

Overview

What is Comparative Politics? In short, it refers both to comparing the internal politics of various countries, as well as a particular method of studying politics in general. There is one basic underlying assumption: to understand any aspect of politics, it is not enough to know about only one particular case or country. In this class, we will always study a particular topic across a number of cases. We will focus on some of the most important political phenomenon in the world today, including democracy and authoritarianism, the development of the state, various ways of organizing a society's political economy, as well as revolutions and political violence. We will follow some of the major debates surrounding these phenomena, and discuss whether it is long-standing socio-economic factors that shape these events and processes, whether culture and ideas play much of a role, or whether rational elites making immediate decisions based on cost-benefit analysis are the primary driver of politics. There will be a considerable amount of assigned readings. I expect students to come to class prepared, particularly with any questions they might have. Difficult questions are particularly appreciated.

All readings assigned will be made available at the Moodle. If there are any problems with the readings, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to let me know as soon as possible: I will not accept problems with the readings as an excuse for being unprepared for class.

Requirements

> Week 1: Introduction I

Topic: Issues, Themes and Theoretical Directions of Comparative Politics

- **Reading (1):** Part 1: Introduction: Foundations for Inquiry by Ronald H. Chilcote
- **Reading (2):** Chapter 1: What is Comparative Politics by Jeffrey Kopstein, Mark Lichbach, and Stephen E. Hanson

> Week 2: Introduction II

Topics: Themes and theoretical directions, what is comparative politics?

- **Reading (1):** Part 1: Introduction: Foundations for Inquiry by Ronald H. Chilcote
- **Reading (2):** Chapter 1: What is Comparative Politics by Jeffrey Kopstein, Mark Lichbach, and Stephen E. Hanson

> Week 3: What is Democracy? Types of Democracies I

Topics: Definition of Democracy: What is it? How to Measure it? Is it necessary? Consensual vs. Majoritarian Political Systems: Thinking about separation of power, devolution of power, and electoral systems

- **Reading (1): Part 1: The Beginning:** Where and How Did Democracy Develop? A Brief History by Robert Dahl in "On Democracy"
- **Reading (2): Part 2: Ideal Democracy:** Chapter 4: What is Democracy? by Robert Dahl in "On Democracy"

> Week 4: What is Democracy? Types of Democracies II

Topics: Philosophical Debates

- **Reading:** Three Normative Models of Democracy by Jurgen Habermas
- **Reading:** Chapter (18) Democratic Theory and Democratic Experience by Robert Dahl

> **Week 5: Authoritarianism I**

Topics: Types of authoritarianism: historical and modern forms of non-democratic regimes

- **Reading:** Modern Non-Democratic Regimes by Linz and Stepan

> **Week 6: Authoritarianism II**

Topics: Totalitarianism: Communism and Fascism, The Praetorian State: Military Regimes

- **Reading:** Chapter (12) Totalitarianism in Power by Hannah Arendt in The Origins of Totalitarianism

> **Week 7: The Concept of Political Development**

Topics: Characteristics of the Modern State: Patrimonialism and Bureaucracy, State Strength vs. State Scope, What is Corruption?

- **Reading:** Chapter (2) States by O'neil, Patrick H. Essentials of comparative politics. New York: WW Norton & Co. 2010.
- **Reading:** Fukuyama, Francis. "The imperative of state-building." Journal of democracy 15, no. 2 (2004): 17-31.
- **Reading:** Huntington, Samuel P. "Modernization and corruption." Political corruption: Concepts and contexts (2002): 253-263.

Week 8: Revision of the Syllabus & Mid-Term Exam

> **Week 9: Comparing Political Economies I**

Topics: Liberalism, Socialism, and Social Democracy in Western Europe and North America, Comparing Welfare Systems

- **Reading:** Ch. (4) Political Economy by O'neil, Patrick H. Essentials of comparative politics. New York: WW Norton & Co. 2010.
- **Reading:** Alesina, Alberto, and Edward L. Glaeser. "Why are welfare states in the US and Europe so different?." Horizons strategiques 2 (2006): 51-61.

