

# **POIS 205: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS Fall 2015**

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**Instructor:** Florian Justwan, Ph.D.

**Class:** Tuesday, Thursday; 03:30 pm - 04:45 pm (TLC 149)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2:00-5:00 & By Appointment (Administration 323)

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the basic theories and issues in the field of Comparative Politics. After a short introduction which covers the essentials of comparative methodology, the first part of the course is devoted to the issues of economic development and regime type. We will explore the factors that lead to economic growth and the establishment of stable democratic systems. In the second part of the class, we will take a closer look at the institutions of government. We will investigate the reasons why different countries work under different political institutions and explore the benefits and shortcomings of different institutional configurations. Finally, in the last part of the course, we will focus on a wide variety of important social issues and analyze them from a comparative perspective.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

You will need to buy two books for this class:

- Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood (2013). *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stearns, Jason (2012). *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Most our weekly readings will come from the Dickovick and Eastwood textbook. All other readings will be provided to you online. It is absolutely essential that you carefully read all of the required material prior to each class session. I expect that you take your responsibilities seriously. Failing to do so will both significantly impact your grade and the quality of our in-class debate.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

- 15% Attendance & Participation
- 15% Six Reading Quizzes
- 20% Strategy and Reflection Paper for in-class simulation
  - Part I (10%): Due on December 1 at the beginning of class.
  - Part II (10%): Due December 11 at 5:00 pm
- 25% Midterm Exam (October 13)
- 25% Take-home Final Exam (Due Date: December 16)

### Attendance

Each unexcused absence will lower your final participation grade (calculated on a scale from 0 – 100) by 5 percent. I will take attendance every day. Therefore, it is essential that you show up on time. If you do come in late, it is your responsibility to approach me *directly after class* (as long as I am still in the classroom) and make sure that I checked your name on the class roll.

### Participation (15 percent)

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your oral contributions during class. As stated above, I expect you to read and think about the assigned material prior to our meetings. In class, you should be able to discuss the main arguments and demonstrate that you are able to connect the readings with the larger context. Please note that your participation grade is only affected by *active* participation. If you don't talk, your final participation grade will be a 60 (minus 5 x *number of unexcused absences*). If you have any concerns about your participation grade, contact me as soon as possible.

### Reading Quizzes (15 percent)

There will be 6 unannounced readings quizzes over the course of the term. The quizzes will be composed of multiple choice and/or short answers that cover the assigned readings for each day. Reading quizzes will NOT be made-up if you are absent. However, only five of those six quizzes will be used to calculate your grade. In other words, I will drop your lowest score at the end of the semester.

### Exams

There are 2 exams in this class – 1 midterm (25 percent) and 1 final exam (25 percent). Exam material will be drawn from the following: lecture notes, assigned required readings, class discussion, movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. **All exams are cumulative.** One piece of advice: Do the required readings, attend class, and participate and you will be very well prepared for both exams.

### Paper (20 percent)

At the end of the term (Week 15), we will conduct a small in-class simulation of a Constitutional Convention. Every student will act as representative of a societal group in an assigned country. The goal is to forge a constitution for this newly (re)created state. As part of your preparation, you will be required to compose a 3,000-word strategy paper. This

assignment comes in two parts. The first part (2,000 words) is due at the beginning of class on December 1 and it will count for 10 percent of your final grade. Here, you should describe your goals for the constitutional convention and explain how you want to achieve those goals during the in-class negotiations. The second part (1,000 words) is due on December 11 at 5pm and it will count for another 10 percent of your final grade. In this section, you will reflect on a pre-determined set of questions. On October 15, I will announce more details about this simulation and the paper assignment.

## **GRADE SCALE**

Note: final grades will NOT be rounded

- A = 90.00-100.00
- B = 80.00-89.99
- C = 70.00-79.99
- D = 60.00-69.99
- F = 00.00-59.99

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Absences & Make-Up Exams

As stated above, attendance is absolutely essential if you want to succeed in this class. You are permitted TWO unexcused absences. Every other absence will lower your participation grade by 5 percent, unless you have a valid excuse (medical, academic, etc.) AND proper documentation. Make-up exams are ONLY offered for documented absences. If you know in advance that you have a conflict preventing you from taking one of the exams at the scheduled date, please contact me as soon as possible.

### Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance of the academic honesty policy is not an acceptable defense. Each student must meet the standards laid down in the University of Idaho's "Student Code of Conduct" (<http://www.uidaho.edu/DOS/judicialaffairs/studentcodeofconduct>). I will report all instances of academic dishonesty.

### Disabilities

Students who need note-takers or are supposed to take their tests at Disability Services should let me know as soon as possible so we can make accommodations for you.

