

San José State University
Department of Political Science
POLS 2-1 (27839): Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2020

Instructor: Martín Ordóñez
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Office Hours: Tu Th, 15:00-16:00 (and by appointment)
Class days & time: Tu Th, 9:00-10:15
Classroom: DMH149A
GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3, D3

Course Format

This course will be taught combining the traditional lecture-based format with active discussion and debate. Students are expected to have completed the assigned reading in advance of the week's classes.

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. GE Area: D2

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 and Disciplinary Methods*: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
3. *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.
4. *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.

Course and GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

This class satisfies the D2 General Education Requirement (Comparative Systems, Cultures and Requirements).

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental and spatial contexts. **Assessed by the two exams.**
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. **Assessed by the two exams.**

3. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications to appropriate to contemporary social issues. **Assessed by paper assignment.**
4. Compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems. **Assessed by paper assignment.**

Required Readings

Samuels, David. *Comparative Politics*. Second edition, Pearson, 2018.

O'Neil, Patrick H., et al. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. Sixth edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Further readings are listed in the Schedule of the Course. Other readings can be assigned throughout the course and will be available on CANVAS.

Course Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Course Assignments

Reaction to Readings (15%): Throughout the course, students will be required to submit 6 250-words reactions to the readings of the class. Each of these reactions must address the readings assigned for one of the classes and must be submitted at the beginning of that class. Students are expected to develop a brief argument, including at least two of the readings assigned to the corresponding class. This assignment will be graded using a 10-points scale considering the substance of the argument, the clarity of the writing, and the number and proper inclusion of readings. This assignment is expected to help students preparing for the short-essay questions included in the midterm and final exams.

Midterm Exam (25%): The midterm exam will test students on the material covered in the first half of the course. The exam can consist of multiple-choice, identification and/or short essay questions.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will test students on the material covered during the whole course, although greater emphasis will be placed on the material covered during the second half. The exam can consist of multiple-choice, identification questions and/or short essay questions. **The Final Exam will take place on Tuesday, May 19, from 7:15 am to 9:30 am in this same classroom.** You need a scantron you will find in Canvas, a #2 pencil, two 11 x 8.5 inches sheet, and a pen for the final exam.

Paper (30%): Students are required to write a 1200-words (about 5 pages double-spaced) paper addressing a central topic of the course. For the paper, students are expected to use the material of the course to analyze a specific topic.

Late Work and Make-Up Policies:

- Quizzes cannot be made up or turned in late. As noted above, each student's top 8 scoring responses will be counted.
- Students with a compelling reason requiring their absence from class on the date of the midterm or final exam must discuss this with me in advance and have the absence pre-approved - in which case we will agree on an alternate test date. Reasons that would merit a pre-approved absence are: a serious medical condition, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event or activity, military orders, or family emergency. The only excuse

for missing an exam without pre-approval is a documented medical emergency. With only these exceptions, a missed exam cannot be made up and will result in zero points.

- All late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day following the due date. If you face a serious illness that renders you unable to complete the paper on time, you must notify me in person or by email before the assignment is due. Exceptions to this are only allowed in cases of documented medical emergency.

Assignments will be graded as follows:

A plus	97 to 100%
A	92 to 96%
A minus	90 to 91%
B plus	87 to 90%
B	82 to 86%
B minus	80 to 81%
C plus	77 to 80%
C	72 to 76%
C minus	70 to 71%
D plus	67 to 70%
D	62 to 66%
D minus	60 to 61%

Final Examination or Evaluation

As described in the section above, the in-class final exam will cover the material learned during the whole course, although greater emphasis will be placed on the material covered during the second half. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, identification and/or short essay questions. **The Final Exam will take place on Tuesday, May 19, from 7:15 am to 9:30 am and will be held in DMH 149A.** You need a scantron you will find in Canvas, a #2 pencil, two 11 x 8.5 inches sheet, and a pen for the final exam.

Guidelines for the paper

For your paper, you will be asked to select **two or three** countries and use them to answer a question related to the topics covered in the course. Examples of paper questions may include: what are the advantages and disadvantages of different institutional designs (e.g. presidentialism vs. parliamentarianism; Unitary vs. Federal; different electoral rules; etc.)? What explains regime change/endurance? What is the best way to deal with ethnic or religious tensions? Why resource-rich countries remain underdeveloped? Etc.

