

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLC 2300)
SPRING 2018**

**Joseph Merrick Jones Memorial 204
Mondays and Wednesdays 11-11:50**

Discussion Sections: Fridays, 11-11:50 (01&02) or 3-3:50 (03&04)

Professor: Virginia Oliveros

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Office: Political Science Department, 311 Norman Mayer Building

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm

Teaching Assistants:

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Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00-11:00 at Norman Mayer 318

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course offers an introduction to the comparative politics subfield. The course is divided into five units: 1) A brief introduction to the comparative politics subfield and its methods; 2) State, Order, and Political Violence; 3) Democracy, Dictatorship, and Democratization; 4) Democratic Institutions; and 5) Democratic Institutions and Social Outcomes.

By the end of the semester, students should have a good understanding of what political scientist know (and don't know) about these topics. In addition, this course prepares students to make, evaluate, and compare arguments about politics, while introducing them to the different methods that political scientists use in their research. As we address the core topics of the class, we will be discussing particular countries. However, the main goal of the class will be to use political science concepts and methods to examine different arguments that seek to explain more general patterns within and across countries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students should:

1. Have a good understanding of the fundamentals of comparative politics.
2. Be able to discuss, evaluate, and compare different arguments in the comparative literature about phenomena such as the state, political violence, democracy and democratization, authoritarianism, presidentialism and parliamentarism, federalism, political participation, economic development, and redistribution.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

On Mondays and Wednesdays, the class will meet for a lecture with Prof. Oliveros. On Fridays, students will meet in smaller sections with a Teaching Assistant. A different room has been assigned to your section number. You can find your section # on your registration materials. Attendance at both the lectures and discussion sections is required, and you must attend the discussion section in which you are registered.

Your TA is the point person for this course. If you have questions or concerns about course materials, class absences, your performance, or any other class-related issue, you should FIRST go to your TA. In most cases, he/she will be able to help you with any issue that arises, particularly when it is related to class materials and performance. You can come to Prof. Oliveros if you are unable to resolve the issue with the TA. If you come to Prof. Oliveros first, you will be asked to go back to your TA.

REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Date	Percent
Attendance		5%
Participation		5%
Exam 1	February 28	20%
Exam 2	April 11	20%
Short Paper	April 20*	15%
Final Cumulative Exam	May 9	35%

*Topic and country need to be approved by your TA by March 23.

1. ATTENDANCE (5%)

Attendance at both the lectures and sections is mandatory and extremely important to succeed in this class. During class, we will discuss some topics that might not be in any of the readings and they will be part of the exams.

2. PARTICIPATION (5%)

You are expected to have done the required readings by the day listed on the syllabus and revised them before your section meets to be able to actively participate in the discussion. An "A" in participation will be achieved with active participation every Friday that demonstrates familiarity with the readings. This, of course, includes asking questions. But your questions and comments during sections should reflect the time spent with the readings. Your TA may set additional assignments for sections such as pop quizzes and/or discussion questions.

3. TWO IN-CLASS EXAMS (20% EACH)

The exams will take place on **February 28th** (Weeks 1-6) and **April 11th** (Weeks 8-12). You **must** take these exams at the scheduled time. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical excuse. Make travel plans accordingly. The exams will include material presented in the readings, the book, and during lectures and discussion sections.

4. SHORT PAPER (15%)

A 4-5 paged paper (double-spaced, 12 inch font, 1 inch margins) on a developing and/or young democracy of your choosing. In the paper, you will assess the strengths and weakness of a democratic institution (elections, the party system, the presidential/parliamentary system, the courts, etc.) in that country. For this assignment, you will have to conduct some independent research. You must clear your proposed paper topic and country with your TA by **March 23rd**. The paper is due on **Friday April 20th at 11am** on Canvas. Please, bring a hard copy of the paper to your section as well.

5. IN-CLASS CUMULATIVE FINAL (35%)

The cumulative final exam will be a closed-book exam covering material from the entire semester. The format of the exam will be discussed on the last day of classes. The final exam, as set by the registrar, will take place on **Wednesday, May 9th, 9:30-noon**. No exceptions.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

1. Please, do not eat during class. Beverages are fine.
2. Students are not allowed to use laptops in class. For details on why I do not allow laptops, see: <http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>
3. Make sure your cell phone is turned off and do not text during class.
4. Attendance is mandatory. If you missed a class, please get the notes from another student.

READINGS

Students are expected to read each of the required readings carefully before coming to class. When you read an article or a book chapter, think about the following questions: What's the main argument? Do you believe it? Why? Why not? Is the evidence presented convincing? How broadly would you expect the argument to hold?

