

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

POLC 2300-01

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00-8:50am

Norman Mayer 200B

Instructor: Mart Trasberg, tmart@tulane.edu

Office Hours: Monday 9:00-11:00am, Norman Mayer 318

This course provides a broad overview of the Comparative Politics subfield by focusing on important substantive questions about the world today. The course is organized around four questions. First, what factors account for the development of modern state? Second, how can we account for the differences between autocracies and democracies? Third, what different institutional forms does democratic government take? Finally, are some nations more likely than others to produce desirable social outcomes such as accountability, redistribution, and political stability?

Based on these fundamental questions, the course is divided into five units: 1) Introduction to the Comparative Politics subfield 2) State and Political Order 3) Democracy and Dictatorship 4) Political Institutions in Democracies; and 5) Politics of Economic and Social Development.

This course will prepare you for higher-level courses in political science in two ways. First, it will teach you make and evaluate arguments about politics. Second, it will introduce you to the methods that political scientists use in their research.

Course Goals:

1. To provide students with a knowledge of:
 - a. The political sources and effects of political, social, and economic change across time and place
 - b. The institutional structure of policy-making across advanced industrial democracies and developing countries
 - c. Competing interpretive paradigms relating to the character and significance of political and economic change
2. To enhance students' abilities to:
 - a. Analyze political and economic outcomes across national contexts
 - b. Reason critically
 - c. Communicate effectively in oral and written formats

Objectives:

To achieve the goals identified above, through lecture, in-class discussion, out-of-class discussions, and evaluation through assignments indicated above.

Outcomes:

Students satisfactorily completing this course will have demonstrated advanced substantive knowledge of and analytical competence in the utilization of indicated subject matter and skills. Outcomes will be measured through a grade, composed of components as listed herein.

Grading (and weighting in final grade):

1. **Active, informed participation** in class discussion; attendance and any reading quizzes will be counted towards this total (20%).
2. **Three response papers** of 900 words on topics to be assigned by the instructor (10% each). Prompts will be posted on Canvas one week before papers are due (see course schedule). Papers must be submitted via Canvas by 9:00 PM on the due date and should be saved and uploaded in MS Word .docx format as, for example, SMITH_RP1. Each response paper should be double-spaced and no longer than 900 words. It is the responsibility of the student to submit a readable file. Each paper must include the word count on the top right-hand corner. The student's name, course title, and headings are excluded from the word count. Points will be deducted for all late assignments!
3. In-class **midterm examination** (20%).
4. **Final examination**, covering the material from the second half of the course (30%).

Canvas: Class logistics will be managed via Tulane's Canvas system. All announcements, additional readings, assignment guidelines, relevant course materials, presentations for the lectures, etc. will be posted on Canvas (<https://tulane.instructure.com>). Canvas will be updated regularly, and students are responsible for checking any posted announcements, updates, materials, etc.

Readings: All course reading is expected to have been completed by the class session in which that material is listed on the syllabus. Unannounced reading quizzes will be administered and will become part of the participation grade.

Most of the readings for the course will be available **on Canvas (under Files tab)**. In addition, the following textbook is required and should be purchased:

- O'Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York & London: W.W Norton & Company (hereafter O'Neil). Either Fifth or Sixth Edition is fine.

Attendance policy: Regular attendance is required. I will mark you as absent if you attend class but cannot or will not participate or are obviously unprepared. If absences, tardiness, or under-preparation becomes a problem, your participation grade will suffer. Students are permitted two absences over the course of the semester. Any additional absence for non-medical reason or other emergency justification will result in the subtraction of one whole point out of your final grade. For medical/other emergency absence, you will need to provide a signed note justifying your absence.

Make-Up Exams: Students should make every effort to take exams with the rest of the class. Make-up exams will only be given if the student is absent from the exam because of a university-approved activity or an emergency. For university-approved activities: I require advance notice that you will not be taking the exam. For emergencies: I will require verification

of the reason behind the absence. Make-up exams will be scheduled at my discretion and may take a very different form from the exams given in class.

Grade Grubbing: The practice of "grade-grubbing" is looked down upon in this class. Grade grubbing is when students beg professors for re-tests, make-up tests, paper extensions or higher grades with or without legitimate reason. Refrain from engaging in this behavior.

