

Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

Instructor: Kimberly Frugè

Course Code: CPO 2002 - 0003

Meeting Time: M-F 3:35PM - 4:50PM

Meeting Place: Bellamy 0004

Email kfruge@fsu.edu

Office: Bellamy 543

Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 PM

or by appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the main concepts and ideas in the field of comparative politics. This class aims to provide an overview of domestic political institutions, social interactions, and economic influences and outcomes. The traditional approach to comparative politics is through case study analysis, however this course will look at generalized concepts and theories and use cases as helpful examples. This allows the student to look at any country, not just to examples used in class, and analyze the domestic institutions, social attributes, and economic influences. More specifically, this course will consider: Differences between and within democracy and dictatorships; the economic determinants of regime types; regime transitions; executive types; electoral systems; social cleavages; and other institutional factors.

Objectives of the course are the following:

- Identify and explain different theories and concepts related to the field of comparative politics.
- Explain how these theories and concepts are applied to countries throughout the world and how they influence the particular outcomes of that country.
- Determine and analyze different strategic ways to implement different institutions to obtain different outcomes.
- Integrate the concepts and theories learned in class to analyze different outcomes, such as human rights behaviors, restrictiveness of environmental regulations, and number of protests.

This course is a part of the *Liberal Studies for the 21st Century* program at Florida State University. This program builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work.

As a Liberal Studies course, this class will teach you:

- how to critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and/or present (Competency 1)

- how to gather data using social science and/or historical methodologies to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions, assumptions, and explanatory evidence (Competency 2)
- how to evaluate and employ appropriate methods and technology in the collection and analysis of data (Competency 3)

Required Text

The textbook required for this class can be found in the University Bookstore or from your favorite online provider.

Clark, WR, Golder, M, & Golder, SN (2012). *Principals of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press. Second Edition. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-60871-679-1 (henceforth CGG)

Please note any additional reading will be posted on the course website site and I will notify you of any changes to the reading in class or by university email.

Course Evaluation

Your grade in this course is compromised of two midterm exams (20% each), a final (25%), an online pre-class quizzes (10%), participation/in-class quizzes (10%), and Data Analysis Write-Up (15%).

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
		A	100 - 93%	A-	92 - 90%
B+	89 - 87%	B	86 - 83%	B-	82 - 80%
C+	79 - 77%	C	76 - 73%	C-	72 - 70%
D+	69 - 67%	D	66 - 63%	D-	62 - 60%
		F	59 - 0%		

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number. (For example, 79.4 will be counted as a 79 and an 89.5 will be counted as a 90.)

Exams

Exam	Percentage	Date
I	20 %	7/8/16
II	20 %	7/22/16
Final	30 %	8/4/16

The first and second exam will consist of 50 multiple choice (2 points a piece) questions. For 10 of the 50 questions, you can justify why you chose your answer choice and receive up to one point (half credit) if you do not get the correct answer. Examples include:

- Giving a definition or substantive meaning of why you chose the answer you did (.5 points back).
- Giving a definition or substantive reason of why you eliminated an answer choice that is not the correct answer (.25 points back for 1, .50 points back for 2).
- Giving the reason for why you eliminated the correct answer (.5 point back)
- Giving a definition or substantive meaning of why you chose the answer you did and why you eliminated the correct answer choice (1 point back).

The final exam will consist of 75 multiple choice questions (2 points each) where 50 questions will be new material and 25 will be from the previous exams. If you receive a higher grade on the final exam than the first or second exam then the final exam grade will replace the lowest of the two grades (you must have attempted the exam).

Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes

Attendance, participation, and in-quizzes will count for 10% of your total grade. Students are expected to be prepared, in class, and on time every day. Therefore, throughout the semester 5-10 in-class quizzes will be given. These quizzes will be unannounced and cover previous material discussed in class and materials covered in the reading for class. If you are not present for a quiz, you will earn a zero, make-ups are only allowed if it is an excused absence. Excused absences are defined by the University's Attendance Policy, which states a student is excused if there is a "documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness." For scheduled excused absences, please see me before the missed class to make arrangements.

Pre-Class Online Quizzes

Class discussion is better facilitated when students come to class prepared. Therefore, pre-class online quizzes will be posted the weekend before the class that the material will be discussed in and due before class starts. There will be 5-10 pre-class quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes are open book and are not meant to be difficult but rather familiarize you with the material that will be covered that day.

Data Analysis Write-Up

The liberal arts requirements for this course cover three competencies. These competencies will be covered through a single assignment broken into three parts worth a total of 15% of your final grade (5% each).

- First, students will choose an outcome of the political process. Using material learned in class, they will form hypotheses about the relationship between different social attributes/institutional arrangements and the outcome.
- Second, students will write up a technical report using a shiny application made available for this class. They will use the data and methods provided by the app to analyze the relationship between different predictor variables and the outcome of interest.
- Lastly, students will answer questions about the reliability of their results, alternative tests to support conclusions, and the implication of the results found.

More detailed instructions and a rubric will be posted on the course blackboard page.

Course Policies

Make-up Exams: I have a no questions asked early exam policy, which means that any exam can be taken early for any reason. However, only exams missed due to excused absences will be eligible for students to take at a later date. Students who are aware that they will miss an exam or have missed one due to an emergency are responsible for contacting the instructor to arrange a new exam date at least a week before the exam for planned occasions and in a timely manner for emergencies.

