

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Kansas State University, Department of Political Science
Spring 2014
(POLSC 135, MWF 9:30-10:20 AM, Union 101)

Dr. Sabri Ciftci
Waters Hall 228e
Phone: 785 532 3514
Email: ciftci@ksu.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Hours:
M&W 10:30 – 11:30 AM
or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a sub-field of political science known as *comparative politics*. Our goals for this course are to understand and compare the political issues/processes in different parts of the world. Throughout the course we will focus on key issues like the state and its origins, democracy and its varieties, consolidation of democracy, government formation, party systems, and elections around the world. You will also learn about the comparative method as well as the empirical and qualitative tools used by comparative politics scholars. By completion of this course, you are expected to have a general knowledge of concepts and issues in comparative politics and be able to compare the political processes and political structures of various countries in a “comparative” manner. Furthermore, one important objective of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and tools that will allow them to critically evaluate the political processes around the globe.

Course Website

The online course is accessed through <http://public.online.ksu.edu>. You will have to check the course website regularly for changes to the reading assignments and the class schedule. All the lecture notes will be posted to the online course.

Reading Requirements

There is one required text for this course:

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2013. 2nd ed. Principles of Comparative Politics. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

The textbook is available at KSU Bookstore and Varney’s.

I encourage you to read a daily newspaper or a news portal with an “international news” section. Some examples are *The New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>), *Al-Jazeera.com*, and *The Independent* (<http://www.independent.co.uk>). You may choose another newspaper or an online portal with descent coverage of the world news.

Course Structure and Rules

Your final grade is the weighted average of attendance (10%), Quizzes (25%), assignments (15%), midterm (20%), and a final exam (30%). Homework assignments that are submitted late will not be graded and makeups will only be possible in case of documented medical or university-accepted excuses. Oversleeping, being tired, Spring Break etc. are not acceptable excuses. If you have one of the documented excuses, please notify me prior to the test date.

Readings, participation and attendance (10%): I will take attendance regularly in the class. You may miss at most three attendances. Medical documentation or an official letter for the university-related activities may be accepted for any missed attendances. During the lectures you are expected to ask questions, make meaningful contributions and foster the class discussion. Your success depends on your preparation, attendance and participation. Some of the material is technical and vigorous and it will be hard for you understand it without being present in the class. If you miss class, you should get the class notes from a fellow classmate to ensure success. For participation, you should post your reaction or comments about a movie or documentary that will be shown in class. These comments should be maximum 300 words.

Quizzes (25%): A total of 7 quizzes will be given in the class. I will drop the two with the lowest scores and use the top five in grade calculation. Each quiz will include multiple choice or true/false questions and it will be given in the beginning of the class.

Homework Assignments (15%): Your textbook includes questions and problems at the end of each chapter. You are required to submit three assignments from these sections. The assignment list and the due dates are listed at the end of this syllabus. The homework assignments should be handed in at the beginning of the class.

Midterm Exam (20%): There will be multiple choice and true-false questions in the exam. You will be responsible from all material covered until the date of the midterm and are expected to have a good knowledge of the political systems, concepts and topics covered in the class.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be cumulative. There will be multiple choice and true-false questions in the exam. You will be responsible from all material covered and are expected to have a good knowledge of the political systems, concepts and topics covered in the class.

Grading

Letter grades for the course will be assigned along the following scale:

A: 90% or greater B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: Below 60%

Academic Honesty/ Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: www.ksu.edu/honor.

"Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services and/or their instructor."