### Classroom Etiquette

The use of cell phones, iPods, iPads, or any other electronic device will not be permitted during class meetings. I will permit you a laptop ONLY to take notes and review online readings. Please note that I reserve the right to reverse this policy at any time

### Grade Appeals

If you believe your exams or assignments have been graded unfairly, you can appeal your grade in written form. You have to hand in your appeal on the day after the assignment or exam was returned. Comparisons to other students' graded assignments will not be accepted for a complaint. Hand in the original copy of the graded assignment/exam together with the written appeal. I will reevaluate your grade in light of the argument that you made. However, the new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade and it will be final.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (This is only a tentative schedule for this course. Content may change)

<b>PART I: Introduction</b>		
<b>Week 1</b>		<b>Introduction and the Comparative Method</b>
	August 25 (T)	No Class.
	August 27 (R)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b>		<b>The State</b>
	Sept. 1 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 3
	Sept. 3 (R)	S. Krasner (2013). "Abiding Sovereignty." In: Mansbach, R. W., Edward Rhodes (eds). <i>Introducing Globalization: Analysis and Readings</i> . Los Angeles: Sage, pp. 229-242 (Chapter 9.2).
<b>PART II: Development and Democracy</b>		
<b>Week 3</b>		<b>Economic Development</b>
	Sept. 8 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Diamond (2005). "The Shape of Africa." <i>National Geographic</i> 208 (3), pp. 25-30.</li> <li>• D. Acemoglu and J.A. Robinson (2012). <i>Why Nations Fail</i>. Crown Publishers, New York. Chapter 3.</li> </ul>
	Sept. 10 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G. Warner (2015). "A Taxi App Aims To Build Trust Where Crime Is High." <i>NPR</i>, June 03, 2015.</li> <li>• P. Zak (2008). "The Neurobiology of Trust." <i>Scientific American</i>, May 2008, pp. 88-95.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>Democracy and Democratization I</b>
	Sept. 15 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 5.
	Sept. 17 (R)	R. Inglehart and C. Welzel (2009). "Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy." In: L. Mayer, D. Patterson, and F. Thames (eds). <i>Contending Perspectives in Comparative Politics</i> . CQ Press, Washington, pp. 485-514.
<b>Week 5</b>		<b>Democracy and Democratization II</b>
	Sept. 22 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 6.
	Sept. 24 (R)	F. Zakaria (1997). "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." In: <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 76 (6), pp. 22-43.

<b>PART III: Institutions of Government</b>		
<b>Week 6</b>		<b>Constitutions and Constitutional Design</b>
	Sept. 29 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 7.
	Oct. 1 (R)	S. Kane, J. R. Hiltermann, and R. Alkadiri (2012). "Iraq's Federalism Quandary." In: The National Interest (February 28, 2012).
<b>Week 7</b>		<b>Legislatures &amp; Legislative Elections</b>
	Oct. 6 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 8.
	Oct. 8 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Meisburger (2012). "Getting Majoritarianism Right." In: Journal of Democracy 23 (1), pp. 155 - 163.</li> <li>• A. Reynolds and John M. Carey (2012). "Getting Elections Wrong." In: Journal of Democracy 23 (1), pp. 164 - 168.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b>		<b>Midterm Exam Week</b>
	Oct. 13 (T)	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>
	Oct. 15 (R)	Required Reading: Materials for in-class simulation.
<b>Week 9</b>		<b>Executives</b>
	Oct. 20 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 9.
	Oct. 22 (R)	J. Linz (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism." In: Journal of Democracy 1 (1), pp. 51-69.
<b>PART IV: Politics, Society, and Culture</b>		
<b>Week 10</b>		<b>Contention</b>
	Oct. 27 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 11.
	Oct. 29 (R)	W. Rees & R. Aldrich (2005). "Contending cultures of counterterrorism: transatlantic divergence or convergence?" In: International Affairs 85 (5), pp. 905-923.
<b>Week 11</b>		<b>Nationalism &amp; National Identity</b>
	Nov. 3 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 12.
	Nov. 5 (R)	S. P. Huntington (2004). Who are We? The challenges to America's identity. New York, Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1

<b>Week 12</b>		<b>Gender</b>
	Nov. 10 (T)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 13.
	Nov. 12 (R)	Movie: Pray the Devil Back to Hell.
<b>Week 13</b>		<b>Ideology &amp; Religion</b>
	Nov. 17 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Pray the Devil back to Hell.</li> <li>• No required reading. Start / continue working on your papers and start reading “Dancing in the Glory of Monsters” (Week 16)!</li> </ul>
	Nov. 19 (R)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 14.
<b>Week 14</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
	Nov. 24 (T)	No class.
	Nov. 26 (R)	No class.
<b>Week 15</b>		<b>In-Class Simulation: Constitutional Designs</b>
	Dec. 1 (T)	In-Class Simulation 1.
	Dec. 3 (R)	In-Class Simulation 2.
<b>Week 16</b>		<b>Structure, Culture, and Institutions - Case Study: The Collapse of the Congo</b>
	Dec. 8 (T)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Introduction, Part I and Part II.
	Dec. 10 (R)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Part III, Part IV and Conclusion.
<b>Week 17</b>		<b>Take-home Final Exam Week</b>
	Dec. 13 (Sun) at 8:00 am	Take-home final exam emailed to all course participants.
	Dec. 16 (W) at 11:59 am	<b>Due date for take-home Final Exam</b> (email: <a href="mailto:fjustwan@uidaho.edu">fjustwan@uidaho.edu</a> )