Classroom Behavior: Students should be respectful of others and refrain from behaving in a disruptive manner, including talking/texting on cell phone, speaking out of turn, reading non-class material, entering (leaving) class late (early), etc. When class permits itself to discuss, students should also be courteous to others opinions and backgrounds. Personal attacks or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and/or lifestyle will not be tolerated. If a student fails to follow any of these behavior guidelines they will be asked to leave, and any persistent behavior can result in the removal of that student from the course.

Incompletes: Incompletes will be determined on an individual basis and generally will only be granted in extreme cases at the discretion of the instructor and in consultation with the Dean of Student/Dean of the College of Social Sciences. Please see me as soon as possible to determine the correct course of action to handle any major situations regarding this course and/or taking an incomplete.

Cheating: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Any violation of the Academic Honor Policy will be referred to the Dean of Students and will result in a zero for the assignment or the course at my discretion.

Extra Credit: This class lends itself to a number extra credit opportunities. The extra credit for this class will primary consist of solving different game theoretical models that will be covered in class (i.e. variants on the prisoners dilemma and exit, voice, loyalty game). Assignments will be posted on blackboard after the class in which the material is covered and will be due within three days (excluding weekends). Successful completion of assignments

will earn up to 5% points on your final grade. More information on extra credit will be outlined on the blackboard course site.

Technology: Technology will play a large role throughout the course of this class, however there is an appropriate time and place. Throughout the course of the semester we will watch a number of videos, look at data, news articles and other online sources. Technology in the classroom gives of the privilege of understanding complex ideas/relationships by introducing a visual component to learning. That being said, cell phones and personal laptops do not contribute to classroom success and generally act as distractions. Very limited circumstances call for you to need your cell phone in class therefore please keep your phone on silent, preferably off, and put away. Laptops also have many opportunities to distract not only you but the students around you as well. Given that many students like to take notes on laptops they will be permitted in class (if this becomes a problem it is subject to change). There will be moments that lend themselves to discussion and/or a video. I respectfully ask that during these times, since notes generally will not need to be taken, you please shut your laptop and participate.

Getting Help: Office hours can be very beneficial to further your success in this course. This can range from preparing for class, studying for exams, completing assignments, and understanding course material. However, though I am a valuable resource I am not the only resource available to you. On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at FSU. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity. For writing assignments if tutors submit a signed and stamp notice that you met with them and helped you revise your paper, I will not take points off for grammar and misspelling (These tutors must be provided through FSU services).

College Policies

Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating that you need academic accommodations and what type. This should be done within the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdr@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu>

FSU Academic Honesty Code: The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (See the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy for more information.)

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Tentative Course Outline

Introduction to Comparative Politics

June 27: Introduction to Course

- *(There are no assigned reading for this class period, however it would be beneficial to review the material from these chapters before the exam)*
- CGG Chapter 1
- Intro to What is Science? (Video)

June 28: What is Science?

- CGG Chapter 2

June 29: What is Politics?

- CGG Chapter 3

Democracy or Dictatorship?: Origins, Differences, Determinants, and Transitions

June 30: The Origins of the Modern State: State Formation, Failed States

- CGG Chapter 4 (87-100)
- Rotberg: Failed States in a World of Terror

July 1: The Origins of the Modern State: Contractarian versus Predatory View of the State

- CGG Chapter 4 (100-119)
- Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Chapter 13 (pg. 56-69), Chapter 17-18 (pg. 77-85)
- Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*, Chapter 2-3 (pg. 3-9)
- Rousseau: *The Social Contract*, (pg. 1-7)

July 4: No Class (Happy 4th!)

July 5: Democracy and Dictatorship: Conceptualization and Measurement

- CGG Chapter 5
- Coppedge et al (2011): Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach

July 6: Economic Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorships: Modernization Theory

- CGG Chapter 6 (pg 171-184)

July 7: Economic Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorships: Variants of Modernization Theory

- CGG Chapter 6 (pg 184-209)

July 8: Exam I

July 11: Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship: Classic Cultural Arguments and Civic Culture

- CGG Chapter 7 (pg 213-229)

July 12: Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship: Religion

- CGG Chapter 7 (pg 229-259)

July 13: Democratic Transitions: Bottom-Up Transitions to Democracy

- CGG Chapter 8 (pg 265-290)

July 14: Democratic Transitions: Top-Down Transitions to Democracy

- CGG Chapter 8 (pg 290-307)

July 15: Does It Make a Difference?

- CGG Chapter 9

Varieties of Democracy and Dictatorship

July 18: Varieties of Dictatorships: Typology and Regime Survival

- CGG Chapter 10 (pg 349-284)

July 19: Varieties of Dictatorships: Selectorate Theory

- CGG Chapter 10 (pg 384-403)

July 19: Classifying Democracies and Parliamentary Democracies

- CGG Chapter 12 (pg 457-499)

July 20: President and Semi-Presidential Democracies, Principal-Agent Problem

- CGG Chapter 12 (pg 499-524)

July 22: Exam II

July 25: Problems with Group Decision-Making

- CGG Chapter 11 (pg 457-499)

July 26: Elections: Majoritarian Electoral Systems

- CGG Chapter 13 (pg 535-564)

July 27: Elections: Proportional and Mixed Electoral Systems

- CGG Chapter 13 (pg 564-597)

July 28: Political Parties

- CGG Chapter 14 (pg 603-620)

July 29: Social Cleavages and Duverger's Theory

- CGG Chapter 14 (620-668)

August 1: Federalism and Bicameralism

- CGG Chapter 15 (pg 673-705)

August 2: Constitutionalism and Veto Players

- CGG Chapter 15 (pg 705-729)

August 3: Catch-up/Review

August 4: Final Exam