

Department of Political Science  
Forman Christian College

Course Outline PLSC 212: Theories  
of Comparative Politics

Instructor: M. Usman Farooq

Fall Semester 2022

MWF :16:00-16:50

Venue: E-213

Section: A

Instructor: M. Usman Farooq  
usmanfarooq@fccollege.edu.pk

Office: E-114A

Office Hours: TR 9:30 to 11 AM



## 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 Hebermas
- **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

## Assessment/Evaluation

Type of Assessment	Marks
Mid Term Exam	30
Final Research Paper	30
Class Participation and Attendance	20
Assignment (On Research Methods)	20
Total Marks	100

## 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