

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 2: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Sergio Béjar-López
Office Location:	Clark 402C
Telephone:	(408) 924-8330 (during office hours only)
Email:	Sergio.Bejar@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)
Office Hours:	TTR 9:00-10:00 AM, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTR 7:30-8:45 AM
Classroom:	DMH 161
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D2

Course Description

Comparative analysis of different kinds of political systems; their political institutions, processes and policies; the environments in which they occur and their consequences.

This course satisfies the Comparative Systems, Cultures and Environments general education requirement (D2). This requirement was meant to ensure that students would learn how to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations or social systems. We will discuss examples of plenty of examples from both developed and developing countries with great variation in terms of political and economic development, as well as geographic, social and cultural factors. By the end of this course, students should be able to compare types of political systems as well as explain the effects of non-political factors on their political and economic development.

Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) Application: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to

- identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) Disciplinary methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.
 - 4) Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
 - 5) Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

This class satisfies the D2 general education requirement (Comparative Systems, Cultures and Environments). Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental and spatial contexts;
- 2) Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them;
- 3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications to appropriate to contemporary social issues;
- 4) Compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

Students will satisfy these requirements through a combination of class discussion, exams, and written papers.

Required readings

- 1) David Samuels, Comparative Politics, Pearson, 2013

You can purchase the required textbook and the i-clicker either at the SJSU bookstore or online.

The rest of the assigned readings will be available on Canvas.

Expectations & Course Activities

You are fully responsible for your performance in the course. I expect you to fulfill the course requirements to the best of your ability. You should come to class prepared to engage in discussions that will touch on the readings listed in the schedule below. Therefore, it is best if you do the reading in the textbook *before* the dates shown. With much information conveyed in class it is difficult to receive a good grade if you choose not to do the readings and/or attend lectures. Politics is a live field of study, and there are always current events across the world that we can link to our readings and discussions, so time will be devoted to discuss such events.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are highly recommended. Attendance at lectures has always been a good predictor of a student's performance on exams. If you miss class, you are expected to get notes from a fellow student – 'private make-up lectures' with the professor will not take place.

Courtesy, active listening, and participation will make this course a more enjoyable and productive experience for you and for others. Please plan to dedicate your full attention to the discussion and activities of class.

Policy on Technology in the Classroom

1. This classroom is a tech-free zone. Laptops are not permitted unless you have an accommodation from AEC. If you want to refer to assigned readings during class discussions, bring hard copies of articles to class or notes that you've taken on assigned readings.
2. Students should not use text or use cell phones in class. Violations of this rule will result in a deduction in your participation grade for each observed incident.

Course Requirements

Grades in the course will be based on the following items:

- Midterm exams 1 and 2 are each worth 20%
- The final exam is worth 30%
- Country News Analysis 15%
- Participation 5%

Two In-Class Midterm Exams (20% each)

You must sit in 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 both in the reading and in the lectures.

In-Class Cumulative Final Exam (30%)

The cumulative final exam will take place on Monday, May 21st (7:15-9:30 am). **No exceptions.** It will cover material from the entire semester. I will discuss the format of the exam during the last day of classes.

Country News Analysis (20%)

In this 4-5 page paper, students will analyze economic or political conditions in a country of their choosing using a concept, theme, or theory presented in the course. For example, you might analyze state capacity in Afghanistan, the backsliding of democracy in Venezuela, or Vietnam's transition to a market-based economy. You will then analyze two current events as they relate to your previous discussion.

Due date is April 17th.

Participation (10%)

Although this class is primarily lecture-based, your participation in class discussions is expected. Students are required to read all of the assigned readings and be prepared to speak about the main arguments/points in the readings. A significant portion of your grade will be based on your participation in class discussions and demonstrated familiarity with the readings. You should feel free to express your opinions and make comments during class discussions, but students who score highly in this realm are able to effectively reference information presented in the readings.

You will also have the opportunity to participate by answering questions with your i-Clicker throughout the semester. If you come to class every day but never participate in class discussions or answer questions with your i-Clicker, you will receive a "C" for your participation grade.

Grading and Written Work Policies

A+ = 97-100%; A = 93-96.9%; A- = 90-92.9%
B+ = 87-89.9%; B = 83-86.9%; B- = 80-82.9%
C+ = 77-79.9%; C = 73-76.9%; C- = 70-72.9%
D+ = 67-69.9%; D = 63-66.9%; D- = 60-62.9%
F = 59.99% - 0%

Email and Office Hours

Please feel free to contact me at sergio.bejar@sjsu.edu. I will respond to every email within 24 hours, and often sooner. Do not wait to contact me until the last minute to

email me about a paper or an exam; I receive many, many emails before deadlines and exams, and may not be able to email you back immediately.

Office hours are a great opportunity for you to get additional feedback on your work or just continue a conversation that we began during class – please use them! My office hours are in Clark 402C, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM T & Th.

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

I expect my students to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this.

