

PLS 140

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Nazarbayev University
Fall 2018
M-W-F 5:00 to 5:50 PM
Block 8, Room 327

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Office Hours: M & W 9-10 AM, 11:30 AM to 1 PM, 2-5 PM
T & R 9 AM-12 PM, 2-5 PM

Course Description:

- The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the leading contemporary academic debates in the comparative politics subfield of the political science discipline. In particular, this course highlights the study of states, democracy and autocracy, state failure, the institutions of advanced industrialized democracies, aspects of political violence, economic modernization and political development, the effects of globalization, and strategies to overcome poverty and underdevelopment. In addition, this course specifically acquaints students with the political systems of the United Kingdom, United States of America, Russian Federation, Germany, Iran, China, Mexico, Japan, and other regions.

Course Objectives:

- This course is designed to provide students with the necessary analytical skills so that they are able to:
 - Identify the various political, economic, and social challenges facing a variety of countries today.
 - Critically evaluate political and economic systems throughout the world.
 - Comprehend and engage the leading academic debates in the comparative politics subfield.

Course Readings:

- The following textbooks are available at the Nazarbayev University Library. Other assigned readings are available via NU Library online databases. Assigned course readings are not made available on Moodle.
 - Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th ed. (2015).
 - Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 5th ed. (2015).

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance for this course constitutes 10% of students' grades and will be taken on a regular basis. Students are expected to arrive to class on-time and to have their NU identification cards with them. The teaching assistant (TA) will ask to see your IDs as you enter class. Please silence all devices prior to the start of class. Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions during lecture breaks. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and to come to class prepared for discussion. Students who are present in class on days that attendance is taken will earn **1 point**. Attendance for the class adds up to 50 points. **3 points** for attendance will be awarded for each of the mini exams and the final review session. Students who are absent from any class or on the day of an exam will need to provide documentation to SHSS within 3 business days to be excused (and reschedule a time to sit for a makeup exam if need be). Students who fail to adhere to this policy will receive a score of 0 points on days when attendance is taken as well as 0 points for any mini or final exam for which they do not sit.
2. Students will sit for three mini-exams. Mini-exams will be administered during Weeks 4, 8, and 11. The first mini-exam will consist of course material from Week 1 to Week 3. The second mini-exam will consist of course material from Week 4 to Week 8. The third mini-exam will consist of course material from Week 9 to Week 11. For each mini-exam, students will be tasked with answering several multiple choice questions and identifying (i.e. defining and describing the significance) of several key terms discussed in readings and lectures (students will have the option to select two from a listing of four terms). In addition, students will be tasked with writing a short essay in response to one question concerning a country case study analyzed in class (questions will only be posed for those countries analyzed during the weeks covered by a mini-exam and students will have the option to select the question on which to write). Mini-exams will be administered in class. Prior to the start of a mini-exam, students are required to switch off all devices and place their ID cards upon their desks for verification.

Mini-exam multiple choice questions are worth 4 points each, and there are 15 questions per mini-exam. Identifying questions are worth 10 points each, and students will select 2 per mini-exam. In answering identifying questions, students need to provide a definition for the selected term (5 points) and discuss the significance of the term as it relates to class readings and lectures (5 points). Essay questions are worth 20 points, and students will select 1 from a grouping of questions per mini-exam. Essay questions are graded on content (10 points) and writing style (10 points). Students need to provide an answer to the essay question posed on mini-exams. Students need to demonstrate mastery of course material as well as the ability to compose a well-written argument (consisting of an introduction, a body, and a conclusion) in their essays. At the end of the semester all students will sit for a final exam. The final exam covers all course materials and will consist of 20 multiple choice questions (5 points each for a total of 100 points), 3 identifying questions (30 points), and 1 essay question (20 points). The final exam essay question requires students to engage in a comparative analysis of several country case studies.

3. All students are expected to treat one another with dignity and respect in the classroom. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions on various political issues, albeit in a polite and courteous manner.

Academic Integrity:

- All students are required to ensure that the work which they submit for grading in this class is their own. Instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a student receiving a score of **0** for an assignment. All instances in which cheating/plagiarism is suspected will be referred to SHSS for disciplinary review. Copying, rephrasing of text without citations, and/or submitting unoriginal work constitutes plagiarism.

Grading:

Attendance	50
Mini-Exam 1	100
Mini-Exam 2	100
Mini-Exam 3	100
Final Exam	150
Total	500 points

Scale:

	A: 475-500	A-: 450-474
B+: 425-449	B: 400-424	B-: 375-399
C+: 350-374	C: 325-349	C-: 300-324
D+: 275-299	D: 250-274	F: 249 and below

Class Schedule:Week 1: States**Monday (8-13)**

- Course Introduction.

Wednesday (8-15)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 3-8.
- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 3-27.

Friday (8-17)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 31-60.

Week 2: Democracy**Monday (8-20)**

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 8-17.
- Gordon Graham, "What is Special about Democracy?" *Mind* 92.365 (1983): 94-102.

Wednesday (8-22)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 137-154.

Friday (8-24)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 35-71, 82-87 (United Kingdom).

Week 3: Democratic Institutions

Monday (8-27)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 158-169.
- Guillermo A. O'Donnell, "Why the Rule of Law Matters," *Journal of Democracy* 15.4 (2004): 32-46.
- David Beetham, "Freedom as the Foundation," *Journal of Democracy* 15.4 (2004): 61-75.

Wednesday (8-29)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 154-155.
- Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* 1.1 (1990): 51-69.

