

Political Science 3200
Comparative Politics

Instructor: Prof. Adnan Rasool

Office: GCB Room 828

Phone: (404) 413 ----

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday

Email: arasool1@gsu.edu

11 AM to 12: 30 PM

Sample Syllabus

Course Description

This course introduces you to the approach of political inquiry known as comparative politics. This course will give you an overview of the scholarship in comparative politics and does not require prior knowledge of advanced political science material. Prior courses in Introduction to International Relations or World Politics are helpful for students of this course.

This course focuses on the understanding the method that is known as comparative politics. In simple terms, the idea is to compare political phenomenon happening in different parts of the world and to find patterns, commonalities and contrasts. To do this, we start by exploring what are different types of governance systems, what players are involved in those systems, how those systems interact with each other at a domestic level and how those interactions shape governance in different states. We will dig deep in to the concepts on democratization & authoritarianism, institutions, bureaucracies and political parties. Additionally, we will spend time learning various ways of comparison when studying these concepts. This course in Comparative Politics will equip you with the necessary concepts, theories, and methods to better understand politics by comparing the behavior of governments and citizens throughout the world. We will examine some of the most common institutional structures for politics around the world. The idea is to introduce the ways that politics is organized and discuss how we analyze political activity in a scientific manor, so that you can develop and articulate informed views on political outcomes.

All opinions are welcome in this course and will be taken seriously. This is an interactive course and relies on students to actively take part to create an environment of active learning. To facilitate this goal, students are expected to respect each other's point of views and rely on critical thinking to discuss dissenting opinions.

Course Objectives

The course aims to achieve the following learning objectives over the semester;

- Define what a state is, and describe the main characteristics of states
- Identify the main political institutions that exist within democratic and non-democratic governments of states
- Explain and use the main measures of comparison between political institutions, including those of freedom, political participation, and human rights
- Understand and explain the players in a political system and how those players impact governance across states
- Explain how different forms of governments sustain themselves and what socio – economic policies work best in what conditions
- Articulate some of the main types of institutional variance across political systems
- Utilize data and digital tools to compare political variables across countries
- Produce an original research paper, comparing two aspect of politics across countries or regions

It is expected that all students will be able to make a 5 minutes presentation about their research at the end of the course. The purpose of this presentation is to get students to uncomplicate their research work and present it in a manner that can be understood by the public.

Required Reading

Students are expected to complete required readings for the class on a weekly basis as the concepts covered in the readings will be discussed during class time. This course relies on two text books as well as other scholarly works that will be available online.

- I. ***Comparative Politics*, by Daniele Caramani, ISBN: 9780-19-873742-1, Oxford University Press** – Both 4th or 3rd edition is acceptable for this course. The book is available online and student bookstore.
- II. ***Essentials of Comparative Politics*, by Patrick O’Neil, ISBN: 978-0-393-62458-8, W.W. Norton Publishers** – Both 5th or 6th edition will work, as will a used copy
- III. **Readings/materials available online.** The syllabus details the academic works being used in those courses. They are available through the University library’s database. In case an article is not available, get in touch with me so I can get you a soft copy of it.

In addition to these materials, students are expected to read analytical pieces from sources like *Foreign Policy*, *The Conversation*, *Monkey Cage* and *FiveThirtyEight*.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

Mid Term Exam – 30% of the grade will be based on the midterm exam. The midterm exam will include 5 short essay questions out of which a student is expected to answer 3. Questions will be on material covered in class till that point.

Class Quizzes + Activities – 20% of the grade depends on class quizzes & activities. Students will be told the class before about upcoming class quizzes and class activities will happen without prior announcements. This class is highly interactive and relies heavily on class activities to appraise students. Class activities include short presentations, group discussions and simulations.

End of Semester Research Paper – 40% of the grade will depend on the final research paper submitted by the student. The students are expected to finalize a topic by the fourth week of class. Students are encouraged to discuss their research approach, design and methodology with me throughout the semester. I am also willing to give feedback on drafts submitted before the end of semester to help students improve their final product. The final paper should be about 2000 to 3000 words and needs to compare two aspects of politics across countries or regions.

Final Paper Class Presentation – 5% of the grade depends on the final paper presentation. Each presentation should be about 5 minutes and should be considered a public presentation i.e. terms and language used should be for the public.