Late Paper Policy

Hard copies of all papers are to be turned in to me personally on the announced due date during the first 10 minutes of class. Any paper turned in after this period expires will be considered one day late. I will deduct one letter grade for each day that the paper is late. **No exceptions.**

University Policies

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs **maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.**”

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University. Changes to the syllabus (including tentative course schedule will be made in class and through Canvas).

Tentative Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Date	Topics and Readings
January 25	Introduction
January 30	What is Comparative Politics? 1. Samuels, Chapter 1
February 1	The State I 1. Samuels, Chapter 2: 28-38. 2. Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans et al, <i>Bringing the State Back In</i> , pp. 169-91.
February 6	The State II 1. Samuels, Chapter 2: 38-57. 2. Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 1.
February 8	Political Violence 1. Samuels, Chapter 10. 2. Newspaper article on Somalia: "As Somali Crisis Swells, Experts See a Void in Aid." November 20, 2007 (by Jeffrey Gettleman).
February 13	Strong vs. Weak States 1. Ross, Michael. 2008. "Blood Barrels: Why Oil Wealth Fuels Conflict." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (May/June): 2-8. 2. Rotberg, Robert, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," in <i>Essential Readings in Comparative Politics</i> .
February 15	Regime Types I: Democracies 1. Samuels, Chapter 3: 58-65. 2. Dahl Robert. 1971. <i>Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 1.
February 20	Regime Types II: Non-Democracies 1. Samuels, Chapter 4.
February 22	Cultural Determinants of Regime Type I: Civic Culture and Identity 1. Samuels, Chapter 5: 123-25. 2. Samuels, Chapter 6: 153-161. 3. Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>

Date	Topics and Readings
	<p>(March/April): 109-126.</p> <p>4. Dae Jung, Kim. 1994. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (November/December): 189-194.</p>
February 27	<p>Cultural Determinants of Regime Type: Religion and Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 7. 2. Beinart, Peter, "Bill Maher's Dark Critique of Islam," <i>The Atlantic</i> (October 9, 2014). <p><u>Country News Analysis Due. Advanced Industrialized Democracies.</u></p>
March 1	<p>Regime Change I</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 5: 125-129. 2. Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs. 2005. "Development and Democracy." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 84(5): 77-86.
March 6	<p>Regime Change II</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 5: 129-146. 2. Goldstone, Jack. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 90(3): 8-16.
March 8	<p>Mid-Term Exam 1</p>
March 13	<p>Political Participation Samuels, Chapter 3: 79-87.</p>
March 15	<p>Parties and Elections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 9: 246-253. 2. Aldrich, John. 1995. <i>Why Parties?</i> Chicago: Chicago University Press. Chapter 1.
March 22	<p>Political Clientelism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina. An Ethnographic Account." <i>Latin American Research Review</i> 35(3): 55-81. <p><u>Country News Analysis Due. Developing Nations.</u></p>
March 24	<p>Ethnic Voting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 98(4): 529-545.
April 3	<p>Parliamentary Democracies</p>

Date	Topics and Readings
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Samuels, Chapter 3: 66-67 (“Madison’s Dilemma”), 69-79 (“Executive-Legislative Relations”, “Judicial Review versus Parliamentary Supremacy”), and 88-89 (“Conclusion”). Case Study: United Kingdom. <i>Case Studies in Comparative Politics</i>. Available on Canvas.
April 5	<p>Presidential Democracies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. “Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination.” <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 26(2): 198-228.
April 10	<p>Constitutional Design and Democracy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Samuels, Chapter 3: 67-69 (“Unitary versus Federal Constitutions”) Stepan, Alfred. 1999. “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 8(1): 27-42. <p><u>Country News Analysis Due. Communist/Post-Communist Countries.</u></p>
April 12	<p>Accountability and Representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ferraz, Claudio, and Fred Finan. 2011. Exposing Corrupt Politicians. J-Pal Policy Briefcase.
April 17	<p>Quality of Democracy and the Rule of Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> O’Donnell, Guillermo. 1993. “On the state, democratization and some conceptual problems: A Latin American View.” <i>World Development</i> 21(8): 1355-69.
April 19	<p>Midterm Exam 2</p>
April 24	<p>Economic Development I</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Samuels, Chapter 11.
April 26	<p>Economic Development II</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Siegel, J., M. Weinstein and M. Halpenn. 2004. “Why Democracies Excel.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Sept/Oct) 83(5): 57-71. Przeworski, A., and F. Limongi. 1993. “Political Regimes and Economic Growth.” <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 7(3): 51-69. <p><u>Country News Analysis Due. Middle Eastern/Islamic Countries.</u></p>
May 1	<p>Political Economy of Redistribution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Samuels, Chapter 12
May 3	<p>Globalization I</p>

Date	Topics and Readings
	1. Samuels, Chapter 13
May 8	Globalization II Samuels, Chapter 13
May 10	Last Day of Classes! Review for the Final Exam.
Final Exam	Monday, May 21 st . (7:15-9:30 AM)