Friday (8-31)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 93-126, 139-143 (United States of America).

Week 4: Advanced Industrialized Democracies

Monday (9-3)

- **Mini Exam 1**

Wednesday (9-5)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 239-264, 266-269.

Friday (9-7)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 211-250, 259-261, 264-265 (Germany).

Week 5: Autocracy

Monday (9-10)

- Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13.2 (2002): 51-65.
- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 175-181, 187-204.

Wednesday (9-12)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 331-362, 365-369, 375-376 (Russian Federation).

Friday (9-14)

- Olga Kryshstanovskaya and Stephen White, "The Sovietization of Russian Politics," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 25.4 (2009): 283-309.

Week 6: The Middle East

Monday (9-17)

- Eva Bellin, “The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective,” *Comparative Politics* 36.2 (2004): 139-157.
- Larry Diamond, “Why Are There No Arab Democracies?” *Journal of Democracy* 21.1 (2010): 93-104.

Wednesday (9-19)

- Nathan J. Brown, “Egypt’s Failed Transition,” *Journal of Democracy* 24.4 (2013): 45-58.
- Larry Diamond, “What Went Wrong in Iraq,” *Foreign Affairs* 83.5 (September/October 2004): 34-56.

Friday (9-21)

- Frederic Wehrey, “Saudi Arabia’s Anxious Autocrats,” *Journal of Democracy* 26.2 (2015): 71-85.

Week 7: Political Violence and Terrorism

Monday (9-24)

- O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 207-236.
- Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism,” *International Security* 31.1 (2006): 49-80.

Wednesday (9-26)

- James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” *American Political Science Review* 97.1 (2003): 75-90.

Friday (9-28)

- Andrew F. Krepinevich, “How to Win in Iraq,” *Foreign Affairs* 84.5 (September/October 2005): 87-104.
- Karl W. Eikenberry, “The Limits of Counterinsurgency Doctrine in Afghanistan,” *Foreign Affairs* 92.5 (September/October 2013): 59-74.

Week 8: State Failure

Monday (10-1)

- J. Goldstone, “Pathways to State Failure,” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25 (2008): 285-296.

Wednesday (10-3)

- Michael J. Mazarr, “The Rise and Fall of the Failed State Paradigm,” *Foreign Affairs* 93.1 (January/February 2014): 113-121.

Friday (10-5)

- **Mini Exam 2**

FALL BREAK

Week 9: Protest and Revolution

Monday (10-15)

- Filipe R. Campante and Davin Chor, "Why Was the Arab World Poised for Revolution? Schooling, Economic Opportunities, and the Arab Spring," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 26.2 (Spring 2012): 167-187.

Wednesday (10-17)

- Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, "Drop Your Weapons," *Foreign Affairs* 93.4 (July/August 2014): 94-106.

Friday (10-19)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 503-531, 545-552 (Iran).

Week 10: Modernization Theory

Monday (10-22)

- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* 88.2 (March/April 2009): 33-48.

Wednesday (10-24)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 381-419, 436-439 (China).

Friday (10-26)

- Victoria Tin-bor Hui, "Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement: The Protests and Beyond," *Journal of Democracy* 26.2 (2015): 111-121.

Week 11: Developmental State

Monday (10-29)

- Z. Oniş, "Review: The Logic of the Developmental State," *Comparative Politics* 24.1 (1991): 109-126.

Wednesday (10-31)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 271-309, 314-317, 324-326 (Japan).

Friday (11-2)

- **Mini Exam 3**

Week 12: Former Soviet Union

Monday (11-5)

- Charles J. Sullivan, "Conceptualizing the Collapse: Stalin, Gorbachev, and the Downfall of the USSR," *East European Quarterly* 43.4 (December 2015): 243-264.

Wednesday (11-7)

- Lucan Way, "The Real Causes of the Color Revolutions," *Journal of Democracy* 19.3 (2008): 55-69.
- Valerie Bunce and Sharon Wolchik, "Getting Real About 'Real Causes'," *Journal of Democracy* 20.1 (2009): 69-73.

Friday (11-9)

- V. Silitski, "Preempting Democracy: The Case of Belarus," *Journal of Democracy* 16.4 (2005): 83-97.
- Serhiy Kudelia, "The House that Yanukovich Built," *Journal of Democracy* 25.3 (2014): 19-34.

Week 13: Central Asia

Monday (11-12)

- Scott Radnitz, "What Really Happened in Kyrgyzstan?" *Journal of Democracy* 17.2 (2006):132-146.
- Charles J. Sullivan, "'Halk, Watan, Berdymukhammedov! Political Transition and Regime Continuity in Turkmenistan," *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia* (2016): 35-51.

Wednesday (11-14)

- Charles J. Sullivan, "Tranquility or Turbulence in Tashkent? Uzbekistan in the Post-Karimov Era." *OSCE Academy - Bishkek Central Asia Policy Brief* 43 (November 2016).
- Kathleen Collins, "The Logic of Clan Politics: Evidence from the Central Asian Trajectories," *World Politics* 56.2 (2004): 224-261.

Friday (11-16)

- Charles J. Sullivan, "Kazakhstan at a Crossroads," *Asia Policy* 13.2 (April 2018): 121-136.

Week 14: Globalization

Monday (11-19)

- O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, pp. 343-350.

Wednesday (11-21)

- O'Neil et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, pp. 559-577, 596-597, 603, 608-611 (Mexico).

Friday (11-23)

- Course Review Session.