

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 2-80: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Sergio Béjar-López
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Office Hours:	T & Th: 1:30-2:45 pm
Location:	Online

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 is an Online Education course. All assignments and exams will be conducted over the Internet. Students are responsible for their own access to the Internet and computer resources.

Detailed Course Description

This introductory course to comparative politics will help students to better understand political processes across nations. In my view, college students not only should be aware of the most important questions about the world today, but also need to look beyond the American political system and learn how political institutions succeed or fail elsewhere. Because this is an introductory course, we will survey a wide range of topics including the comparative method, concept construction, states and regimes, political mobilization, political culture, political participation, elections and voting, interest groups, political parties, parliaments, executives, development, and globalization.

Political Science Learning Outcomes

- **Breadth**

Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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 (Discussion boards);
- 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 (Quizzes and exams);
- 3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications to appropriate to contemporary social issues (Discussion boards);
- 4) Compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems (Discussion boards, Quizzes and Exams).

Students will satisfy these requirements through a combination of threaded discussions, online quizzes, and exams.

Required Texts

- 1) David Samuels, Comparative Politics, Second Edition, Pearson, 2018

You can purchase the required textbook either at the SJSU bookstore or online.

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

Expectations & Course Activities

Success in this class will depend upon your ability to: (1) think critically; (2) read and write University-level English prose; (3) master important facts about the history and politics of various countries; (4) work both independently and collaboratively in a group setting.

I expect students to:

- read this syllabus carefully,
- check your email each day,
- log on to the class web site a minimum of four times each week,
- read all of the assigned materials; recommended readings are for enrichment learning and are not assigned,
- submit all Threaded Discussion postings on or before deadline,
- submit the online quizzes, and
- complete two midterm exams and one final exam.

If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from class, please email me and request alternative assignments. Otherwise, I will penalize late assignments. In any case, please do not enroll in an online course if you know that you are going to be away from your Internet access for more than 5 or 6 days during the length of the course.

Please note that students are responsible for their own Internet access and computing resources. A loss of connectivity is not an excuse for late assignments. Some Internet service providers (ISPs), such as America Online, are notorious for inferior, unreliable service. In previous semesters, students have lost Internet connectivity in the middle of exams. Students who wait until the last possible moment to submit an assignment also run the risk of an unanticipated service disruption that prevents timely submission.

Course Requirements

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

1. 2 Midterm exams (20% each)
2. 1 Final exam (25%)
3. Quizzes (20%)
4. Participation in discussion boards (15%)

Two Midterm Exams (20% each)

The date of the exams will be announced ahead of time.

Cumulative Final Exam (25%)

The cumulative final exam will take place during the final exams week.

Quizzes (20%)

You will take a number of multiple-choice quizzes with questions from the modules' readings. These are "open book" quizzes. These are "open book" quizzes. You may only take each quiz one time. Availability of quizzes will be posted on CANVAS.

Threaded Discussion (15%)

Because of the nature of this course, I have found that punctual postings and responses are critical to both the success of the course and the success of individual students. It is impossible for me to read and respond to several hundred messages and assignments in the last week of class. Therefore I have created a grading policy that rewards both the quality and timeliness of your responses and assignments.

Your postings should be well written and clearly address the issues being discussed. I expect each writing assignment to have: (1) A clear introduction that addresses directly the question posed by the instructor; (2) A body of factual examples that support your thesis; these examples may be drawn from either the assigned readings or footnoted sources researched independently by the student; (3) Appropriate source citations; plagiarized threads will be penalized. (4) A succinct concluding paragraph. Deadlines will appear in your CANVAS calendar. Late posts will receive a "0".

If I have some concerns or comments about your thread, I will post a response. My comments are intended to help you improve your threads. In order to earn a perfect score, you generally have to post an excellent thread the first time around and by the assigned deadline. **In addition, you must respond to the threads of at least two other students by the following Monday at noon PST.** If you do not respond to other students, you will not earn full credit for your post.

Grading and Written Work Policies

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

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks. Ideas from others must also

be referenced. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct, which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>. The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

Email

In this course we will use the CONVERSATIONS feature on the help corner (located in navigation links) to send email for private messages. You can either check your messages in the CANVAS system or set your notifications to your preferred method of contact. Please check your messages regularly.

