

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

GOVT 203

Spring 2020

Morton Hall 341

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 am - 10:50 am

INSTRUCTOR : S.P. Harish
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OFFICE HOURS : Tue, Thu: 11:30am - 1:00pm (or by appointment)

Course Overview & Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the subfield of comparative politics. It examines the different types of government institutions, economic structures and political processes that exist around the world using the comparative method. To that end, the course will investigate questions like: *why are some countries rich but others are poor? Why are some countries democratic whereas others are autocratic? Why does race and ethnicity play a role in the politics of some countries but not others?* The main aim of this course is to equip you with the tools needed to systematically answer such questions.

In this course, you will examine the formation and structure of different political systems. Specifically you will study the characteristics and functions of a state; the causes and effects of economic development; different types of authoritarian regimes and the prospects of democratization; and the role of race, ethnicity, nationalism, gender and revolution in the political process. The course will introduce you to these topics using a broad set of countries: Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

At the end of this course, you can expect to gain a good understanding of the different concepts used in the subfield of comparative politics, gain knowledge of the politics of different countries of the world, and become equipped with the tools of comparative research. You will also have the opportunity to apply your understanding of these concepts and tools, and improve your research and writing abilities.

Required Book

There are two required books for this course:

D&E Textbook Dickovick, Tyler J., and Jonathan Eastwood. 2019. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. **3rd edition**. New York: Oxford University Press.

D&E Reader Dickovick, Tyler J., and Jonathan Eastwood, eds., 2017. *Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. New York: Oxford University Press.

All other readings will be made available on Blackboard.

You are also expected to closely follow current political and economic news from around the world. Useful news sources include *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *BBC World News*, and *The Guardian*. You should be prepared to discuss current events throughout the semester.

Class Requirements & Expectation

The course will be taught using a combination of readings, lectures and class discussions.

Grading

In Class Midterm Exam, 5 Mar 2020, 30% The midterm will test the material covered till Week 7. It will cover the lectures, readings or any additional material distributed in class before that date. The exam will be a mixture of a multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. Missing the exam will result in a grade of zero, unless a serious emergency can be properly documented.

Response Papers, 20% You are required to write four response papers analyzing the chapters assigned from the D&E Reader. The goal of these response papers is for you to critically engage with specific readings. Please do not summarize the article. You are encouraged to use concepts from class to compare/contrast the arguments of the different readings and demonstrate your understanding of the material. Each of these responses should be no longer than 1-page single-spaced papers. Remember that all response papers should be your own original work. The specific chapters for which you need write response papers are:

Response Paper 1, DUE DATE: 14 Feb 2020 Choose one:

- Chapter 3.1 (Weber) & Chapter 3.2 (Bates)
- Chapter 5.1 (Kohli) & Chapter 5.2 (Fukuyama)

Response Paper 2, DUE DATE: 28 Feb 2020 Choose one:

- Chapter 6.1 (Schmitter & Karl), Chapter 1.3 (Collier & Levitsky) & Chapter 6.2 (Lipset)
- Chapter 7.2 (Moore), Chapter 7.3 (Acemoglu & Robinson) & Chapter 7.1 (Levitsky & Way)

Response Paper 3, DUE DATE: 3 Apr 2020 Choose one:

- Chapter 11.1 (Madison) & Chapter 11.2 (Chhibber & Kollman)
- Chapter 13.1 (Anderson) & Chapter 13.2 (Laitin)

Response Paper 4, DUE DATE: 17 Apr 2020 Choose one:

- Chapter 15.1 (Fukuyama) & Chapter 15.2 (Huntington)
- Chapter 14.2 (Van Cott) & Chapter 14.1 (Htun)

All response papers are due on Blackboard at 11:59pm on the dates listed above. Late papers will be penalized 7 points per 24-hr period.

Final Paper, DUE DATE: 30 Apr 2020, 20% You are required to write a final paper that will apply the methodological tools discussed in class to a substantive topic. More information and guidelines for the final paper will be provided in class later this semester. Remember that the final paper should be your own original work, and should be submitted on Blackboard before 11:59pm. Late papers will be penalized 7 points per 24-hr period.

