

# Political Science 140: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2016)

Class Day & Time : M/T/W/Th, 12-2pm

Classroom location: G115 AH

Instructor: Yujeong Yang ([yujeong@umich.edu](mailto:yujeong@umich.edu))

Office Address: 7760 Haven Hall

Office hours: M/W 10am-12pm (or by appointment)

## Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the study of Comparative Politics. It aims to introduce the students to 1) analytical tools and skills to understand comparative politics and 2) the central theoretical findings of comparative politics. Students will accomplish these two goals by examining a set of questions crucial to the field of comparative politics; (1) how do democracies emerge and fall?; (2) whether regime types affect the economic and political performances of a country; (3) how institutional arrangements vary within democracies (and within non-democracies) and finally (4) if and how different institutional arrangements produce any different political/economic outcomes. In exploring these questions, students will review the leading research literature, study various theoretical concepts, and learn practical research methods. Students are expected to think critically and further their understanding of political events around the world by applying the theories and using the methodological tools they've acquired from the class. To better accomplish these goals, the course will provide a combination of lecture, group exercise, discussion, and quizzes.

## Course Requirement

This course is designed for spring semester and covers various topics in a short period. Hence, it is extremely important to read all the required reading (mostly the textbook chapters) before the class and be ready for the discussion during the lecture.

## Required Text

Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder and Sona Golder. 2008. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (Washington, D.C. CQ Press). 2nd Edition.

Other than this book (Hereafter, CGG), all other assigned readings will be posted on Canvas. Journal articles can be searched and downloaded at UM Library website.

## Assignments and Grades

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Weekly Quizzes (5 times *3%)	15%
Midterm (May 31 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	30%
Final (June 20 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	30%
Homework (5 times *3 %)	15%
Participation and Attendance	10%

- Quizzes (15%)

There will be a short quiz every Monday (May 10<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>). Students will have 15 to 20 minutes to take the quiz. The quizzes will be returned and reviewed at the next lecture. The questions from quizzes are highly likely to be recycled for the Midterm and Final.

- Midterm and Final (30% each)

The midterm and final will each take up 30% of your grade. Both midterm and final are comprised of multiple choice questions, true and false questions, and short essays. Going over the quizzes from the past lectures, reviewing the lecture slides, and solving the exercises at the end of each chapter will be the best way to prepare for the exams. The midterm will cover materials from Class #2 to #14. The final from Class #2 to #27.

- Homework (15%)

Students will solve the designated problem sets as homework. By solving the problem sets, students will have opportunities to practice what they've learned during the lecture. For the detailed schedule, please refer to the class timeline on the next page. Students are welcomed to visit the office hour to address the questions regarding homework. The students should post their homework on the Canvas in a timely manner. The homework will be reviewed at the lecture.

- Attendance and Participation (10%)

Attendance at lecture has been a very good predictor of students' performance, in general. You can only be excused for missing class if you have a medical note from the doctor or official reason approved by the instructor or GSI. Those students who observe a religious holiday (or university function) on a class day should contact me within the first two weeks in order to receive an excused absence. Other than that, there will be no exception. Each subsequent absence will reduce their grades by 0.5 points. One absence is allowed. Every class starts on "Michigan Time" (10 past the hour). Coming into class when it has already begun may distract other students. Repeated lateness will be noted and will detract from your attendance grade.

Participation points come from critical comments during the discussion, showing general interest in class, taking good notes, and **coming to office hours**. (If you feel uncomfortable with speaking in front of people, please come to see me so that we can talk about it.)

- Grade Scale

Final grades for the course will be determined as follows: A+ (100+); A (95 - 100); A - (90 - 94); B+ (87 - 89); B (83 - 86); B - (80 - 82); C+ (77 - 79); C (73 - 76); C - (70 - 72)

## Getting in Contact

Students are strongly encouraged to come to office hours to discuss questions and share their concerns with me. If you are unable to come to scheduled office hours, I am always happy to work out an alternate

appointment that works for us both. Students can also send me an email to discuss their concerns. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours—but please allow me a reasonable response time.

- During the weekday, I will respond within 24 hours
- During the weekend, I will respond within 48 hours
- Label emails : PS140S16

## **Policies**

### **Classroom Environment**

This class is a safe space for open and lively discussion which may even deal with contentious and sensitive political issues. For any reason, I will never allow any personal attacks on any member of this class. Insulting or threatening comments may result in a reduction of the participation grade. If there's any one who feels threatened or insulted, please contact me immediately to resolve the problem.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones are not allowed during the class. Text messaging is not allowed either. Students are asked to turn their cell phones off or on silent during class. If a student's cell phone rings or vibrates during section, he/she will have to bring a treat for everyone to the class. (Same rule applies to the instructor!)

