

# POIS 205: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS Fall 2016

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

**Class:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (AD 326) / 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm (ED 141)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:30am - 12:00pm

Wednesday: 3:30pm – 5:00pm (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 (2015). *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. **Second Edition**. 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 (**note**: a digital version of this book is available for free via the UI library).

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
10%	Strategy Paper for in-class simulation
20%	Midterm Exam 1 (September 26)
20%	Midterm Exam 2 (October 31)
35%	Final Exam

### 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.

### Exams

There are 3 exams in this class – 2 midterms (20 percent each) and 1 final exam (35 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 (10 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 2,000-word strategy paper. This assignment is due at the beginning of class on November 28 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. On October 28, 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. Finally, if you want 3 points of extra credit on the first midterm exam, send me an email with the subject line "Go Vandals!" before the beginning of class on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### 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

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services, located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306, in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course. Contact DSS at 208-885-6307, email [dss@uidaho.edu](mailto:dss@uidaho.edu) or go to [www.uidaho.edu/dss](http://www.uidaho.edu/dss).

### 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 22 (M)	No readings.
	August 24 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This syllabus.</li> <li>• Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 1.</li> </ul>
	August 26 (F)	No readings.
<b>Week 2</b>		<b>The State</b>
	August 29 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 3 (pages 46 – 57).
	August 31 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 3 (pages 57 – 69).
	Sept. 2 (F)	No Class.
<b>Week 3</b>		<b>Political Economy</b>
	Sept. 5 (M)	No Class. Labor Day.
	Sept. 7 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 4.
	Sept. 9 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorto, R. (2009). Going Dutch: How I Learned to Love the European Welfare State. In: The New York Times Magazine (April 19, 2009). From: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03european-t.html?pagewanted=all">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03european-t.html?pagewanted=all</a></li> <li>• Economist. (2012.) Rethinking the Welfare State: Asia's Next Revolution. In: The Economist (September 8, 2012). From: <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/21562195">http://www.economist.com/node/21562195</a></li> </ul>
<b>PART II: Development and Democracy</b>		
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>Development</b>
	Sept. 12 (M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 4 (pages 96 – 103).</li> <li>• Slaper, T. &amp; Hall, T. (2011). The triple bottom line: what is it and how does it work? Indiana Business Review, 86(1), 4-8.</li> <li>• Gertner, J. (2010). The Rise and Fall of the GDP (May 13, 2010). From: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/magazine/16GDP-t.html?_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/magazine/16GDP-t.html?_r=0</a></li> </ul>
	Sept. 14 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 4 (pages 103 – 118).

	Sept. 16 (F)	No Readings.
<b>Week 5</b>		<b>Democracy and Democratization I</b>
	Sept. 19 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 6 (pages 119 – 130).
	Sept. 21 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 6 (pages 131 – 144).
	Sept. 23 (F)	No Readings.
<b>Week 6</b>		<b>Democracy and Democratization II</b>
	Sept. 26 (M)	<i>MIDTERM EXAM 1</i>
	Sept. 28 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 7.
	Sept. 30 (F)	Watch pre-recorded lecture (bblearn).
<b>PART III: Institutions of Government</b>		
<b>Week 7</b>		<b>Constitutions and Constitutional Design</b>
	Oct. 3 (M)	Vatanka, A. (2016). Iran’s Supreme Politics: The Battle to Succeed Khamenei Heats Up. In: <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (May 8, 2016).
	Oct. 5 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 8 (pages 172 – 180).
	Oct. 7 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 8 (pages 180 – 197).</li> <li>• S. Kane, J. R. Hiltermann, and R. Alkadiri (2012).” Iraq's Federalism Quandary.” In: <i>The National Interest</i> (February 28, 2012).</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b>		<b>Legislatures &amp; Legislative Elections</b>
	Oct. 10 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 9.
	Oct. 12 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Meisburger (2012). “Getting Majoritarianism Right.” In: <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 23 (1), pp. 155 - 163.</li> <li>• A. Reynolds and John M. Carey (2012). “Getting Elections Wrong.” In: <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 23 (1), pp. 164 - 168.</li> </ul>
	Oct. 14 (F)	No class!
<b>Week 9</b>		<b>Executives</b>
	Oct. 17 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 10.
	Oct. 19 (W)	J. Linz (1990). “The Perils of Presidentialism.” In: <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 1 (1), pp. 51-69.

	Oct. 21 (F)	No Readings.
		<b>PART IV: Politics, Society, and Culture</b>
<b>Week 10</b>		<b>Contention</b>
	Oct. 24 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 12.
	Oct. 26 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economist. (2016). The Arab Winter. In: The Economist (January 9, 2016). From: <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/21685503/print">http://www.economist.com/node/21685503/print</a></li> <li>• Lowenthal, A. and Sergio Bitar. (2016). Getting to Democracy: Lessons from Successful Transitions. In: Foreign Affairs (January/February 2016).</li> </ul>
	Oct. 28 (F)	Required Reading: Materials for in-class simulation.
<b>Week 11</b>		<b>Ideology &amp; Religion</b>
	Oct. 31 (M)	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2</b>
	Nov. 2 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 15.
	Nov. 4 (F)	No Readings.
<b>Week 12</b>		<b>Gender</b>
	Nov. 7 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 14.
	Nov. 9 (W)	Movie: Pray the Devil Back to Hell.
	Nov. 11 (F)	Movie: Pray the Devil Back to Hell.
<b>Week 13</b>		<b>Nationalism &amp; National Identity</b>
	Nov. 14 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 13.
	Nov. 16 (W)	Reader on Hindu Nationalism (complete).
	Nov. 18 (F)	No required reading. Start / continue working on your papers and start reading "Dancing in the Glory of Monsters" (Week 16)!
<b>Week 14</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
	Nov. 21 (M)	No class.

	Nov. 23 (W)	No class.
	Nov. 25 (F)	No class.
<b>Week 15</b>		<b>In-Class Simulation: Constitutional Designs</b>
	Nov. 28 (M)	In-Class Simulation 1.
	Nov. 30 (W)	In-Class Simulation 2.
	Dec. 2 (F)	In-Class Simulation 3.
<b>Week 16</b>		<b>Structure, Culture, and Institutions - Case Study: The Collapse of the Congo</b>
	Dec. 5 (M)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Introduction, Part I and Part II.
	Dec. 7 (W)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Part III, Part IV.
	Dec. 9 (F)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Conclusion.
<b>Week 17</b>		<b>Final Exam Week</b>
	Dec. 12 (M)	<b>12:30 class:</b> 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
	Dec. 15 (T)	<b>2:30 class:</b> 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.