

POLT 202 Comparative Politics
Ave Maria University
Fall 2008

Prerequisites: None
Credit Hours: 4
Days of the week: M-W
Class meets at Newman Bldng #2069

Professor: Bira Rezende
Office Hours: Monday to Fridays 9:30AM to 11:45AM
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I. Course Description and Objectives

This course covers the basic problems, principles, theories, and concepts of comparative politics.

The central themes of the course are:

- a) the nature and influence of ideology on the development and practice of politics;
- b) the way that constitutional forms influence behavior by political actors, elections, and public-policy outcomes;
- c) the interaction between political culture, political theory, and constitutional design.

The development of those themes entails the exploration of:

- a) the diverse ways that human societies choose to organize themselves: political institutions and processes;
- b) constitutions, political regimes and the existing political culture of a people;
- c) the global political impact of communication and transportation technologies;
- d) the global markets for goods, services, money and the integration on a regional and global scale of national economies;
- e) the prevailing ideological systems and constitutional frameworks in the world today: liberalism, socialism, federalism, unitary government, parliamentary and presidential systems, voting and representation;
- f) the internal politics of eight countries and their ideological and constitutional framework;
- g) the contemporary transitions to democracy in authoritarian nations: development and inequality;
- a) ethno-religious political orders.

II. Methodology

The course consists of a mixture of lectures and discussions, but makes room for some personal research. You are supposed to read the assigned material. The classes are sessions in which your instructor will discuss the material

with you in order to bring up the points that may be missed in your initial study. In this manner, every class will serve as exam preparation for you. Class time is not intended for short-term memorization.

III. Expectations From The Students

You are expected to prepare for each class. This includes not only doing the required readings but also preparing and presenting your homework assignments. These presentations are aimed not only at content internalization but also at helping you to develop communication skills. Among some of the questions you should be able to answer are: What are some broad institutional and constitutional categories that comparativists use to compare political regimes? How do interests and parties differ among societies with specific ideological preferences? How do parliamentary systems compare to presidential systems? How are consensual and majoritarian regimes fundamentally different?

IV. Assessment

Students will be judged on their comprehension of key concepts, issues and themes through:

Class Participation – Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments, which will consist of readings from the textbook and other handouts.

Weekly Writing – Students will be asked to define terms and evaluate the relevance of each term to the study of comparative politics.

Country Study – By teaching the class about the culture and institutions of a specific country, students will learn by doing. Not only will they be evaluated on their contribution to our collective knowledge about the world, but also they must demonstrate excellence in their conceptual knowledge about comparative politics.

Institutions Exam– This exam will focus on the lectures and readings about institutions, testing how well students understand the several broad categories of institutional design that reflect specific political cultures.

V. Examinations

There will be one mid term and a final exam given during the semester. No make-up exam will be given without the approval of the instructor prior to the administration of the exam.

VI. Assignments

Homework assignments will be collected at the end of every week and count toward the homework portion of your grade. If you are not in class, you may not pass in these assignments later, unless permission is obtained from the professor prior to class time.

VII. Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to come to class prepared to apply and utilize the assigned reading material by making meaningful contributions to the class discussion. If you are not present, you cannot contribute. Send me an email prior to class if you are unable to attend.

VIII. Grades

25% Class Participation
25% Oral Presentations and homework
25% Midterm Exam
25% Term Paper

IX. Student Feedback

Do not wait to share your concerns or simply your views with me. Your feedback is valuable: feel free to visit or e-mail me and offer any suggestions, insights or other views throughout the semester.

X. Class Schedule and Reading Requirements

8/25 Introduction

9/01 The Origins of Comparative Politics
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapters 1 and 2
Strauss, The City and Man, Chapters 1 and 2

9/08 Political Institutions
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapter 3, 4 and 5
Voegelin, Order and History III, Chapter 7 and 9

9/15 Constitutions and Branches of Government
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapter 6 and 7
Manent, Democracy without Nations, Appendix B
Poggi, The Development of the Modern State, Chapters 5 and 6

9/22 US and Europe
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapters 8, 9, 10, 19

9/29 Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, India, Nigeria
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapter 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

10/06 Russia, China, Japan
Almond, Comparative Politics, Chapters 11, 12, 13.

10/15 MidTerm Exam

10/22 Liberalism
Manent, An Intellectual History of Liberalism, Chapters 1 to 4

10/29 Libertarianism
Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom, selected excerpts.

11/05 Communism
Berdyayev, The Origin of Russian Communism, Chapters 5 and 6
Neusch, The Sources of Modern Atheism, Chapter 2

11/12 Communitarianism
Etzioni, The New Golden Rule, Chapter 3, 4 and 7

11/19 Technocracy
Lee Kwan Yew, From The Third World to the First

11/27 to 11/30 Thanksgiving Break

12/01 Conclusion and Overview

12/11 Final Exam

XII. Textbook

Gabriel Almond, et. al. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. Longman, 2008.

XIII. Bibliographical References: Books

Berdyaeu, Nicolas. *The Origins of the Russian Communism*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 1972

Etzioni, Amitai. *The New Golden Rule: Community And Morality In A Democratic Society*. Basic Books, 1996

Friedman, Milton and Rose D., *Capitalism and Freedom*. University of Chicago Press, 2002

Poggi, Gianfranco. *The Development of the Modern State. A Sociological Introduction*. Stanford, CA: Stanford UP, 1978.

