

**PS 140 / FALL 2017**  
**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Mon/Wed 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**  
**AUD 4 MLB**

Professor Mary Gallagher

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7743 Haven Hall and

Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, 408 Weiser Hall, 500 Church Street

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3 PM at Suite 400 Weiser Hall or by appt.

GSI:

Deanna Kolberg (dkolberg@) (Administrator)

7730 Haven Hall/Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 AM – 11 AM

Caleb Kennedy (calebk@)

7730 Haven Hall/Fridays, 1-3 PM

Hwayong Shin (hwayong@)

6566 Haven Hall/Fridays, 12-2 PM

Michael Thompson(mrthomp@)

6756 Haven Hall/ Thursdays, 12:30 to 2:30 PM

## Overview

This course is an introduction to the social scientific study of comparative politics. The course is motivated by questions that are relevant to the understanding of politics today. These questions include: why are some countries democratic and others authoritarian? What are the explanations for rapid growth and development in some parts of the world but not others? How do racial, ethnic, and class divisions emerge and persist in different societies? How do different types of political institutions affect outcomes such as inequality, political participation, and regime stability? How have different political systems responded to the strains of globalization and increased economic integration?

## Goals

This class should provide you with a foundational understanding in the concepts, methods, and main research questions in comparative politics. You will also learn about specific political systems as examples of different types of political systems and

important concepts in the study of politics, such as regime type, processes of democratization, patterns of economic development, and varieties of political institutions in democracies and autocracies, etc. This course does **not** focus on the particular details of individual countries. It will prepare you for higher level classes at Michigan that do focus on certain countries/regions. You will learn to apply this conceptual and empirical knowledge to analysis of current issues and events in the world today.

## Requirements

Every student is required to enroll in, attend, and participate in a weekly discussion section. Your section grade (one quarter of your total grade) will be based on your attendance and participation in section. You are also strongly encouraged to attend each and every lecture. I will use Canvas and post lecture slides prior to every lecture, but these slides will not substitute for attendance.

The required textbook is David J. Samuels, *Comparative Politics* (Pearson 2013; ISBN 978-0-321-44974-0). Other readings will supplement this textbook and will be posted on Canvas.

## Evaluation

The class will have two timed exams. An in-class mid-term on November 6 and a final exam on Thursday, December 21 from 1:30 – 3:30 PM, which is combined with a take home essay.

In addition to these exams, students will complete short, regular homework assignments that focus on mastery of the readings. These will be posted on Canvas.

Every student is also required to complete **one external event reaction essay**. This essay should be a summary and analysis of a relevant on-campus event, such as a lecture, rally, film, political organization meeting, etc. I will announce relevant events in lecture, but you may hear of others that I don't know about. If you are unclear about whether the event fits the needs of this assignment, please ask me or your GSI for clarification.

Additional information about the exams, the homework assignments, and the external event reaction essay will be posted on Canvas.

Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Section Attendance and Participation: 20%

Homework Assignments: 20%

External Event Reaction Essay: 15%

The **mid-term** will consist of short answers and essays. The final exam will be cumulative but will focus on the second half of the course. It is a combination of short answers in the timed exam and a take-home essay.

Each GSI will go over her/his policies for **section attendance and participation**. Please note that this is a significant part of your total grade for the course. We will encourage use of Canvas chat functions to facilitate discussion as well.

There will be a total of **FOUR** homework assignments. Details about each assignment will be posted on Canvas well in advance.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Electronic Devices:** I will post powerpoint slides on canvas before each lecture. Students **are allowed** to bring laptops to class in order to take notes and to give feedback or ask questions **in lecture**. Students should exercise **good judgment** in lecture by closing distracting applications, websites, phone apps, and turning phones/devices to silent.

**Electronic devices, including laptops, phones, and other devices, are NOT permitted during section unless it is specifically requested by the instructor for a class exercise.**

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students are expected to educate themselves regarding what constitutes plagiarism and to uphold the highest levels of academic integrity. There are several resources on campus to assist students in this regard, including: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/> and <http://www.lib.umich.edu/shapiro-undergraduate-library/understanding-plagiarism-and-academic-integrity>.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://www.umich.edu/sswd>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and

Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

**Religious Observances:** In keeping with the University of Michigan policy of respecting students' religious commitments, all attempts will be made to accommodate conflicts arising out of religious observances. Please note that, according to the Provost's policy on religious holidays, you must give notice of a religious conflict by the drop/add deadline. After that, requests cannot be honored.

**Representing the UM:** At UM, we respect student athletes and other students who represent the University of Michigan in various ways outside, and we seek to minimize the conflicts such activities may cause. As with religious observances and disabilities, please contact me as soon as you know of a conflict and always at the latest two weeks before the event. Please note that prolonged absences cannot be accommodated, and I expect all work to be completed as specified in this syllabus.

**Grade Disputes:** If you have any questions regarding your grade on an assignment, you must first contact your GSI. You have one week to submit a formal grievance. However, you must wait a full 24 hours after receiving your grade to submit a grievance. If you remain dissatisfied after the GSI reconsiders your grade, s/he will forward your grievance to the Professor for consideration. Please be advised that this can result in your grade being raised or lowered and the Professor's decision is final.

Final grades for the course will be determined as follows: A+ (100-97); A (96-94); A- (93-90); B+ (89-87); B (86-83); B- (82-80); C+ (79-77); C (76-73); C- (72-70).

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per 24 hour period (for example, A- to B+). Assignments that are more than 3 days late will not be accepted.

**E-mail Correspondence:** All email correspondence should follow these basic etiquette guidelines: 1) use only appropriate language; 2) be as brief as possible; 3) avoid graphical symbols; 4) avoid questions that require a lengthy back-and-forth discussion and should thus be reserved for office hours. 5) Please do not ask questions that can be answered by looking at the syllabus. **We will all be available during office hours and we encourage you to make use of that opportunity for in-depth questions or discussions.**

**Student Mental Health and Wellbeing:** The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** at (734) 764-8312 and <https://caps.umich.edu/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through

its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult **University Health Service (UHS)** at (734) 764-8320 and <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs>, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see [www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources](http://www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources). For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: <http://umich.edu/~mhealth/>.

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

September 6: Introduction and Overview

September 11: The Study of Comparative Politics

- *Comparative Politics* (Samuels) (hereafter CP), chapter 1, Doing Comparative Politics

### Part I: The State, Regimes, and Regime Transition

September 13: The State: Formation, Capacity and Persistence

- CP, chapter 2, The State
- Stephen D. Krasner, *Sovereignty, Foreign Policy* (January/February 2001). Pp. 20-29 (Canvas)
- Francis Fukuyama, "The Imperatives of State-Building." *Journal of Democracy* 15, No. 2 (April 2004), pp. 17-31.

September 18: Democratic Political Regimes: Evolution and Measurement

- CP, chapter 3, pp. 58-65
- Seva Gunitsky, "[How do you measure 'democracy'?](#)" *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, June 23, 2015.
- Country Focus: The United States
  - Robert Mickey, Steven Levitsky, and Lucan Ahmad Way, "Is America Still Safe for Democracy?" *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2017

September 20, 25 and 27: Democratic Political Regimes: Institutions

- CP, chapter 3, pp. 66-90
  - Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism
    - Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy*, Winter 1990.
  - Electoral Systems
    - Dickovich and Eastwood, *Comparative Politics*, Chapter 9, "Legislatures and Legislative Systems," pp. 199-224.
    - Guy Lardeyret, "The Problem with PR," in Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, pp. 175-179.
- For September 27<sup>th</sup> lecture:

- Country Focus: *Case Studies in Comparative Politics, Japan*, Ethan Scheiner, only pp. 155-175.

#### October 2: Nondemocratic Political Regimes: Varieties of Dictatorship

- CP, chapter 4,
- Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51-65.
- Country Focus: China
  - Andrew J. Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience." *Journal of Democracy* 14:1 (2003): 6-17. (China)
  - Perry Link, "[The Anaconda in the Chandelier](#)," New York Review of Books.

#### October 4: Nondemocratic Political Regimes: Politics under Autocracy

- Country Focus: The Middle East
  - Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Politics* 36, No. 2 (January 2004): 139-57.
  - Steven Fish, "Islam and Authoritarianism," *World Politics* (2002).

#### October 9: Regime Change/Revolutions

- CP, chapter 5
- Country Focus: East-Central Europe and USSR, 1989
  - Timur Kuran, "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989."
  - Katherine Verdery, "What was Socialism and Why did It Fall?" in Nikki R. Keddie, *Debating Revolutions* (New York: New York University Press, 1995), 221-243.

#### October 11: Regime Change: Transitions to Democracy

- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), Chapter 2, pp. 31-108.

### **OCTOBER 16 – NO CLASS/FALL BREAK**

#### **Part II: The Politics of Identity**

#### October 18: Political Identity and Nationalism

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- CP, chapter 6
- Kathy Cramer, *The Politics of Resentment*, chapter 1 and 3, pp. 1-25 and 45-89.

October 23: Religion and Politics

- CP, chapter 7
- Pippa Norris and Ron Inglehart, "Gods, Guns, and Gays: Supply and Demand of Religion in the United States and Western Europe," *Public Policy Research*, 2006.

October 25: Gender and Politics

- CP, chapter 8
- Pamela Paxton, "Women's Suffrage in the Measurement of Democracy: Problems of Operationalization." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Fall 2000.

### **Part III: The Politics of Collective Action**

October 30: Collective Action/Civil Society/Human Capital

- CP, chapter 9
- Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6(1), pp. 65-78.
- Mona Lena Krook and Robert G. Moser, "Electoral Rules and Political Inclusion," in *Political Science, Electoral Rules, and Democratic Governance*, APSA Task Force on Electoral Rules and Democratic Governance, September 2013.

**November 1: Review for Midterm**

**November 6: Midterm Exam (No Discussion Sections Week of November 6th)**

November 8: No CLASS

November 13: Political Violence

- CP, chapter 10
- Frank Dikotter, *The Cultural Revolution, A People's History, 1962-1976*, chapters 14-16, pp. 184-218.

November 15: Political Violence: Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars



- Lisa Morjé Howard, "The Ethnocracy Trap." *Journal of Democracy* 23: 4 (October 2012): 155-169.
- Country Focus: India
  - Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond." *World Politics* 53 (April 2001), pp. 362-98.

#### Part IV: The Political Economy of Development and Redistribution

November 20: Political Economy of Development: The Modernization Hypothesis

- CP, chapter 11
- Adam Przeworski and F. Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49, pp. 155-184.
- W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge University Press, 1960), pp. 1-14
- Country Focus: South Korea
  - Taeyoon Kim, Huck-Ju Kwon, Jooha Lee, Ilcheong Yi, "Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy, 'Mixed Governance' and Welfare in South Korea," *Journal of Democracy*, July 2011.

November 22: No CLASS

November 27: Political Economy of Development: Statist vs. Liberal Models of Development

- Country Focus: China/East Asia.
  - Chalmers Johnson, "Political Institutions and Economic Performance: The Government-Business Relationship in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan." In Deyo, ed, *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism*, pp. 136-164
  - Yuen Yuen Ang, "Do Weberian Bureaucracies Lead to Markets or Vice Versa? A Coevolutionary Approach to Development."

November 29: Political Economy of Redistribution

- CP, chapter 12
- Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others." (Canvas)

December 4: Globalization and Economic Crisis

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- CP, chapter 13
- Branko Milanovic, *Global Inequality*, Chapter 1, "The Rise of the Global Middle Class and Global Plutocrats." Pp. 10-45. (Canvas)

December 6: Globalization and the Rise of Populism

- [Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, "Trump and the Populist Authoritarian Parties: The Silent Revolution in Reverse," \*Perspectives on Politics\*, June 2017.](#)
- Roberto Foa and Yascha Mounk, "The Democratic Disconnect," *Journal of Democracy*, July 2016.

December 11: Review Session and Discussion

**December 21: Final Exam, 1:30 – 3:30 PM**