Electronic Devices: No laptops, phones, or any other electronic devices may be used in lecture for any reason—no exceptions. Turn cell phones off before you come to class. For details on why I do not allow laptops, see:

<http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>

Grading Scale:

93+=A, 90-92=A-, 88-89=B+, 83-87=B, 80-82=B-, 78-79=C+ 73-77=C, 70-72=C-, 60-69=D, 0-59=F

Special Circumstances: If you have any kind of special circumstances, such as a disability, illness or handicap, or if you are involved with a university activity that requires you to miss class, let me know as soon as possible. This information is confidential. All students attending Tulane University with documented disabilities are eligible and encouraged to apply for services with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please see me for information, or go to <http://erc.tulane.edu/disability>. Students needing accommodations **must provide me** with a Course Accommodation Form and if applicable, an Exam Request Form ("blue sheet") in order to schedule an exam to be taken at ODS. Accommodations involving exams must be requested to me at least seven days before a test or fourteen days before a final exam. Any student receiving an exam-related accommodation should plan to take the exam at ODS and is responsible for picking up the exam from me beforehand.

Honor Code Violations: Students at Tulane are required to act in accordance with The Code of Academic Conduct. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board and may result in a failing grade for the class, academic probation, or expulsion. Ignorance is not a valid excuse. Academic dishonesty can include (but is not limited to) presenting another's work as if it were one's own; failing to acknowledge or document a source; giving or receiving, or attempting to give or receive, unauthorized assistance or information in an assignment or examination; submitting the same assignment in two or more courses without prior permission of the respective instructors; having another person write a paper or sit for an examination (includes online paper-mills); using tests or papers from students in prior semesters.

Tulane University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As "One Wave," Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault or sexual harassment, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available. Learn more at onewave.tulane.edu. Any and all of

your communications on these matters will be treated as either “Strictly Confidential” or “Mostly Confidential” as explained in the chart below.

<i>Except in extreme circumstances, involving imminent danger to one’s self or others, nothing will be shared without your explicit permission.</i>	<i>Conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information is shared with key staff members so the University can offer resources and accommodations and take action if necessary for safety reasons.</i>
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) (504) 314-2277	Coordinator of Violence Prevention (504) 314-2161
Student Health Center (504) 865-5255	Tulane University Police (TUPD) (504) 865-5911
Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education (SAPHE) (504) 654-9543	Office of Institutional Equity (504) 862-8083

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS SUBFIELD

Mon., Aug. 26: Introduction

Wed., Aug. 28: What is Comparative Politics?

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 1 (Introduction)
- ✓ Sewell, William. "Marc Bloch and the Logic of Comparative History," in *History and Theory: Studies in the Philosophy of History*, vol. VI. Middletown, Conn: Wesleyan University Press, pp. 208-218.

Fri, Aug. 30: NO CLASS

PART II: STATE AND POLITICAL ORDER

Mon., Sept. 2: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)

Wed., Sept. 4: What is a State?

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 2 (States)
- ✓ Ziblatt, Daniel. "Why Some Cities Provide More Public Goods than Others: A Subnational Comparison of the Provision of Public Goods in German Cities in 1912." *St Comp Int Dev* (2008) 43:273–289.

Fri., Sept. 6: State Development I

- ✓ Centeno, Miguel Angel. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America." *American Journal of Sociology*, (1997) 102 (6): 1565-1605.

Mon., Sept. 9: State Development II

- ✓ Lieberman, Evan. "National Political Community and the Politics of Income Taxation in Brazil and South Africa in the 20th Century." *Politics & Society*. (2001) 29(4): 515-555.

Wed., Sept. 11: National Identity and Nationalism

- ✓ Gellner, Ernest. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983.

Fri., Sept. 13: State Failure

- ✓ Rotberg, Robert I. "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure." *Washington Quarterly*, vol. 25. no. 3. (2002): 85-96.
- ✓ William Reno (2006) "Congo: From state collapse to 'absolutism', to state failure", *Third World Quarterly*, 27:1, 43-56.

PART III: DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP

Mon., Sept 16: Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 5 (Democratic Regimes)

- ✓ Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Ch 1.

Wed., Sept 18.: Waves of Democracy

- ✓ Huntington, Samuel P. 1996. "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 3-25.
- ✓ Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *The American Political Science Review*, 53(1): 69-105.

Fri, Sept 20: Democratization - Economic and Political Origins

- ✓ Diamond, Larry. "Why there are no Arab Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, 21(1), pp. 93-112.
- ✓ Boix, Carles. 2006. "The Roots of Democracy." *Policy Review*, 135.

Mon, Sept 23.: Democratization - Economic and Political Origins II

- ✓ Slater, Dan and Joseph Wong. 2013 "The Strength to Concede: Ruling Parties and Democratization in Developmental Asia," *Perspectives on Politics*, 11(3): 717-733.

Wed, Sept 25: Can Democracy collapse?