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://www.umich.edu/sswd>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

## Lecture Schedule

#	Date	Day	Topic	Quizzes and Homework
1	May 3	Tue	Class Overview	
2	May 4	Wed	What Is Science?	
3	May 5	Thu	Why do we compare?	
4	May 9	Mon	What Is Politics?	
5	May 10	Tue	What Is the State?	QUIZ 1: #2-4
6	May 11	Wed	Economic Determinants of Democracy (1)	
7	May 12	Thu	Economic Determinants of Democracy (2)	
8	May 16	Mon	Cultural Determinants of Democracy	QUIZ 2: #5-7
9	May 17	Tue	Democratic Transition (1)	HW 1 deadline
10	May 18	Wed	Democratic Transition (2)	
11	May 19	Thu	Varieties of Dictatorship	
12	May 23	Mon	The Effect of Regime Type on Economic Performance (1)	QUIZ 3: #8-11
13	May 24	Tue	The Effect Of Regime Type on Economic Performance (2)	HW 2 deadline
14	May 25	Wed	The Effect of Regime Type on Economic Performance (3)	
15	May 26	Thu	Problems of Group Decision Making (1)	
16	May 30	Mon	No Class-Memorial Day	
17	May 31	Tue	Midterm	
18	June 1	Wed	Problems of Group Decision Making (2)	
19	June 2	Thu	Classifying Democracies	
20	June 6	Mon	Types of Government in Democracies	QUIZ 4: #15-19
21	June 7	Tue	Electoral Systems in Democracies	HW 3 deadline
22	June 8	Wed	Party Systems in Democracies (1)	
23	June 9	Thu	Party Systems in Democracies (2)	
24	June 13	Mon	Government Type and Democratic Stability	QUIZ 5: #20-23
25	June 14	Tue	Veto-player Theory	HW 4 deadline
26	June 15	Wed	Majoritarian and Consensus Type of Democracies	
27	June 16	Thu	Institutional Consequences of Varieties of Democratic Institutions	
	June 18	Sat		HW 5 deadline
28	June 20	Mon	Final Exam	

## Course schedules

### #1. Class Overview

Course theme; teaching objectives; assignments

### #2. What is science?

- Discussion themes:
  - How is a scientific statement different from a non-scientific statement?
  - How do we know we are wrong?
  - How can we test our hypothesis in a scientific way?
- Required reading
  - CGGs Chapter 2 (pp. 19-38)
- Supplementary readings
  - King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 4-6.
  - Fearon, James. 1991. "Counterfactuals and hypothesis testing in political science". *World Politics* 43:169-195.

### #3. Why do we compare?

- Discussion themes
  - Why do we compare?
  - How can we compare?
  - What can we infer from a comparison?
- Required Reading
  - CGGs Chapter 2 (pp.39-44)
- Supplementary readings
  - Mill, John Stuart . 1872. *A System of Logic, Ratiocinative and Inductive: Being a Connected View of the Principles of Evidence and the Methods of Scientific Investigation*, 8th ed. New York: Harper and Brothers.

### #4. What is politics?

- Discussion theme
  - What makes 'politics' different from other human behaviors?
  - When do states respond to citizens' demands and when do states ignore them?
  - When do the citizens have power against states?
- Required reading
  - CGGs Chapter 3
- Supplementary reading

- Hirshman, Albert. 1970. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Response to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press., Ch. 1-3, p.1-43

#### **#5. What is the state?**

- Discussion themes
  - What is the origin of the (nation) state?
  - What does the state do? What is the role of the state different from other social organization?
  - Can cooperation happen without the state?
- Required reading
  - CGGs Chapter 4
- Supplementary reading
  - Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *American Political Science Review*. 87(3): 567-576.
  - Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in *Bringing the State Back In* edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocopol. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985). 169-191.

#### **#6. Economic Determinants of Democracy (1)—Modernization Theory**

- Discussion themes
  - Under what economic circumstance do democracy emerge?
  - What makes some democracy endure and while other democracies break down?
  - Will economic development lead to democratization? How does it so? What is the causal mechanism?
- Required reading
  - CGGs Chapter.6. (pp. 172-183)
- Supplementary readings
  - Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts" *World Politics* 49(2):155-183.
  - Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes. 2003. "Endogenous Democratization" *World Politics* 55:517-549.

