times weekly for 3 academic hours per week. The course also includes independent out-of-class assignments for 50 minutes per week. In this course, students will complete the enriched independent study activities using readings and other class materials. These activities include reading articles about course topics in the newspaper, watching movies and reading course books. Such activities will be listed in the weekly assignments below.

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 must be done independently and not in collaboration with another or using any AI software.

Disability Resources

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: <http://disability@rochester.edu>; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

Pandemic Policies

*In light of the challenges that continue to be posed by Covid, I encourage all students to communicate with me as promptly as possible any concerns they have about missing class for illness/quarantine and for meeting class deadlines.

*For the safety of my students, my family and me, my office is a masked space. If you wish to not wear a mask, we can meet at an alternative time via zoom. Please contact me to request a meeting slot.

NO CLASS on August 30 or September 1: Professor Meguid is away for a conference

NO CLASS on Sept 4: Labor Day

Sept 6 and 8: Course Introduction and What is Democracy?

Terry L. Karl and Philippe Schmitter, “What Democracy Is...and Is Not,” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 49-62. [Link](#)

Larry Diamond, “Three Paradoxes of Democracy,” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 111-123. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about democracy.

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

Daniel Lerner, The Passing of Traditional Society, Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1958. Chapter 1. [Link](#)

Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1981. Chapter 2. [Link](#)

Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 3-25. [Link](#)

S.M. Lipset, "George Washington and the Founding of Democracy," Journal of Democracy, 9.4(1998): 24-38. [Link](#)

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 3-22.

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about democracy and democratization.

September 18 and 20: Democracy and Democratization: Cases

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 25-144, 150-208.

For the independent out-of-class assignments: Read a non-US newspaper for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about democratization around the world.

September 25 and 27: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Theories

Harold Isaacs, "Basic Group Identity: The Idols of the Tribe," in Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, eds, Ethnicity: Theory and Experience, Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1975. 29-52. [Link](#)

Posner, Daniel, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," American Political Science Review, 98.4 (2004): 529-545. [Link](#)

Hugh Trevor-Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland," in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds, The Invention of Tradition, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990. 15-41. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about ethnicity and ethnic conflict.

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

Mihailo Crnobrnja, The Yugoslav Drama, Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996. 15-127; 141-188.

Aleksa Djilas, "A Profile of Slobodan Milosevic," Foreign Affairs, (Summer 1993): 81-96. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Identify and watch documentaries on youtube about the Yugoslavian conflict. A list of possible videos will be provided.

October 9 and 11: Revolutions

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," in Laurence H. Simons (ed), Selected Writings, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994. 157-176. [Link](#)

James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, 27.1(1962): 5-19. [Link](#)

Eric Selbin, "Revolution in the Real World: Bringing Agency Back In," in John Foran, ed, Theorizing Revolutions, London: Routledge, 1997. 123-136. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about revolution.

No class (or office hours) October 16 – Fall Break

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

Farideh Farhi, "State Disintegration and Urban-Based Revolutionary Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of Iran and Nicaragua," Comparative Political Studies, 21.2(1988). 231-256. [Link](#)

Additional Reading TBA

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Watch the film *Persepolis*. On reserve at the Arts Library or by streaming here:

https://ezp.lib.rochester.edu/login?url=https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C3412733?account_id=13567&usage_group_id=98342

October 30: Midterm review

November 1: *In-class MIDTERM*

No recitation week of October 30

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

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 124-142.

Juan Linz, "The Virtues of Parliamentarism," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 154-161.

Donald Horowitz, "Comparing Democratic Systems," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 143-149

S.E. Lipset, "The Centrality of Political Culture," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 150-153.

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read Jeffrey Archer, First Among Equals. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1984. Chapters 1-10.

November 13 and 15: Do Institutions Matter? Electoral Systems

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 162-174.

Guy Lardeyat, "The Problem with PR," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 175-180

Quentin Quade, "PR and Democratic Statecraft," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 181-186

Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism, Multipartism and Democracy," Comparative Political Studies, 26.2(1993): 198-228. [Link](#)

Arend Lijphart, "Reforming the House: Three Moderately Radical Proposals," P.S.: Political Science and Politics, 31.1(1998): 10-13. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about the US Congressional elections and the impact of election rules.

November 20: Do Institutions Matter? Political Party Systems

Arend Lijphart, "Party Systems: Two Party and Multi-Party Patterns," Patterns of Democracy, New Haven: Yale UP, 1999. Chapter 5. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Explain to someone not in this class (roommate, friend, family member, etc.) about Duverger's Law and how unusual the US party system is.

NB: No class on 11/22 or 11/24: Thanksgiving

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

Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work, Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. Entire.

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996: 290-303.

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about political culture and democratic health.

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

William Sheridan Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, New York: Watts, 1984. 1-167, 183-200, 217-232, 293-303.

Morris Fiorina, "Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement" Civic Engagement in American Democracy. Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1999. Chapter 11. [Link](#)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/21/world/europe/facebook-refugee-attacks-germany.html>

December 13: Course wrap-up

*****Note: There is an in-person cumulative final exam. See Registrar's website for date and time.***