- ✓ Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. *How Democracies Die*. Crown, 2018, Ch. 1-3
- ✓ **RESPONSE PAPER 1 due, 9 PM**

Friday, Sept. 27: NO CLASS

Mon., Sept. 30: Hybrid Regimes – between Democracy and Dictatorship

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

Wed., Oct 2: Authoritarian Regimes

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 6 (Nondemocratic Regimes)
- ✓ Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2:115-144.

PART IV: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN DEMOCRACIES

Fri., Oct. 4: Varieties of Democracy:

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 8 (Developed Democracies)
- ✓ **MIDTERM REVIEW**

Mon., Oct. 7: **MIDTERM (in regular classroom)**

Wed., Oct 9. NO CLASS (YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY)

Fri., Oct 11. NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

Mon., Oct. 14: Electoral Systems, and Consensus vs Majoritarian Democracies

- ✓ Lijphart, Arendt. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Ch 1-4 (pp. 1-60).

Wed. Oct. 16: Party System Development

- ✓ Lipset, Seymour M. and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structure, Party System and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." In S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan, eds. *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross National Perspectives*. New York: Free Press.

Fri. Oct. 18: Parliamentaryism vs Presidentialism

- ✓ Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism" *Journal of Democracy*, 1(1): pp.51-80.

Mon., Oct 21: Welfare State in Industrial World

- ✓ Alesina, Alberto, and Edward Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 133-142 and 154-180

V. THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wed., Oct. 23: The challenges of Development in Developing countries

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 10 (Developing Countries)

Friday, Oct. 25: Colonialism and Development

- ✓ Lange, Matthew, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau. 2006. "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies." *American Journal of Sociology*, 111(5): 1412-1444.

Mon., Oct 28.: Democracy, State Institutions and Economic Development

- ✓ Siegle, Joseph, Michael Weinstein and Morton Halpern. 2004. "Why Democracies Excel." *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct) 83(5): 57-71.

Wed., Oct. 30: Corruption and Development

- ✓ Svensson, Jakob. "8 Questions About Corruption." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*—Volume 19, Number 3—Summer 2005—Pages 19–42

Fri. Nov. 1:

- ✓ NO CLASS

Mon., Nov 4. Clientelism, Patronage and Vote-buying

- ✓ Stokes, Susan, Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno, and Valeria Brusco. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2013, Ch. 1.

Wed., Nov 6. Policy Interventions to Reduce Poverty

- ✓ Díaz-Cayeros, Alberto, and Beatriz Magaloni. 2009. "Aiding Latin America's Poor." *Journal of Democracy*, 20(4): 36-49.
- ✓ Interview with Tulane Professor Nora Lustig: "A radical proposal to fight poverty in the developing world: tax the rich more than the poor", by Charles Kenny and Justin Sandefur, May 24, 2018.
<https://www.vox.com/the-big-idea/2018/5/24/17378148/extreme-poverty-developing-world-taxes-transfers>

Fri., Nov. 8. Criminal Violence

- ✓ Schedler, Andreas. "The Criminal Subversion of Mexican Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 25, Number 1, January 2014, pp. 5-18.

Mon., Nov. 11: Globalization

- ✓ O'Neil, Ch. 11 (Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics)

Wed., Nov. 13: Globalization II

- ✓ Rudra, Nita. 2012. *Globalization and the Race to the Bottom in Developing Countries: Who Really Gets Hurt*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Ch 1.

Fri., Nov. 15: The Politics of Economic Liberalization in the Developing world

- ✓ NO READING

Mon., Nov. 18: The Politics of Income Inequality

- ✓ Bartels, Larry. 2008. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch 1.
- ✓ **RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE, 9PM**

Wed., Nov 20. Income Inequality in the Industrial World

- ✓ Revise Bartels (2008)

Fri. Nov 22. The Politics of Climate Change

- ✓ Cohen, Daniel Aldana. "Stop Eco-Apartheid The Left's Challenge in Bolsonaro's Brazil." *Dissent*. Winter 2019, Vol. 66 Issue 1, p. 23-31.

Mon., Nov 25. Populism, and Rise of the Extreme Right

- ✓ Gusterson, Hugh. "From Brexit to Trump: Anthropology and the rise of nationalist populism." *American Ethnologist*, Volume 44, Issue 2, 2017.

Wed., Nov. 27. NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Fri., Nov. 29. NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Mon., Dec. 2. Course Conclusion: the Future of Democracy and Liberal Order

Wed., Dec 4. FINAL EXAM Review

Fri., Dec 6. FINAL EXAM Review

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9am