End of Semester Essay – 5% of the grade is the end of semester essay you will write about what you learned throughout the semester. The idea is to summarize core concepts you have studied and what new things you have learned. It is an open-ended essay, but you will be provided detailed instructions on what needs to be included. This essay is expected to be about 800 words.

This course is designed to challenge the students not overwhelm them. If you encounter issues with readings, assignments or the class itself, please see the instructor immediately. I am here to help you through this process and reaching out to me will never impact your grade negatively.

Grading Scale

All Political Science courses (as well as courses in most other departments) will be awarded grades on a plus/minus scale. The following quality points will be used to calculate GPAs.

A+ = 4.3

A = 4

A – = 3.7

B+ = 3.3

B = 3

B – = 2.7

C+ = 2.3

C = 2

C - = 1.7

D = 0

F = 0

WF = 0

Grades will conform to the following numerical score and letter grade equivalent.

A+ = 97 - 100

A = 94 - 96

A - = 90 - 93

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 84 - 86

B - = 80 - 83

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 74 - 76

C - = 70 - 73

D = 60 - 69 F = 0 - 59

Grade Appeals

If the students have genuine reason to believe their grade was appropriated improperly, they are submitting a written appeal to me. All appeals should include the original graded work and specific point of order identified. If I find that a mistake was indeed made, the grade will account for the change.

Attendance Policy

Students are encouraged to attend all classes. Each student is allowed a maximum of 6 absences throughout the semester without prior approval. A 7th absence without approval will resolve in automatic unregistering from the course. In case of an excused absence, the student is expected to seek advanced approval a minimum of 48 hours before the class. It is pertinent to mention here that any pop quiz would not be made up if the student is not in class. Instead the student will be allowed to do a bonus assignment to cover for the pop quiz.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted. Any assignment submitted after the due date will not be graded or taken in to account. Students are strongly advised to complete their work on time as deadline extensions will not be granted in this course.

Students who are unable to complete work in due time are encouraged to come see me before the deadline to seek help. The purpose here is to reward the students who do things on time and discourage tardiness as a work ethic.

Academic Honesty

"There is much difference between imitating a man and counterfeiting him."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

As Benjamin Franklin said, you are free to get inspiration but don't copy paste. Plagiarism will result in the immediate dismissal from the course. Additionally, the university's Policy on Academic Honesty applies to all assignments in this course. For further information on GSU policy regarding academic dishonesty (including plagiarism), see the GSU Catalog for 2009-10, pp. 83-87.

In case the student has questions regarding plagiarism, they can contact the instructor to seek clarification. Any case of student plagiarism will be immediately reported to the university authorities and will make it to the student's permanent record.

Withdrawal and Hardship Policies

The last day to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" is October XX, 2014. All students who withdraw on or before this date will receive a "W"; students that withdraw after this date will receive "WF" (Withdraw Fail). Exceptions to this policy are listed on the Registrar's website (<http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/withdrawals/>).

Incompletes

An Incomplete (I) may be given to a student who for nonacademic reasons beyond his or her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. With regards to this course specifically, a student failing to pass the map quiz during the semester will be given an 'Incomplete' grade till they eventually pass the map quiz. In order to qualify for an 'I', a student must: (a) have completed most of the major assignments of the course, and (b) be earning a passing grade in the course (aside from the assignments not completed) in the judgment of the instructor. Further information on Incompletes is available in the GSU Catalog 2009-10, p. 79

Email Correspondence

Students are required to activate their GSU email addresses and regularly check it for any official correspondence for this course. This is a University sanctioned requirement i.e. all official business contact should occur through the official email addresses assigned by the university..

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring any accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services before an instructor can modify instructions or expectations. The Office of Disability Services may be contacted at 404-413-1560 or in the Student Center in 230. Any student with a disability who may require special accommodations is

requested to make an appointment with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students must self-identify so that arrangements can be made according to University policy.

Students are expected to complete this process as early as possible during the semester.

Misc. Notes

- Eating and other disruptive behavior is not allowed. Any student involved in such behavior will be asked to leave the class room.
- University policy to be in accordance with FERPA states that final grades on any assignment will not be given out over the phone or via email at any time by the instructor. Details of FERPA can be accessed from <http://registrar.gsu.edu/academic-records/records-management/ferpa/>

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluations.

THIS SYLLABUS LAYS OUT A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE. IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS FINAL, AND DEVIATIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY

Course Schedule with Assignments

Week 1

Aug 20th – Introduction and Course Overview

Aug 22nd – The State – What is it? How is it formed? Types of Governance.

