

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Instructor: Laura D. Young
Email: ldyoung@purdue.edu

Office Hours: 4:30 – 5:15 M, W, TH
Office location: BRNG 2231

Course overview:

The course examines basic concepts and major theories of comparative politics. The goal of this course is to acquaint you with the ideas and analytical tools necessary to understand the structures and processes of different types of political systems, as well as how political systems develop over time. Students will apply these tools to the study of multiple countries throughout the world with different forms of government. By the end of this course students will be able to identify different types of political institutions and how each developed over time. In addition, students will understand the implications different types of institutions have on society and inter-state relations.

Grades and Policies

Evaluation: 100 – 94 A, 93-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-84 B, 83-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-74 C, 73-70 C-, 69-67 D+, 66-64 D, 63-60 D-, 59 (and below) F

Reading Quizzes	20%
Midterm	25%
Student Presentations	25%
Research Paper	30%

Grades: It is a violation of FIRPA to discuss grades via email. As a result, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL I DISCUSS GRADES OTHER THAN BY APPOINTMENT. All emails asking about grades will be referred to this syllabus.

Moreover, your grades are your responsibility, not mine. If you are doing poorly I am always available to help you outside of class. It is your responsibility, however, to seek help as soon as you know your grades are not as good as you would like. **DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to ask how you can improve your grade.** By that point there will be little you or I can do to help improve the situation.

Make-up Policy: I do not give make-up exams, quizzes, or assignments unless you have a verified absence by the Dean of Students. In such cases it is **your responsibility** to contact me to arrange a time to make-up the missed assignment. At my discretion make-up assignments, quizzes, and/or exams may be different than that given in class, but will be of equal difficulty level.

Special Needs: If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations for this class, please notify the instructor immediately.

Course Material/Readings:

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

All other readings will be available on the Blackboard system.

Student requirements:

1. A midterm and a final examination.
2. Preparation for and participation in class discussions along with periodic reading quizzes. You are expected to follow the Purdue University Class Attendance and Absence Reporting Policy, meaning that you are required to attend all lectures and events. **Absences will be excused only for documented physical or mental illness, accident, or emergency as determined by the Dean of Students. (See above regarding make-up policy for excused absences.)**
3. Students are required to present on a selected country. Specific instructions regarding the presentations will be provided later during the semester.

For all work, the Purdue University Student Code of Conduct is in effect. Every assignment, quiz, and exam must be your own work. Students who cheat or copy will fail the course and be turned into the Dean of Students.

Note: This syllabus is a living, organic creation, and it may change over the course of the semester in response to changing classroom and campus conditions. More specifically, in the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Use the Blackboard Vista web page to keep track of the most recent version of the syllabus along with my email address lyoungx@gmail.com to get information.

THE ORIGINS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STATE

Week 1 Introduction and the Origins of Political Order

Munck, Garardo L. 2006. "The Past and Present of Political Science." *The Kellogg Institute for International Studies*.

Fukuyama, Francis. 2012. *The Origins of Political Order*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, Part I, Pages 3-80.

Week 2 Before the State

Diamond, Jared. 2011. *Collapse*. New York: Penguin Group. Part II, Pages 77-119.

Young, Laura. 2013. *The Evolution of Society and the Modern Territorial State*, Chapter 5.

Week 3 The State & Nationalism

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill., Pages 3-10 and 124-132.

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill., Pages 147-152, 155-157.

Connor, Walker. 1978. "A nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group is a . . ." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1, no. 4, Pages 377-400.

Week 4 Political Culture

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Pages 293-304.

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Chapter 1

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 6, Pages 163-185.

Week 5 Structure and Institutions

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Pages 171-186, 221-234.

THEORIES OF THE STATE

Week 6 Capital vs. Coercion

Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital, and European States*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, Chapters 1 – 3, Pages 1-95.

Ertmann, Thomas. 1997. *The Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Pages 1-34

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 5 & 8, Pages 77-108. 153-180.

Young, Laura. 2013. *The Evolution of Society and the Modern Territorial State*, Chapter 3.

Week 7 Alternative Theories of State Formation

Young, Laura. 2013. *The Evolution of Society and the Modern Territorial State*, Chapters 1- 2.

Hui, Victoria Tin-bor. 2005. *War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, Pages 1-51.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1, Pages 11 – 31.

Carneiro, Robert L. 1970. A Theory of the Origin of the State. *Science*, 169:733-738.

Week 8 Mid-Term Exam

COMPARITIVE INSTITUTIONS

Week 9 Student Presentations

United Kingdom vs. Germany

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Pages 395-410, 420,438, 498-528.

Japan vs. Russia

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Pages 550-566, 575-636.

Week 10 Student Presentations

China, Mexico, and the Politics of Africa

Sodaro, Michael J. 2007. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Pages 652 - 790.

Comparative Politics - Applied

Week 11 Environmental Policy – A Comparison of Regimes

Miranda Schreurs. “The Climate Change Divide: The European Union, the United States, and the Future of the Kyoto Protocol.” In Norman J. Vig and Michael G. Faure. 2004. *Green Giants? Environmental Policies of the United States and the European Union*. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press.

David Downie. “Global Environmental Policy: Governance Through Regimes.” In Om Axelrod, Regina S., David Leonard Downie, and Norman J. Vig (eds). 2005. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*. Washington D. C., CQ Press. Pp. 64-82.

Alaine Touraine et al. [Peter Fawcett, tr.]. 1983. *Anti-Nuclear Protest: The Opposition to Nuclear Energy in France*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, **Read Chp 2 ONLY**

Daniel P. Aldrich. 2005. “The Limits of Flexible and Adaptive Institutions: The Japanese Government’s Role in Nuclear Power Plant Siting over the Post-War Period,” in Daigee Shaw and S. Hayden Lesbirel, eds. 2005. *Managing Conflict in Facility Siting*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar

Week 12 Final Exam