#### **#7. Economic Determinants of Democracy (2) --Variant of Modernization Theory**

- Discussion themes
  - How do natural resource preclude democratization??
  - How will globalization and foreign aid help democratization?
  - Will the development of technology and communication techniques contribute to the democratization or political development of developing countries?
- Required readings : CGG Chapter 6 (pp. 184-202)
- Supplementary readings

- Ross, Michael. 1999. "The political economy of the resource curse". *World politics*, 51(2), pp.297-322.
- Knack, Stephen., 2004. "Does foreign aid promote democracy?". *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(1), pp.251-266.

### **#8. Cultural Determinant of Democracy**

- Discussion themes
  - Does culture play a role in democratization or in stabilizing democracy?
  - Is there any culture/religion fundamentally incompatible with democracy?
  - Does cultural conflict preclude democracy?
- Required reading
  - CGG Chapter 7
- Supplementary readings
  - Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel, *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
  - Kalyvas, Stathis N. 1998. "Democracy and Religious Politics: Evidence from Belgium." *Comparative Political Studies* 31. Pages 292-320.

### **#9. Democratic Transition (1) - bottom-up transition**

- Discussion themes
  - How do revolutions happen in some countries but not in others?
  - Why does collective action fail in some countries?
- Required reading: CGGs Chapter 8. (pp.268-289)
- Supplementary readings
  - Kuran, Timur 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. *World Politics* 44:7-48.
  - Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press: chs.1-2 and 6

### **#10. Democratic Transition (2)—top down transition**

- Discussion themes
  - How does democratization (regime transition) happen?
  - How do top-down democratization happen?
  - When and why do elites in authoritarian countries have incentives to make democratic transition?
- Required reading: CGGs Chapter 8. (pp.290-306 )
- Supplementary readings
  - Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **#11. Varieties of Dictatorship**

- Discussion themes
  - Why are some dictatorship more fragile than other dictatorship?
  - Why do some dictatorship employ electoral mechanisms? Would electoral autocracies gradually and eventually lead towards electoral democracies?
  - Why are some dictatorship more resilient than other dictatorship?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 10. (pp.349-373)
- Supplementary readings
  - Geddes, Barbara. "What Do We Know About Democratization After 20 Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2: 115-44.
  - Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy*. 13 (2):51-65.

### **#12. The Effect of Regime type on Economic Performance (1)**

- Discussion themes
  - Do democracy protect property right more than autocracies do?
  - Why do democracies well off than most autocracies?
  - Do democracies outperform autocracies in terms of social equality, human Development, and the delivery of welfare services?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 9
- Supplementary readings
  - Lake, David A and Matthew A Baum. 2001. "The invisible hand of democracy political control and the provision of public services." *Comparative Political Studies* 34(6):587-621.

### **#13. The Effect of Regime type on Economic Performance (2)**

- Discussion themes
  - Can democracy cure inequality?
  - Is democracy necessarily good for the poor?
  - Why don't the rich soak the poor in democracy?
- Required readings
  - Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. *Economic origins of dictatorship and democracy*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
  - Ross, Michael. "Is democracy good for the poor?" *American Journal of Political Science* 50.4 (2006): 860-874.

### **#14. The effect of Regime type on Economic Performance (3)—Selectorate Theory**

- Discussion themes
  - Why do some autocracies overachieve (economically)?
  - Why do democracies generally well off than most autocracies?
- Required readings: CGGs Chapter 10 (pp.374-401)
- Supplementary readings

- Clark, William, Paul Poast, Thomas Flores, and Robert Kauffman. 2011. "Why do Some Autocrats Overachieve? Political Competition and Material Well-Being in Comparative Perspective." Manuscript, University of Michigan.
- Gallagher, Mary and Jonathan Hanson. Power Tool or Dull Blade? Selectorate Theory for Autocracies.

### **#15. Problems with Group Decision Making (1)**

- Discussion themes
  - How different voting rules change the outcome?
  - How do the rules influence who wins?
- Required readings CGG Chapter 11
- Supplementary readings
  - McElwain, Kenneth Mori. 2008. "Manipulating Electoral Rules to Manufacture Single Party Dominance." *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (1): 32-47.

### **#16. No Class- Memorial Day**

### **#17. Midterm Exam**

### **#18. Problems with Group Decision Making (2)**

- Discussion themes
  - Do decision-making processes adopted by democracies guarantee a fair outcome?
  - Is there any ideal decision making mechanism?
- Required readings CGG chapter 11
- Supplementary readings
  - Mueller, Dennis C. 2003. "Public choice: an introduction." *The encyclopedia of public choice*:32-48.