Specifically, your paper should 1) briefly describe the cases and the question selected, 2) analyze them using the materials of the class and other relevant academic sources, and 3) provide an answer to the question addressed in the paper—to the extent your analysis allows you to do so.

This assignment has three parts:

1. *Topic Selection (due February 27)*: Submit a brief explanation of the topic of your paper and how you are planning to address it. I will reply to provide you with comments and suggestions. Throughout the course, we will discuss some possible case. Feel free to use them in your paper. However, the use of original cases will be rewarded in the paper's grade.
2. *Outline and List of Sources (due April 7)*: Submit a brief outline of the argument of your paper and a list of the bibliographic sources you plan to use for the paper. These sources must be not less than 10, at least one of them must be a reading of the course, and at least 5 must be academic sources (e.g. peer-reviewed articles, law review articles, etc.). You should use proper bibliographic form, but I do not care whether you use MLA, APA, or another style. I will reply providing comments and suggestions.

3. *The Paper (due May 7)*: Submit a final version of the paper. This paper should be 1200 words long (about 5 pages double-spaced) and include a minimum of 8 high-quality sources.

Note that only part 3 will be directly graded. Parts 1 and 2 are optional, where you will receive feedback on the progress of your paper. However, your participation in parts 1 and 2 will be rewarded in the paper's grade. You must submit all these documents through Canvas, by 11:59 pm of the corresponding day. Only PDFs and Word docs of the paper will be accepted.

Use of technology in class

Your focus and active engagement during class is critical to the success of the course. This class has a No Digital Media policy. Please keep your laptops, cells, tablets, etc. in your bag at all times, please silence your phones before coming to class, and please do not text in class. Exceptions can be made for people who use laptops *exclusively* to take notes.

University Policies:

SJSU has policies on many important topics that apply to all courses. These topics include grading, attendance, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, and more. Information about these policies is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. If you have questions about any of this material, please ask.

Pols 2 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2019 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with reasonable notice provided through Canvas and/or classroom announcement.

Unit 1: Basis of Comparative Politics	
23 Jan	Introduction - Syllabus
28 Jan	Foundations and Methods of Comparative Politics - CP*. Ch. 1
Unit 2: The State and Political Regimes	
30 Jan-4 Feb	State Formation and State Capacity - CP. Ch. 2 - Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans et al, Bringing the State Back In, pp. 169-91.
6-11 Feb	Democracy and Its Varieties - CP. Ch 3 - Lijphart, Anrend. 2012. Chapters 1-3, in "Patterns of Democracy", Yale University Press.
13 Feb	Non-Democracies - CP Ch 4 - O'Donell, G.A., 1994. Delegative democracy. Journal of democracy, 5(1), pp.55-69.

- 18-Feb **Regime Change**
- CP Ch 5
 - Goldstone, Jack. 2011 "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011." *Foreign Affairs* 90(3): 8-16
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Unit 3: Political Division and Representation

- 20-Feb **Political Identity I: Introduction**
- CP. Chs. 6
 - Transcript: "Uncivil Agreement", You Are Not So Smart Podcast, Episode 133, August 4, 2018.
<https://youarenotsoSMART.com/2018/08/04/transcript-uncivil-agreement/>
 - **Optional:** Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs*

- 25-27 Feb **Movements, Interests Groups and Parties** (*Paper topic selection due Feb 27*)
- CP. Ch. 9
 - Krouwel, André. 2006. *Party Models*, in Richard S. Katz, and William J. Crotty, editors. *Handbook of Party Politics*. SAGE.
 - Calatayud José Miguel. *Politics without Parties*. *Foreign Policy*, April 19, 2019.

- 3 Mar **Political Violence**
- CP Ch. 10
 - Gettleman, Jeffrey. *As Somali Crisis Swells, Experts See a Void in Aid*. *New York Times*. November 20, 2007.
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Unit 4: Political Economy

- 5 Mar **Political Economy: Development**
- CP. Ch. 11
 - Banerjee, Abhijit V. and Esther Duflo *How Poverty Ends*. *Foreign Affairs*. December 3, 2019
 - **Optional:** Chapter 3, "Drivers of Development Transformation," of UNDP, "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World," *Human Development Report 2013*, pp. 63-85

- 10 Mar **Political Economy: Redistribution**
- CP. Ch. 12
 - **Optional:** Daguerre, A., 2011. "US social policy in the 21st century: The difficulties of comprehensive social reform". *Social Policy & Administration*, 45(4), pp.389-407.

