

POIS 205: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS Fall 2017

Instructor: Florian Justwan, Ph.D.

Class: Mon, Wed, Fri; 12:30pm - 1:20pm (NICCOL 301) / 2:30pm - 3:20pm (TLC 149)

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 25)
20%	Midterm Exam 2 (October 30)
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 strategy paper. This assignment is due at the beginning of class on November 27 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 27, 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 THREE 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/student-affairs/dean-of-students/student-conduct/student-code-of-conduct>). 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 or go to 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)

PART I: Introduction		
Week 1		Introduction and the Comparative Method
	August 21 (M)	No class.
	August 23 (W)	This syllabus.
	August 25 (F)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 1.
Week 2		The State
	August 28 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 3 (pages 46 – 57).
	August 30 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 3 (pages 57 – 69).
	Sept. 1 (F)	No Class.
Week 3		Political Economy
	Sept. 4 (M)	No Class. Labor Day.
	Sept. 6 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 4.
	Sept. 8 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorto, R. (2009). Going Dutch: How I Learned to Love the European Welfare State. In: The New York Times Magazine (April 19, 2009). From: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03european-t.html?pagewanted=all • Economist. (2012.) Rethinking the Welfare State: Asia's Next Revolution. In: The Economist (September 8, 2012). From: http://www.economist.com/node/21562195
PART II: Development and Democracy		
Week 4		Development
	Sept. 11 (M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 5 (pages 96 – 103). • Slaper, T. & Hall, T. (2011). The triple bottom line: what is it and how does it work? Indiana Business Review, 86(1), 4-8. • Gertner, J. (2010). The Rise and Fall of the GDP (May 13, 2010). From: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/magazine/16GDP-t.html?_r=0
	Sept. 13 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 5 (pages 103 – 118).
	Sept. 15 (F)	No Readings.

Week 5		Democracy and Democratization I
	Sept. 18 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 6 (pages 119 – 130).
	Sept. 20 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 6 (pages 131 – 144).
	Sept. 22 (F)	No Readings.
Week 6		Democracy and Democratization II
	Sept. 25 (M)	<i>MIDTERM EXAM 1</i>
	Sept. 27 (W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 7.
	Sept. 29 (F)	Kelemen, D. and Orenstein, M. (2016). "Europe's Autocracy Problem Polish Democracy's Final Days?" In: Foreign Affairs (January 2016).
PART III: Institutions of Government		
Week 7		Constitutional Design
	Oct. 2 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 8 (pages 172 – 180).
	Oct. 4 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 8 (pages 180 – 197). • S. Kane, J. R. Hiltermann, and R. Alkadiri (2012). "Iraq's Federalism Quandary." In: The National Interest (February 28, 2012).
	Oct. 6 (F)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 9 (pages 198 – 205)
Week 8		Legislative Elections
	Oct. 9 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 9 (pages 205 – 225)
	Oct. 11 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Meisburger (2012). "Getting Majoritarianism Right." In: Journal of Democracy 23 (1), pp. 155 - 163. • A. Reynolds and John M. Carey (2012). "Getting Elections Wrong." In: Journal of Democracy 23 (1), pp. 164 - 168.
	Oct. 13 (F)	No class!
Week 9		Executives
	Oct. 16 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 10.
	Oct. 18 (W)	J. Linz (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism." In: Journal of Democracy 1 (1), pp. 51-69.
	Oct. 20 (F)	Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (on bblearn).

PART IV: Politics, Society, and Culture		
Week 10		Contention
	Oct. 23 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 12.
	Oct. 25 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economist. (2016). The Arab Winter. In: The Economist (January 9, 2016). From: http://www.economist.com/node/21685503/print • Lowenthal, A. and Sergio Bitar. (2016). Getting to Democracy: Lessons from Successful Transitions. In: Foreign Affairs (January/February 2016).
	Oct. 27 (F)	Required Reading: Materials for in-class simulation.
Week 11		Ideology & Religion
	Oct. 30 (M)	MIDTERM EXAM 2
	Nov. 1(W)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 15.
	Nov. 3 (F)	No Readings.
Week 12		Gender
	Nov. 6 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 14.
	Nov. 8 (W)	Read "Dancing in the Glory of Monsters" (Week 16)!
	Nov. 10 (F)	Read "Dancing in the Glory of Monsters" (Week 16)!
Week 13		Nationalism & National Identity
	Nov. 13 (M)	Dickovick and Eastwood Chapter 13.
	Nov. 15 (W)	Reader on Hindu Nationalism (complete).
	Nov. 17 (F)	Read "Dancing in the Glory of Monsters" (Week 16)!
Week 14		Thanksgiving Break
	Nov. 20 (M)	No class.
	Nov. 22 (W)	No class.
	Nov. 24 (F)	No class.

Week 15		In-Class Simulation: Constitutional Designs
	Nov. 27 (M)	In-Class Simulation 1.
	Nov. 29 (W)	In-Class Simulation 2.
	Dec. 1 (F)	In-Class Simulation 3.
Week 16		Structure, Culture, and Institutions - Case Study: The Collapse of the Congo
	Dec. 4 (M)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Introduction, Part I and Part II.
	Dec. 6 (W)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Part III, Part IV.
	Dec. 8 (F)	Dancing in the Glory of Monsters. Conclusion.
Week 17		Final Exam Week
	Dec. 12 (Tue)	12:30 class: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
	Dec. 15 (Fri)	2:30 class: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.