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	Jan 22, Wednesday	Introduction What is Comparative Politics	Clark et al., chapter 1, pp. 1-8
Week 1	Jan 24, Friday	What is Politics? Game theory as a tool Exit-Voice-Loyalty	Clark et al., chapter 3, pp. 49-79
Week 2	Jan 26, Monday	What is Politics? Game theory as a tool Exit-Voice-Loyalty	Clark et al., chapter 3, pp. 49-79
Week 2	Jan 29, Wednesday	Origins of the Modern State	Clark et al., chapter 4, pp. 87-91 & 100-124
Week 2	Jan 31, Friday	***Quiz 1*** MOVIE: A Beautiful Mind, Part 1	No reading
Week 3	Feb 3, Monday	Origins of the Modern State	Clark et al., chapter 4, pp. 87-91 & 100-124
Week 3	Feb 5, Wednesday	Origins of the Modern State	Clark et al., chapter 4, pp. 87-91 & 100-124
Week 3	Feb 7, Friday	***Quiz 2*** MOVIE: A Beautiful Mind, Part 2	No Reading
Week 4	Feb 10, Monday	What is Democracy and How should We Measure it?	Clark et al., chapter 5, pp. 143-160-
Week 4	Feb 12, Wednesday	What is Democracy and How should We Measure it? Economic determinants of democracy	Clark et al., chapter 5, pp. 143-160 Clark et al., chapter 6, pp. 172-208
Week 4	Feb 14, Friday	Movie: Hotel Rwanda, Part 1	No reading
Week 5	Feb 17, Monday	Economic determinants of democracy	Clark et al., chapter 6, pp. 172-208
Week 5	Feb 19, Wednesday	Economic determinants of democracy	Clark et al., chapter 6, pp. 172-208
Week 5	Feb 21, Friday	***Quiz 3*** Movie: Hotel Rwanda-Part 2	No Reading
Week 6	Feb 24, Monday	Cultural Determinants of Democracy	Clark et al., chapter 7, pp. 213-248
Week 6	Feb 26, Wednesday	Cultural Determinants of Democracy	Clark et al., chapter 7, pp. 213-248
Week 6	Feb 28, Friday	***Quiz 4***	No Reading
Week 7	March 3, Monday	No Class, Turkish Foreign Policy Workshop in Lawrence	No Reading
Week 7	March 5, Wednesday	Democratic Transitions	Clark et al., chapter 8, pp. 265-302
Week 7	March 7, Friday	Democratic Transitions	Clark et al., chapter 8, pp. 265-302
Week 8	March 10, Monday	***MIDTERM***	All Material Week1 – Week 7
Week 8	March 12, Wednesday	Varieties of Dictatorship	Clark et al., chapter 10, pp. 349-403

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 8	March 14m Friday	Varieties of Dictatorship	Clark et al., chapter 10, pp. 349-403
Week 9	March 17-March 21	NO CLASS, STUDENT HOLIDAY	NO Reading
Week 10	March 24, Monday	Varieties of Dictatorship	Clark et al., chapter 10, pp. 349-403
Week 10	March 26 Wednesday	Varieties of Dictatorship	Clark et al., chapter 10, pp. 349-403
Week 10: The	March 28 Friday	***Quiz 5*** Documentary: Arab Spring	NO READING
Week 11	March 31, Monday	Parliamentary, Presidential, and Mixed democracies	Clark et al., chapter 12
Week 11	April 2, Wednesday	Parliamentary, Presidential, and Mixed democracies	Clark et al., chapter 12
Week 11	April 4 Friday	NO CLASS, MPSA MEEETING	No Reading
Week 12	April 7, Monday	Parliamentary, Presidential, and Mixed democracies	Clark et al., chapter 12
Week 12	April 9, Monday	Parliamentary, Presidential, and Mixed democracies	Clark et al., chapter 12
Week 12	April 11, Friday	***Quiz 6*** Movie: A Separation, Part 1	
Week 13	April 14, Monday	Elections and Electoral Systems	Clark et al., chapter 13
Week 13	April 16, Wednesday	Elections and Electoral Systems	Clark et al., chapter 13
Week 13	April 18, Friday	Movie: A Separation, Part 2	No reading
Week 14	April 21, Monday	Elections and Electoral Systems	Clark et al., chapter 13
Week 14	April 23, Wednesday	Institutional Veto Players	Clark et al., chapter 15
Week 14	April 25, Friday	***Quiz 7***	
Week 15	April 28, Monday	Social Cleavages and Party Systems	Clark et al., chapter 14
Week 15	April 30, Wednesday	Social Cleavages and Party Systems	Clark et al., chapter 14
Week 15	May 2, Friday		
Week 16	May 5, Monday	Review	
	May 7, Wednesday	Makeup Exam Day	
	May 9, Friday	TBA	
	TBA	***FINAL EXAM***	

Assignments

The assignment list and the due dates are listed below. **Remember, you are expected to submit only three assignments from the list below.** You may choose any three from the list below. The homework assignments should be handed in at the beginning of the class. Assignments could be hand-written or typed. Hand-written assignments should be readable. Typed assignments should be in word, 12-points size, and free of spelling errors. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Assignment	Assignment Rule	Due Date
Chapter 3 Problem 1 OR Problem 2 OR Problem 3	Complete only <u>one problem</u>	January 31, in class
Chapter 4 Problem 1 OR Problem 4	Complete only <u>one problem</u>	February 7, in class
Chapter 6 Problem 1 (Classic modernization theory) OR Problem 2 (A variant of modernization theory), OR Problem 6 (Oil and Democracy)	Complete only <u>one problem</u>	February 21, in class
Chapter 7 Problem 3	Complete the problem	February 28, in class
Chapter 10 Problem 1	Complete the problem	March 28, in class
Chapter 12 Problem 12	Complete the problem	April 11, in class
Chapter 13 Problem 3 OR Problem 4	Complete only <u>one problem</u>	April 25, in class