There is one required textbook (available at Tulane University Bookstore, online, and on reserve):

Samuels, David. 2013. *Comparative Politics*. Pearson Education.

The rest of the assigned readings are posted on Blackboard.

POLICIES

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and extremely important to succeed in this class. During lectures and sections we will discuss some topics that might not be in any of the readings and they will be part of the exams. If you missed a class, ask another student for the notes (the class' slides alone won't be enough).

Make-up Exams

There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical emergency. Make travel plans accordingly.

Late Policy

For each day the paper is late, one-third of a letter grade is deducted *up to five days late*. After that point, papers will not be accepted. I strongly encourage you to discuss any problems with your TA *before* the papers are due.

Grading

This course will be graded according to the following scale:

A	>=93	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	59 &
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	below

Disputing grades:

Your TA will be happy to go over any exam or paper with you to help you to improve for the final. Indeed, I encourage you to go to office hours to do so, especially if you think that you did study hard but did not get the expected results. Request for re-grading, though, must be done in writing. Any student requesting re-grading should describe (based on the class' materials) what he/she feels constitute the correct answer and how his/hers work meets the standard described.

Academic Honesty

Students are required to act in accordance with the Code of Academic Conduct. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board. Please familiarize yourself with the Code of Academic Conduct:
<http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>.

Goldman Office of Disability Services (ODS)

The ODS' mission is to provide services and promote an accessible environment to all members of the Tulane community. Students with psychological, medical/physical, and learning/developmental disabilities who need accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance. See: <http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.cfm>

If you have any kind of special circumstances, such as a disability, illness or handicap, let me know as soon as possible. This information is confidential. Students needing

accommodations must provide me with a Course Accommodation Form and if applicable, an Exam Request Form (“blue sheet”) in order to schedule an exam to be taken at ODS. Accommodations involving exams must be requested to me at least four days before a test or seven days before a final exam. Any student receiving an exam-related accommodation should plan to take the exam at ODS.

Respect for all people

Tulane University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As “One Wave,” Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault or sexual harassment, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available. Learn more at onewave.tulane.edu. Any and all of your communications on these matters will be treated as either “Strictly Confidential” or “Mostly Confidential” as explained in the chart below.

Strictly Confidential	Mostly Confidential
<i>Except in extreme circumstances, involving imminent danger to one’s self or others, nothing will be shared without your explicit permission.</i>	<i>Conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information is shared with key staff members so the University can offer resources and accommodations and take action if necessary for safety reasons.</i>
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) (504) 314-2277	Coordinator of Violence Prevention (504) 314-2161
Student Health Center (504) 865-5255	Tulane University Police (TUPD) (504) 865-5911
Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education (SAPHE) (504) 654-9543	Office of Institutional Equity (504) 862-8083

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction

January 17 [Wednesday]: Introduction

Overview of syllabus, course requirements, and introduction to the course

JANUARY 19 [FRIDAY]: NO SECTION

Week 2: Comparative Politics

January 22 [Monday]: What is Comparative Politics?

Samuels, Chapter 1: 1-8

Munck, Gerardo. 2007. "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics," pp. 32-59 in Munck Gerardo and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press: 32-59.

January 24 [Wednesday]: Methods in Comparative Politics

Samuels, Chapter 1: 8- 26

January 26 [Friday]: Discussion Section

PART II: THE STATE, ORDER, AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Week 3: The State

January 29 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 2: 28-38

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making as Organized Crime." In Peter Evans et al. (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 161-191.

January 31 [Wednesday]

Samuels, Chapter 2: 38-57

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 1.

February 2 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Finnegan, William. 2016. "Venezuela, a Failing State," *New Yorker*, Nov. 14.

Week 4: Political Violence and State Weakness

February 5 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 10

February 7 [Wednesday]

Ross, Michael. 2008. "Blood Barrels: Why Oil Wealth Fuels Conflict." *Foreign Affairs* (May/June): 2-8.

February 9 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Gettleman, Jeffrey. 2007. "As Somali Crisis Swells, Experts See a Void in Aid." *NYT*, 11/20.

Scacco, Alexandra. 2013. "Chapter 9: Nigeria." In David Samuels (Ed.), *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*: 345-351 ("Ethnicity, Oil, and Violent Conflict").

PART III: DEMOCRACY, DICTATORSHIP, AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Week 5: Democracies and Non-Democracies

FEBRUARY 12 [MONDAY]: MARDI GRAS BREAK

February 14 [Wednesday]: Democratic Regimes

Samuels, Chapter 3: 58-65.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 1.