> **Week 9: Comparing Political Economies II**

Topics: The Resource Curse

- **Reading:** Ch. (27) Karl, Terry Lynn. "The perils of the petro-state: reflections on the paradox of plenty." Journal of International Affairs (1999): 31-48.
- **Reading:**

> **Week 10: Rebellion and Protest I**

Topics:

- **Reading:**
- **Reading:**

Week 11: Rebellion and Protest II

Topics:

Reading:

Reading:

Week 12: Political Parties and the New Far Right in Advanced Industrialized Societies I

Reading:

Week 13: Political Parties and the New Far Right in Advanced Industrialized Societies II

Reading: Week 14: Critique of Political Economy

Reading: A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy by Karl Marx

Week 15: International Political Theory

Topic:

Reading: Worldviews and International Political Theory by Anthony J. Langlois in
“International Relations Theory for Twenty-First Century: An Introduction” Edited by Martin
Griffiths

Font Details for Papers/Essays

Font Style: Time New Roman

Font Size: 12

Spacing: Double Space

Reference/Citation: Chicago Citation

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating or any other violation will be dealt with according to FCC policies

GRADE TABLE PLSC 212: THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS**SEMESTER:** FALL 2021**Marking style:** Mix (Please see the marking style for individual activity below)**INSTRUCTOR:** M. USMAN FAROOQ

No.	Course Activity	Marks	Percentage of final grade	Assessment criteria	Time and Date of the Exam	Marking Style
1	Mid-Term	20	20%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
2	Final Exam	20	20%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
3	Research Paper	20	20%	Written assignment (on Individual basis)	Last date to submit your final research paper is 15 th February 2022	Absolute Marking
4	Colloquium on research paper	10	10%	Video recorded Individual Power point presentation on the research paper	Monday 3 rd January till 8 th January	Absolute Marking
5	Class Participation 1	10	10%	Group Presentation on an assigned text by the instructor	Will be assigned according to our weekly course plan	Absolute Marking
6	Class Participation 2	10	10%	Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material	In the last two weeks of our classes	Relative Marking
7	Class Participation 3	10	10%	Cross-Questioning all the presentations	In every presentation held in the class	Relative Marking
Total	7 Activities	100 Marks	100%			

Details of Each Class Activity

1) Mid-Term Exam (20 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

- I. I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester
- II. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

If there is only one question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.

If there is, a need for a 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes

I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call).

2) Research Paper (20 Marks): Individual Written Assignment

By the end of the course you are required to submit a “research paper” (Individually written paper) on the topic directly related to the themes and content of our course and approved by your instructor. Here is a complete guide to writing a research paper specifically designed for the students of comparative politics:

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/departement-science-politique/sites/sciencespo.fr.departement-science-politique/files/Guidelines%20for%20research%20paper%20Comparative%20Politics%202019.pdf>

3) Colloquium on Research Paper

This activity is designed to assist your research paper writing and research. You will be required to present your presentation in powerpoint or other similar programs. You will have to make the video of this presentation and send it in our whatsapp group, or upload on google drive and share the link in our class whatsapp group. Your presentation will be of 10 minutes in total and In your presentation, you will introduce your research topic, theoretical approach, research methodology, research question and objectives and the justification of your topic (explaining how your topic is connected to our course). At the end of your presentation you can ask question(s) if you have any problem in your research paper from the participants and the instructor. The colloquium will be conducted in two online sessions on a weekend. Every presentation will be heard online during those sessions and we will have a question answer session of 10 minutes by the end of each presentation.

Please Note: For privacy purposes, all the presenters are free to make an audio powerpoint presentation (if the desire so). As long as you have a clear approach in your content and your make it presentable, audio or video does not matter to me.

4) Class Participation 1 (10 Marks): Group Presentation on an assigned text by the Instructor

For every class session, there is a reading. Each reading of the course will be assigned to a particular group to prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. We will have a lecture on that phenomenon by the instructor and later question answer session on the text. The students will make the groups and the instructor for this activity will assign reading.

5) Class Participation 2 (10 Marks): Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material

You are required to select a research article, research essay, research paper, book chapter etc that is not part of our class readings but directly related to our course content and prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. This is not a group activity rather individual. You will select the topic and the dates to present in the last two weeks of our class.

6) Class participation 3 (10 Marks): Cross-Questioning all the presentations

All participants of the course are required to cross-question wherever is asked by the instructor. In this course students can cross-question every presentation without any exception. Your cross-questioning will be recorded by the class representative and instructor and you will be assessed based on the number of good academic question you will ask.

7) Final Exam (20 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm/final exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

- 1) If there is only 1 question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross-question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.
- 2) If there is a need for 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes
- 3) I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call).