### **#19. Classifying Democracies**

- Discussion themes
  - How can we classify different types of democracies?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 12 (pp.457-464)
- Supplementary readings
  - Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." *World Politics* 48:297-323.
  - Stepan, Alfred and Cindy Skach. 1993. 'Constitutional frameworks and democratic consolidation: Parliamentarism and presidentialism.' *World Politics* 46 (1): 1-22.

### **#20. Types of Government in Democracies**

- Discussion themes
  - How does the form and size of government differ across countries?
  - What affects the form and size of a government?
  - What affects the duration and survival of a government?

- Required readings: CGG Chapter 12 (pp. 465-511)
- Supplementary readings
  - Linz, Juan José. 1994, "Democracy: Presidential or Parliamentary, Does It Make a Difference?" in *The Failure of Presidential Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 3-75.
  - Neto, Octavio Amorim. "The Presidential Calculus Executive Policy Making and Cabinet Formation in the Americas." *Comparative Political Studies* 39, no. 4 (2006): 415-40.
  - Strom, Kaare. "Minority Governments in Parliamentary Democracies the Rationality of Nonwinning Cabinet Solutions." *Comparative Political Studies* 17, no. 2 (1984): 199-227.

### **#21. Electoral systems in democracies**

- Discussion themes
  - How does electoral system vary?
  - How do electoral systems affect electoral outcomes?
- Required readings
  - CGG Chapter 13
- Supplementary readings
  - Benoit, Kenneth. 2007. 'Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions.' *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 363 - 90.
  - Lijphart, Arend. 1997. 'Unequal participation: democracies unresolved dilemma.' *American Political Science Review*. 91:1-14.

### **#22. Party systems in democracies (1)**

- Discussion themes
  - Where do parties come from?
  - How is party different from other social organizations?
  - How do social cleavage affect the number and formation of party system in a country?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 14 (pp.603-640)
- Supplementary readings
  - Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995: 3-61.
  - Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. "Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities." *Comparative Political Studies* 33 (6/7): 845-79.

### **#23. Party Systems in Democracies (2)—Duverger's theory**

- Discussion themes
  - How does electoral system of a country affect the number of parties?
  - How do social cleavage of a society modify the effect of electoral systems on the number of parties?
- Required readings : CGG Chapter 14 (pp.641-667)
- Supplementary readings

- Clark, William and Golder, Matt. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws," *Comparative Political Studies*, 39(6): 679-708.
- Cox, Gary W. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: ch 2 & 3: 13-68.

#### **#24. Government Types and democratic stability**

- Discussion themes
  - Are presidential regimes inherently unstable?
  - Is there any institutional feature detrimental to democracy? Or is there any institution that is prone to be adopted by fragile democracy?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 16 (pp.805-824)
- Supplementary readings
  - Cheibub, José. 2002. "Minority governments, deadlock situations, and the survival of presidential democracies." *Comparative Political Studies* 35: 284
  - Mainwaring, Scott. 1993, "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy the Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26 (2): 198-228.

#### **#25. Veto-player theory**

- Discussion themes
  - Why do policy stability vary across countries?
  - Why are policies so stable in some countries but change so often in other countries?
  - What is the relationship between policy stability and government stability? How is the relationship modified by the regime type of a country?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 15
- Supplementary readings
  - Tsebelis, George. 2002. *Veto Players: How Political Institutions Work*. Russell Sage. Intro-ch. 2 7

#### **#26. Majoritarian and Consensus type of democracy**

- Discussion themes
  - How do we know which institutional arrangement will be good for the society?
  - Is there a single best set of democratic institutions?
- Required readings: CGG Chapter 16 (pp. 741-765)
- Supplementary readings
  - Samuels, Kirsti. 2007. Constitution building processes and democratization: A discussion of twelve case studies. International IDEA.

#### **#27. Institutional Consequences of Varieties of Democratic institutions**

- Discussion themes
  - Why some democracies redistribute more than other democracies?
  - What institutional arrangements enable more distribution for the poor?

- Required readings: CGG Chapter 16 (pp.766-787)
- Supplementary readings
  - Bawn, Kathleen, and Frances Rosenbluth. 2006. "Short Versus Long Coalitions: Electoral Accountability and the Size of the Public Sector." *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (2): 251-265.
  - Iversen and Soskice, 2006. "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others." *American Political Science Review* 100 (2):165-181.

**#28. Final**