Manent, Pierre. *An Intellectual History of Liberalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995

Manent, Pierre. *A World Beyond Politics: A Defense of the Nation-State*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Neusch, Marcel. *The Sources of Modern Atheism*. New York: Paulist Press, 1982.

Strauss, Leo. *The City and the Man*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1977.

Voegelin, Eric. *History of Political Ideas, Vol III: Plato and Aristotle*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1997.

Voegelin, Eric. *The New Science of Politics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1952.

XIV. Bibliographical References: Articles

Bates, Robert H. 1996. "The Death of Comparative Politics?" *APSA-CP* (Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics). 7:2 Summer 96.

Bratton & van de Walle, "Neopatrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa," *World Politics*. Vol. 46:4 (Jul., 1994).

Brubaker. 2001. "The Return of Assimilation? Changing Perspectives on Immigration and its Sequels in France, Germany and the US," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24(4), p. 531-548

Evans, Geoffrey and Whitefield, Stephen (1998). "The Structuring of Political Cleavages in Post-Communist Societies: the Case of the Czech Republic and Slovakia", *Political Studies* 46(1): 115-140.

Falleti, Tulia. 2005. "A Sequential Theory of Decentralization: Latin American Cases in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 99, 3 (August). 327-346.

Gilley, B. 2003. "The Limits of Authoritarian Resilience", *Journal of Democracy*. Vol. 14(1).

Huntington, Samuel P. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72: 3 (1993), pp. 22-49.

Inglehart, Ronald and Carballo, Maria. "Does Latin America Exist? (And Is There a Confucian Culture?): A Global Analysis of Cross-Cultural Differences." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(1):34-46, March 1997.

Keohane and Nye, "Globalization: What's new? What's not? (And so what?)" *Foreign Policy* 118 (Spring 2000), pp.104-119.

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism", *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 13(2): 51-65.

Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review*, 65, no. 3 (September 1971), 682-693.

Ordeshook, Peter. 2002. "Are 'Western' Constitutions Relevant to Anything Other than the Countries They Serve?" *Constitutional Political Economy*, 13:3, 3-24.

David Remnick. "Can Russia Change?" *Foreign Affairs*. Jan/Feb, 1997.

Rotberg, Robert. 2002. "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," *The Washington Quarterly*, 25:3 (Summer), 85-96.

Takeyh, Ray. "Faith-Based Initiatives: Can Islam Bring Democracy to the Middle East?" *Foreign Policy*, December 2001.

Wolf, "Will The Nation-State Survive Globalization?" *Foreign Affairs* 80: 1 (Jan/Feb 2001), pp.178-190.

ADDENDUM: Other Comparative Politics Sources

I. Some of the most refereed journals in Comparative Politics

Africa:

- *Journal of Modern African Studies*
- *Review of African Political Economy*
- *Africa*
- *African Affairs*
- *Africa Today*
- *African Studies Review*

Latin America:

- *Latin American Research Review*
- *Journal of Latin American Politics and Society*
- *NACLA Report on the Americas*
- *Journal of Latin American Studies*
- *Latin America*
- *Hemisphere*
- *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*

Middle East:

- *Middle East Policy*
- *Middle East Report (MERIP)*
- *Middle East Journal*
- *Middle East Affairs Journal*
- *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
- *Muslim World*
- *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*
- *Journal of South Asian and Middle East Studies*

Asia:

- *China Quarterly*
- *Asian Survey*
- *Journal of Contemporary China*
- *Issues and Studies*
- *Modern China*

Europe:

- *West European Politics*
- *Parliamentary Affairs*
- *Problems of Post-Communism*
- *Government and Opposition*

II. Thematic Journals

- *Third World Quarterly*
- *Journal of Democracy*
- *Comparative Politics*
- *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Studies*
- *World Politics*
- *International Affairs*

III. Other journals or annual reports from the World Bank, IMF, European Union, or UN specialized agencies

- *Finance & development* (IMF)
- *Refugees* (UNHCR)
- *Choices* (UNDP)
- *Economic and social progress in Latin America: Annual Report* (Inter-American Development Bank)
- *Economic Bulletin for Latin America* (UN Economic Commission for Latin America)
- *Economic Bulletin for Africa* (UN Economic Commission for Africa)

IV. Policy journals

- *Foreign Affairs*
- *Foreign Policy*
- *Washington Quarterly*
- *World Policy Review*
- *The National Interest*
- *SAIS Review*
- *Current History*
- *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs* (web-based journal)

V. Internet Sites

- *Relief Web* at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf>. All major reports by development agencies, as well as Security Council reports, are reported on and available via Reliefweb.
- *IRIN*. <http://www.irinnews.org/> IRIN is a UN-operated daily news and analysis source on the web, dedicated to coverage of Asia and Africa.
- *All-Africa News Group* <http://allafrica.com/> Source of news on Africa on the web.

VI. Unpublished reports by governments, the UN, regional organizations, international organizations, think tanks, advocacy groups, databases, businesses, and non-profit organizations

- US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>
- US Agency for International Development <http://www.usaid.gov/>
- UK Department for International Development <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>
- UN (check especially Security Council reports) <http://www.un.org/>
- UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org/>
- World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>
- Center for Strategic and International Studies <http://www.csis.org/>
- International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisweb.org/>
- Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>
- Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>
- Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
- Africa Action <http://www.africaaction.org/index.php>
- Columbia International Affairs Online <http://www.ciaonet.org/>
- Overseas Development Institute <http://www.odi.org.uk/>
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://www.ceip.org/>
- Brookings Institution <http://www.brook.edu/>
- RAND <http://www.rand.org/>