Class Attendance/Participation, 10% Class attendance is mandatory and participation in class is critical to understanding the concepts discussed in this course. You are required to read the week's material before class, and come prepared to ask questions and engage in a constructive discussion. I encourage you to ask questions and make your opinion heard at any time during the class.

Take Home Final, DUE DATE: 13 May 2020, 20% The final exam will be a take-home exam that will cover all the lectures and readings discussed in class. The final exam will be made available on **1 May 2020** and is due on **13 May 2020** at 12noon. Late exams will result in a grade of zero, unless a serious emergency can be properly documented.

GOVT Omnibus Study (optional), 1% Optional extra credit for participating in the GOVT Omnibus Study: The Department of Government runs a collaborative subject pool for survey and experimental research conducted by students and faculty. To help introduce you to the field of political science and earn extra credit for this course, you will have the opportunity to participate as a subject in a research project this semester. Doing so will contribute to the efforts of your fellow W&M students and faculty members in Government. Completing the requirements to earn extra credit will involve taking a survey and possibly participating in a session with student or faculty researchers. Typically, the commitment is about an hour of your time. An alternative assignment will be offered to students who do not want to participate in the Omnibus Project or who are not old enough to participate (you must be 18 years of age), but who still would like to seek extra credit. The maximum amount of extra credit available is 1 percentage point toward your final semester grade.

Note: you cannot pass the course without having completed all the above requirements.

I will base final course grades on the following scale, with partial-percents typically rounded to the nearest full percent: A 100-93, A- 92-90, B+ 89-88, B 87-83, B- 82-80, C+ 79-78, C 77-73, C- 72-70, D+ 69-68, D 67-63, D- 62-60, F < 60.

Grade Reviews: Students who would like to petition for a re-grade of the exams or assignments are required to do so no later than 3 days after an assignment/exam grade has been returned. The petition must be made in writing and emailed to the instructor. In the petition, students must explain why their grade should be reviewed. Please note that the entire assignment/exam will be re-graded and that your grade may go up or down following a review.

Class Attendance

We will meet twice a week during the semester. You can expect me to come prepared to lecture, conduct discussions, and answer any queries you have on the material. During each class, I will work to provide you with an environment where you can ask interesting questions and engage in a constructive discussion. Attendance is mandatory as your class participation grade is dependent on your presence and participation. You are expected to have completed all the assigned readings before each class session. Note also that the assignments, midterm and the final exam will rely on the lectures and class discussions.

Classroom Policy

The classroom is a place of learning and I expect all of us to strive towards making the class an enjoyable academic environment. It is important that all of us: (1) arrive on time each week; (2) be respectful towards each other in our comments; and (3) turn off or put our cell phones on vibrate mode. You can use other electronic devices such as laptops for note-taking in class as long as it does not distract your fellow classmates or disrupt the class.

Communication

You are encouraged to attend office hours to clarify any of the classroom material and discuss your assignments. You can also send me questions over email, but please include the course

number and your full name in the subject header. If you wish to make an appointment outside of my office hours, I will need you to email me at least 48 hours before our meeting. Between Mon 9am - Fri 5pm, you can expect me to reply to emails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response by then, please send me a reminder. I will respond to all emails received after Friday 5pm on Monday.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff at 221-2509 or at sas@wm.edu. An official letter from SAS is required before students can receive an accommodation.

Academic Misconduct

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies for academic integrity. Answers to questions on cheating, plagiarism, or other types of academic dishonesty are available on the William & Mary Honor Councils web site (<http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/honorcodeandcouncils/honorcode/index.php>) and the Honor Code section of the Student Handbook. If I discover any academic misconduct, I will initiate an Honor Council proceeding and recommend that the student receive an F for the course.