I receive many emails from students everyday, and I try to respond to all of them in a timely manner. An email is a formal communication between you and your professor, and it thus should be addressed properly. For my students, I am Dr. Bejar or Dr. Bejar-Lopez. Please keep this in mind when you send me an email. I will not respond to emails that are not properly addressed.

Discussion Forums

Discussion Forums are a way for you to engage with each other about the course content. Each lesson module will have a question that links to a forum. You can also access each forum by clicking on the DISCUSSIONS button in the course navigation links. In order to get full credit for each discussion, you will need to post a thoughtful, well-written response to the question and respond to two of your classmates' answers.

Netiquette

When posting on the discussion boards and chat rooms it is important to understand how to interact with one another online, netiquette. You can read more about the rules of netiquette at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html>.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted –i.e. your grade will be zero.- If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact me by private message before the assignment is due to make alternate arrangements.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. 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>

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.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics and Readings
Jan 23	Introduction
Jan 23-26	What is Comparative Politics? 1. Samuels, Chapter 1
Jan 27-Feb 2	The State 1. Samuels, Chapter 2. 2. Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans et al, <i>Bringing the State Back In</i> , pp. 169-91. 3. Newspaper article on Somalia: "As Somali Crisis Swells, Experts See a Void in Aid." November 20, 2007 (by Jeffrey Gettleman).
Feb 3-9	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).
Feb 10-16	Regime Types : Democracies & Non-Democracies 1. Samuels, Chapter 3. Pages TBA. 2. Dahl Robert. 1971. <i>Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition</i> . New Haven: Yale

Week	Topics and Readings
	University Press, Chapter 1. 3. Samuels, Chapter 4.
Feb 17-23	Cultural Determinants of Regime Type I 1. Samuels, Chapter 5. 2. Samuels, Chapter 6. 3. Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (March/April): 109-126. 4. Samuels, Chapter 7
Feb 24- Mar 1	Regime Change I 1. Samuels, Chapter 5. 2. Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs. 2005. "Development and Democracy." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 3. Goldstone, Jack. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 90(3): 8-16 <u>Midterm Exam 1</u>
Mar 2- 8	Political Participation/Parties & Elections 1. Samuels, Chapter 3. 2. Samuels, Chapter 9. 3. Aldrich, John. 1995. <i>Why Parties?</i> Chicago: Chicago University Press. Chapter 1.
Mar 9-15	Political Clientelism/Ethnic Voting 1. Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina. An Ethnographic Account." <i>Latin American Research Review</i> 35(3): 55-81. 2. 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.
Mar 16-22	Parliamentary & Parliamentary Democracies 1. Samuels, Chapter 3: "Madison's Dilemma", "Executive-Legislative Relations", "Judicial Review versus Parliamentary Supremacy", "Conclusion". 2. Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 26(2): 198-228.

Week	Topics and Readings
Mar 23-29	<p>Constitutional Design and Democracy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 3: “Unitary versus Federal Constitutions” 2. Stepan, Alfred. 1999. “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 8(1): 27-42. 3. TBA
April 6-12	<p>Accountability, Representation, and the Rule of Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ferraz, Claudio, and Fred Finan. 2011. Exposing Corrupt Politicians. J-Pal Policy Briefcase. 2. O’Donnell, Guillermo. 1993. “On the state, democratization and some conceptual problems: A Latin American View.” <i>World Development</i> 21(8): 1355-69. <p>Midterm Exam 2</p>
April 13-19	<p>Economic Development I</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuels, Chapter 11. 2. Siegel, J., M. Weinstein and M. Halpenn. 2004. “Why Democracies Excel.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Sept/Oct) 83(5): 57-71. 3. Przeworski, A., and F. Limongi. 1993. “Political Regimes and Economic Growth.” <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 7(3): 51-69.
April 20-26	<p>Political Economy of Redistribution</p> <p>Samuels, Chapter 12</p>
April 27-May 3	<p>Globalization 1</p> <p>Samuels, Chapter 13</p>
May 4- May 10	<p>Globalization 2</p>
Final Exam	<p>ONLINE EXAM – December 14th.</p>