- Patrick O’Neil, Chapter 2 – “States” – PDF online
- Charles Tilly, Chapter 3, “How War Made States” from *Coercion, Capital, and European States* – PDF online

Week 2

Aug 27th – Nation States & Nationalism

- Patrick O’Neil, Chapter 3 – “Nation”
- Joel Migdal, Chapter 1, “A Model of State-Society-Relations” - PDF online

Aug 29th – Regime Classifications

- Caramani textbook, Ch 5, “Democracies”
- A.Lijphart, p 1-9 – PDF online – READ ALL

Week 3

Sep 3rd – Labor Day

Sep 5th – Regime Classifications Cont.

- Caramani textbook, Ch 6, “Authoritarian Regimes”
- Levitsky & Way, 2002 article, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” – PDF online

Week 4

Sep 10th – Institutions

- Caramani textbook, Ch 9, “Constitutions and Courts”
- Christopher Larkins 1996 article, “Judicial Independence & Democratization...” – PDF online

Sep 12th – Institutions

- Caramani textbook, Ch 8, “Governments and Bureaucracies”
- Fred Riggs 1997 article, “Presidentialism versus parliamentarism...” – PDF online

Week 5

Sep 17th – Institutions

- Caramani textbook, Ch 7, “Legislatures”
- Legislature Styles – PDF online

Sep 19th – Writing for Political Science

- Caramani textbook, Chapter 3, “Comparative Research Methods”

Topics for Final Paper are due and need to be finalized within the next week

Week 6

Sep 24th – Institutions

- Kenworthy & Malami 1999 article, “Gender Inequality in Political Representation...” – PDF online
- Keiser et. al 2002 article, “Lipstick and Logarithms...” – PDF online

Sep 26th – Political & State Actors

- Caramani textbook, Ch 12, “Political parties”
- Anthony Downs, 1957 excerpts from *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, p. 36-50, 114-141 – PDF online

Week 7

Oct 1st – Political & State Actors

- Caramani textbook, Ch 14, “Interest Groups”
- Grossman & Helpman 1996 article, “Electoral Competition and Special Interest Politics” – PDF online

Oct 3rd – Midterm Exam

Week 8

Oct 8th – Review of Mid Term

Oct 10th – Political & State Actors

- Almond & Verba, *Civic Culture*, p. 1-44
- Excerpt from Inglehart and Norris, *Sacred and Secular* – PDF online

Week 9

Oct 15th – Political & State Actors

- Almond & Verba, *Civic Culture*, p. 1-44
- Excerpt from Inglehart and Norris, *Sacred and Secular* – PDF online

Oct 17th – Political & State Actors

- Caramani textbook, Ch 19, “Political communications”
- Iyengar & Kinder, 2010, Chapters 3 & 7 – PDF online

Week 10

Oct 22nd – Political & State Actors

- O’Neil, Chapter 7, “Political Violence”
- Stathis Kalyvas 2003 article, “Ontology of Political Violence...” – PDF online

Oct 24th – Political Economy

- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, - Book 1, Chapters 1-4 and Book 2, Chapters 1-2. Online at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3300/3300-h/3300-h.htm>.
- Excerpts from Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* – PDF online

Week 11

Oct 29th – Political Economy

- Caramani textbook, Ch 11, “Unitary, federal, and local government institutions”

- Douglas North 1991 article, “Institutions” – PDF online

Oct 31st – Political Economy

- Samuel Huntington article, “Political Development and Political Decay” – PDF online
- Przeworski & Limongi 1997 article, “Modernization: Theories and Facts”

Week 12

Nov 5th – Political Economy

- Bueno de Mesquita & Smith, Ch1 “The Rules of Politics” in *Dictator’s Handbook*
- Caramani textbook, Ch 22, “The impact of public policies”

Nov 7th – Follow Up session on Final Paper

Week 13

Nov 12th – Political Economy

- Epsing-Anderson, *The Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*,
- Banerjee & Duflo, Ch1, in *Poor Economics*

Nov 14th – Country Case – Taiwan

Week 14

Nov 19th & Nov 25th – Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

Nov 26th – Country Case – Turkey

Nov 28th – Country Case – US

Week 16

Dec 3rd – Country Case - Pakistan

Dec 10th – FINAL EXAM