Summary of Important Dates

31 Jan 2020 Add/drop deadline
14 Feb 2020 Response paper 1 due
28 Feb 2020 Response paper 2 due
5 Mar 2020 In-class Midterm
23 Mar 2020 Withdraw deadline
3 Apr 2020 Response paper 3 due
17 Apr 2020 Response paper 4 due
30 Apr 2020 Final paper due
13 May 2020 Final take-home exam due (at 12noon)

Class Schedule

The D&E Textbook has country profiles and a discussion of specific cases.

Country Profiles Country profiles are available in Part VI of D&E Textbook. They provide information on a country's historical development, regime and political institutions, political culture and political economy.

Cases in Context Every chapter in D&E Textbook provides a discussion of a few countries relevant to that chapter. This information is available in blue boxes throughout the chapter. The top right corner of the box provides a page number that tells you where to read about the case.

Week 1, 23 Jan 2020 - Course Introduction

No reading

Week 2, 28 Jan 2020 & 30 Jan 2020 - Comparative Political Analysis

28 Jan 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 1
- D&E Reader, Chapter 1.1 (Diamond)

30 Jan 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 2
- D&E Reader, Chapter 2.2 (King, Keohane & Verba)

Week 3, 4 Feb 2020 & 6 Feb 2020 - The State

4 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 3 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 3.1 (Weber)

6 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **France**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 3.2 (Bates)

Week 4, 11 Feb 2020 & 13 Feb 2020 - Development

11 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 5 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 5.1 (Kohli)

13 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **Brazil**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 5.2 (Fukuyama)

Week 5, 18 Feb 2020 & 20 Feb 2020 - Democracy & Democratization

18 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 6 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 6.1 (Schmitter & Karl) and Chapter 1.3 (Collier & Levitsky)

20 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **India**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 6.2 (Lipset)

Week 6, 25 Feb 2020 & 27 Feb 2020 - Authoritarian Regimes & Democratic Breakdown

25 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 7 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 7.2 (Moore) and Chapter 7.3 (Acemoglu & Robinson)

27 Feb 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **Russia**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 7.1 (Levitsky & Way)

Week 7, 3 Mar 2020 & 5 Mar 2020 - Midterm Review & Midterm

3 Mar 2020

- Midterm Review

5 Mar 2020

- Midterm

Week 8, 10 Mar 2020 & 12 Mar 2020 - SPRING BREAK

Week 9, 17 Mar 2020 & 19 Mar 2020 - Parties & Party Systems

17 Mar 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 11 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 11.1 (Madison)

19 Mar 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **Mexico**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 11.2 (Chhibber & Kollman)

Week 10, 24 Mar 2020 & 26 Mar 2020 - Institutions of Government

Note: we will have two guest lectures this week. Readings will be assigned before this week

Week 11, 31 Mar 2020 & 2 Apr 2020 - Nationalism & National Identity

31 Mar 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 13 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 13.1 (Anderson)

2 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **United Kingdom**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 13.2 (Laitin)

Week 12, 7 Apr 2020 - Ideology & Religion in Modern Politics

7 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 15 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 15.1 (Fukuyama) and Chapter 15.2 (Huntington)

Note: There will be no class on 9 Apr 2020

Week 13, 14 Apr 2020 & 16 Apr 2020 - Race, Ethnicity & Gender

14 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 14 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 14.2 (Van Cott)

16 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **Nigeria**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 14.1 (Htun)

Note: We will have a guest lecture on 14 Apr 2020.

Week 14, 21 Apr 2020 & 23 Apr 2020 - Revolutions & Contention

21 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 12 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 12.1 (Gurr)

23 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **Iran**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 12.2 (Skocpol) and Chapter 12.3 (Kuran)

Week 15, 28 Apr 2020 & 30 Apr 2020 - Comparative-International Nexus

28 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Chapter 16 (incl cases in context)
- D&E Reader, Chapter 16.1 (Naim)

30 Apr 2020

- D&E Textbook, Country Profile: **United States**
- D&E Reader, Chapter 16.2 (Blinder)