Karl, Terry and Phillippe Schmitter. 1991. "What Democracy Is... and is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88.

February 16 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Week 6: Democracies and Non-Democracies II

February 19 [Monday]: Non- Democratic Regimes

Samuels, Chapter 4.

February 21 [Wednesday]: Competitive Authoritarianism

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 51-65.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Anna Lührmann, and Staffan. I.Lindberg. 2017. "How Much Democratic Backsliding?" *Journal of Democracy*, 28(4): 162-169.

February 23 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt. 2017. "How a Democracy Dies," *The New Republic*, 7 December.

Szalai, Jennifer. 2018. "Will Democracy Survive President Trump? Two New Books Aren't So Sure," *New York Times*, 1/10.

WEEK 7: EXAM!

FEBRUARY 26 [MONDAY]: REVIEW FOR THE EXAM

FEBRUARY 28 [WEDNESDAY]: IN-CLASS EXAM 1

March 2 [Friday]: REVIEW OF THE EXAM

Week 8: Explaining Political Regimes I: Cultural Determinants

March 5 {Monday}: Culture

Samuels, Chapter 5: 123- 125 ("The Civic Culture").

Samuels, Chapter 6: 153- 161.

Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "Culture is Destiny. A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 109-126.

Dae Jung, Kim. 1994. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." *Foreign Affairs* (November/December): 189-194.

March 7 [Wednesday]: Religion

Samuels, Chapter 7.

Stepan, Alfred and Graeme Robertson. 2003. "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Democracy Gap." *Journal of Democracy* 14(3): 30-44.

March 9 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Week 9: Explaining Political Regimes II: Economic Determinants, and Transitions

March 12 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 5: 125-129 ("Economic Change")

Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2009. "How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization." *Foreign Affairs* 88(2): 33-48.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs. 2005. "Development and Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 84(5): 77-86.

March 14 [Wednesday]

Boix, Carles. 2006. "The Roots of Democracy." *Policy Review* 135 (Feb/Mar).

Samuels, Chapter 5: 129-146.

March 16 [Friday]: Discussion Section

PART IV: DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Week 10: Political Participation, Parties, and Elections

March 19 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 3: 79-87.

March 21 [Wednesday]

Samuels, Chapter 9: 246-253.

Stokes, Susan C. 1999. "Political parties and democracy." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2(1): 243-267.

March 23 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Douglas, Amy. 2002. "How Proportional Representation Would Finally Solve our Redistricting and Gerrymandering Problems."
(http://www.fairvote.org/how_proportional_representation_would_finally)

WEEK 11 [MARCH 26-30]: SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government

APRIL 2 [MONDAY]: SPRING BREAK

April 4 [Wednesday]

Samuels, Chapter 3: 66-67 ("Madison's Dilemma"), 69-79 ("Executive-Legislative Relations", "Judicial Review versus Parliamentary Supremacy"), and 88-89 ("Conclusion").

Ansell, Ben and Jane Gingrich. 2013. "Chapter 2: United Kingdom." In David Samuels (Ed.), *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*: 49-60 ("Institutions of the United Kingdom").

April 6 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-70.

Week 13:

APRIL 9 [MONDAY]: REVIEW FOR THE EXAM

APRIL 11 [WEDNESDAY]: IN-CLASS EXAM 2

April 13 [Friday]: REVIEW OF THE EXAM

PART V: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES

Week 14: Economic Development

April 16 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 11

April 18 [Wednesday]

Siegle, Joseph, Michael Weinstein and Morton Halpenn. 2004. "Why Democracies Excel."
Foreign Affairs (Sept/Oct) 83(5): 57-71.

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1993. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth."
Journal of Economic Perspectives 7 (3): 51-69.

April 20 [Friday]: Discussion Section

PAPER IS DUE ON CANVAS AT 11AM. BRING ALSO A HARD COPY TO YOUR SECTION.

Week 15: Redistributive Politics and the Welfare State

April 23 [Monday]

Samuels, Chapter 12

April 26 [Wednesday]

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 6.

April 28 [Friday]: Discussion Section

Shorto, Russell. 2009. "Going Dutch: How I learned to Love the European Welfare State,"
The New York Times, April 29.

Week 16: Democratic Politics, Quality of Democracy, and The Rule of Law

APRIL 30 [FRIDAY]: LAST DAY OF CLASSES!

O'Donnell Guillermo. 1993. "On the state, democratization, and some conceptual problems: a Latin American view with some postcommunist countries." *World Development* 21(8): 1355-69.

MAY 9 [WEDNESDAY]: 9:30 - NOON. FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM