

University of Rochester – PSCI 101/INTR 101
Fall 2024
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:25am – 11:15am
Goergen 108

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Meguid

Office: 306 Harkness Hall
Email: bonnie.meguid@rochester.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm (with mask)

Teaching Assistants

We have three TAs this term: Yu Mei, Xingyu Zhou and Adam Roberts.
Mei: yimei6@ur.rochester.edu, Harkness 304, Tuesdays 3:30 to 5pm
Xingyu: xzhou56@UR.Rochester.edu, Harkness 309, Tuesdays 10-11:30am
Adam: arober48@UR.Rochester.edu, Harkness 315A, Mondays 3:30 to 5pm

Course Description

This course will introduce students to comparative politics – the study of domestic political institutions, processes, and outcomes across and within countries. These important themes and concepts of contemporary comparative politics include the vibrancy of democracy, the centrality of political and electoral institutions, the possibility of revolution and the power of ethnicity. Cases will be drawn from different countries and historical periods to give students a grounding in the method of comparative analysis. This course is recommended for those thinking about a major, minor, or cluster in political science or international relations and others who are simply interested in learning more about the politics of developed and developing countries.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend lectures every Monday and Wednesday (and Friday at the beginning of the semester) and keep up with the readings. All students will be assigned to a recitation section which meets once a week. Attendance is mandatory. Sections will serve as an opportunity to discuss the readings, and thus, regular and active participation is expected. Participation in section will count for 20% of the final grade. An in-class midterm examination will be worth 35% and a final examination will count for 45% of the final grade. According to the Registrar, the date of the in-person final exam is Sunday, December 15 at 12:30pm. But because the date could change, *DO NOT arrange to leave for break before the end of the exam period. Barring extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up midterm or final exams.*

Readings

In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore

volumes are accessible through the syllabus tab on the PSCI/INTR 101 course page on Blackboard.

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore (but you can buy them from any source)

Allen, William Sheridan. The Nazi Seizure of Power. New York: Watts, 2014. (DO NOT PURCHASE EARLIER VERSIONS) 978-1626548725

Crnobrnja, Mihailo. The Yugoslav Drama. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996.

Diamond, Larry and Marc Plattner, eds. The Global Resurgence of Democracy Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996.

Putnam, Robert D. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.

This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets three times weekly for 3 academic hours per week. For the fourth credit hour, students should review their lecture notes (in addition to completing the assigned readings) before recitation. This course also includes substantial reading assignments as well as a midterm and final exam.

Academic Honesty Policy

Pandemic Policies

*In light of the challenges that continue to be posed by Covid, I encourage all students to communicate with me as promptly as possible any concerns they have about missing class for illness/quarantine and for meeting class deadlines.

*For the safety of my students, my family and me, my office is a masked space. If you wish to not wear a mask, we can meet at an alternative time outside of my office. Please contact me.

August 26, 28 and 30: Course Introduction and What is Democracy?

Terry L. Karl and Philippe Schmitter, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 49-62. [Link](#)

Larry Diamond, "Three Paradoxes of Democracy," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 111-123. [Link](#)

NO CLASS on Sept 2: Labor Day

September 4, 9 and 11: How does Democracy Come About? Theories of Democratization

Daniel Lerner, The Passing of Traditional Society, Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1958. Chapter 1. [Link](#)

Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1981. Chapter 2. [Link](#)

Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 3-25. [Link](#)

S.M. Lipset, "George Washington and the Founding of Democracy," Journal of Democracy, 9.4(1998): 24-38. [Link](#)

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 3-22.

NO CLASS on Sept 6: Professor Meguid at a conference.

September 13, 16, and 18: Democracy and Democratization: Cases

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 25-144, 150-208.

September 23 and 25: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Theories

Harold Isaacs, "Basic Group Identity: The Idols of the Tribe," in Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, eds, Ethnicity: Theory and Experience, Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1975. 29-52. [Link](#)

Posner, Daniel, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," American Political Science Review, 98.4 (2004): 529-545. [Link](#)

Hugh Trevor-Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland," in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds, The Invention of Tradition, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990. 15-41. [Link](#)

September 30 and October 2: Ethnic Conflict: The Case of Yugoslavia

Mihailo Crnobrnja, The Yugoslav Drama, Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996. 15-127; 141-188.

Aleksa Djilas, "A Profile of Slobodan Milosevic," Foreign Affairs, (Summer 1993): 81-96. [Link](#)

October 7 and 9: Revolutions

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," in Laurence H. Simons (ed), Selected Writings, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994. 157-176. [Link](#)

James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, 27.1(1962): 5-19. [Link](#)

Eric Selbin, "Revolution in the Real World: Bringing Agency Back In," in John Foran, ed, Theorizing Revolutions, London: Routledge, 1997. 123-136. [Link](#)

No class (or office hours) October 14 – Fall Break

October 16, 21, and 23: Revolutions around the World: Cases

Farideh Farhi, "State Disintegration and Urban-Based Revolutionary Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of Iran and Nicaragua," Comparative Political Studies, 21.2(1988). 231-256. [Link](#)

Theda Skocpol, "Rentier State and Shi'a Islam in the Iranian Revolution," Theory and Society, 11.3(1982). 265-83. [Link](#)

October 28: Midterm review

October 30: *In-class MIDTERM*

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996: 290-303.

NB: No class on 11/27 or 11/29: Thanksgiving

December 2 and 4: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital (cases)

William Sheridan Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, New York: Watts, 1984. 1-167, 183-200, 217-232, 293-303.

Morris Fiorina, "Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement" Civic Engagement in American Democracy. Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds. (Washington, DC: Brookings