- 12 Mar **Midterm Exam**
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Unit 5: Comparative Politics of the Developing World

- 17-19 Mar** **Nigeria**
- CCP** Ch 14
 - Rotimi Suberu and Larry Diamond, "Institutional Design, Ethnic Conflict Management, and Democracy in Nigeria," in *The Architecture of Democracy*, Andrew Reynolds, ed. (Oxford 2002), pp. 400-28.
 - John Campbell, "The 'Election-Like Event' of 2007," in *Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011), pp. 97-113.
 - Peter Lewis and Darren Kew, "Nigeria's Hopeful Election," *Journal of Democracy* 26, no. 3 (2015), pp. 94-109.
- 24-26 Mar** **India**
- CCP Ch 9
 - Stuligross, David; Varshney, Ashutosh. 2002. "Ethnic Diversities, Constitutional Designs, and Public Policies in India," in *The Architecture of Democracy*, Andrew Reynolds, ed. (Oxford), pp. 429-58.
 - Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society" *World Politics* Vol. 53, # 3: 362-398.
 - Milan Vaishnav "The Strange Triumph of Narendra Modi" *Foreign Affairs*. November 4 2019
- 31 Mar-2 Apr** **Spring Break: No Classes**
- 7-9 Apr** **Brazil** (Paper Outline and List of Sources due Apr 22)
- CCP Ch 12
 - Natasha Borges Sugiyama and Wendy Hunter "Whither Clientelism? Good Governance and Brazil's Bolsa Família Program" *Comparative Politics* Vol. 46, # 1 (2013), pp. 43-62.
 - Barry Ames, Andy Baker, and Lucio R. Rennó "The Quality of Elections in Brazil: Policy, Performance, Pageantry, or Pork?," in Peter R. Kingstone and Timothy J. Power, *Democratic Brazil Revisited* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008), pp. 107-133
 - Mello, Eduardo "The Decline and Fall of Brazil's Political Establishment" *Foreign Affairs*, October 1 2018

Unit 6: Comparative Politics of the Developed World

- 14 Apr** **France I**
- CCP Ch 4
 - Aurelien Mondon (2014) *The Front National in the Twenty-First Century: From Pariah to Republican Democratic Contender?*, *Modern & Contemporary France*, 22:3, 301-320
- 16 Apr** **No Class**
- 21 Apr** **France II**
- Lazardeux, Sebastien. 2015 "Policymaking under Cohabitation". In: *Cohabitation and Conflicting Politics in French Policymaking. French Politics, Society and Culture*. Palgrave Macmillan, London
 - Tiersky, Ronald. "Macron's World by Ronald Tiersky" *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2017
- 23-28 Apr** **United Kingdom**
- CCP Ch 2
 - Sara B. Hobolt (2016) *The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23:9, 1259-1277

- Hall, Matthew, David Marsh, and Emma Vines. "A changing democracy: contemporary challenges to the British political tradition." *Policy Studies* 39.4 (2018): 365-382.
- Bale, Tim "The Surreal Contest to Succeed Theresa May", *Foreign Affairs*, June 17 2019

30 Apr-5 May Japan

- CCP Ch 6
- Hrebenarand, RonaldJ and Koji Haraguchi. 2015 "The Fall of the DPJ and Return of the LDP to Power: The December 2012 House Elections," in Ronald J. Hrebenar and Akira Nakamura (eds.), *Party Politics in Japan: Political Chaos and Stalemate in the Twenty-First Century*, Routledge, 174–188
- Pekkanen , Robert. 2004. "Japan: Socia lCapital without Advocacy,"in Muthiah Alagappa(ed.),*Civil Societ yand Political Change in Asia: Expanding and Contracting Democratic Space*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 223–256
- Schieder, Chelsea "Japan's Upper House is No Place for a Woman" *Foreign Affairs* August 14, 2019

7 May Course Review (*Paper due May 7*)

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 19, from 7:15 am to 9:30 am at DMH 149A

* CP: *Comparative Politics*

** CCP: *Cases in Comparative Politics*