POLITICAL SCIENCE 141: GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD
(INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS)

Instructor: Adriela Fernandez
Fall 2015

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 – 1:15pm
BRNG Hall, room 1245

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays KRAN 584 3:00 – 5:00pm
and by appointment
E-mail: afernan@purdue.edu

Readings: Readings for every week will be available
from the textbook and in digital form

Course Description

Comparative Politics, CP, is considered one of the four major sub-fields of
political science. It examines the array of political systems we find in the world of
the XXI century and the people of the societies in which these systems operate. It
does so by comparing and contrasting them, and by attempting to find
generalizations about how they function. As a social science endeavor CP works
by applying the tools of the scientific method to empirical observations, or data,
and the alternative ways in which this data can be studied. The ultimate aim is to
formulate explanations that have been through the testable processes and can be
accepted as part of a cumulative body of knowledge in social sciences.

To accomplish this objective we will review information, ideas, and theories from
the rich variety of political experiences to be found in our community of nations.

Expected Student Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students shall be able to:

1. Identify the scientific structures of comparative politics.
2. Identify the major variables that differentiate political systems.
3. Apply the tools of social sciences to describe, compare, and generalize about political systems.
4. Think critically, analytically, and systematically about politics and all the processes associated with a political system, this includes:
   - Differentiate between facts and opinions.
   - Evaluate the diverse perspectives about political systems

Course Policies

1. There will be one comprehensive exam worth 40 percent of the final grade. In addition, there will be two quizzes each worth 25 percent of the total grade. A good understanding of lectures and readings will be essential to do well in the quizzes and comprehensive exam. Class attendance and informed participation will count for 10 percent of your grade. Short written assignments or Attendance Questions, are part of informed participation.

2. Attendance is required. Regular attendance (no more than 3 missed lectures) will count as extra credit (plus 2 percentage points).

3. The Exam and Quizzes must be taken at the time specified in the syllabus. Exceptions to this rule are only made in cases of illness or other severe circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student to provide verification. Students failing to do so will not be given the opportunity to take the exam at some other time, and will receive a failing grade (zero points).

4. Neither cell phone nor PDA are allowed during an examination, you will be asked to leave the room and immediately given a grade of F for that exam. All university rules regarding student conduct and ethical behavior apply. These can be found here:

5. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. I will post such changes on the class web page and will send an email to your @purdue.edu account. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ YOUR @PURDUE.EDU ON A FREQUENT BASIS
Evaluation

Comprehensive Exam 40%
First Quiz 25%
Second Quiz 25%

Class Participation
[Involves Written Answers to 
At least 3 Attendance Questions] 10%

A = 90-100%
B = 82-89%
C = 75-81%
D = 65-74%
F = 64% and below

Readings:

There is one required book for this course:
ISBN-10: 0321449746
It is available at Amazons.
Main URL: https://coursematerials.amazon.com/
You can also go directly to the URL for Purdue at https://coursematerials.amazon.com/purdue

In addition there will be articles that will be provided by the instructor in digital form. Assigned readings are essential to follow the lectures and be able to participate in class discussions and Attendance Questions.

Course Outline

Week 1
Aug 25-27 Introduction: Course Overview and Policies
Topic: Comparative Politics as Social Science
Readings: CP (Comparative Politics) chapter 1, pages 1-27
Topic: State, Regime, Government
Readings: CP, chapter 2
Week 2
Sep 1-3  Ethnicity, Nationality, and Citizenship
Readings: CP, Chapters 6 and 73, pages 147 - 190
Topic: Political Economy
Readings/Views: T.K.Oommen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgzdVnGe4WU
John Mearsheimer
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzNFnm1T6r8

Week 3
Sep 8-10 The State and Some of its Basic Functions: Tax Collection and Redistribution – Promoting Development
Readings: CP chapters 11 and 12, pages 285-344
Topic: Who does it Better? The Scandinavian Experience
Readings: Findings by University of Zurich teams
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110127090533.htm
Social Democracy in Crisis? What Crisis?
Rothstein and Steinmo
Readings: CP, Chapter 11 pages 285-314

Week 4
Sep 15-17 The State and the Politics of Reform: Inequality
Readings: G. William Domhoff
http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html
Topic: The State and Land Reform
http://prq.sagepub.com/content/67/1/123.full.pdf+html
Topic: The Political Economy of Redistribution
Readings: CP Chapter 12, pages 315-343

Week 5
Sep 22 First Quiz in class
Sep 24 Case Studies Discussion France, Nigeria, and Japan
View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1IFcalbhOw
by Prof. Gregory S. Brown
Readings: Nigeria History and Politics
https://www.issafrica.org/Af/profiles/Nigeria/Politics.html
http://www.unh.edu/nigerianstudies/articles/Issue2/Political_leadership.pdf
Readings: Japan’s political system

Week 6
Sep 29 - Democracy and its Many Forms
Oct 01 Readings: CP Chapter 3, pages 58 - 68 and 79 - 90
Topic: Violence and Politics
Readings: CP Chapter 10 pages 257-284

Week 7
Oct 6 -8 Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism
Readings: CP Chapter 10, pages 69-77
Cases in CP Brazil
Cases in CP, United Kingdom
Is the UK is the Least Democratic Country? Another Take at
The Zurich Study on Democracy
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1352845/Britain-undemocratic-countries-Europe.html

Week 8
Oct 13 No Class October Break
Oct 15 Voting Behavior and Political Reform
Readings: Joe D. Hagan

Week 9
Oct 20-22 Participation, Voting and Political Reform
Readings: CP Chapter 9, pages 228-245
Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment
Gerber Green and Larimer
Alfred Stepan and Cindy Skach
Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation
Case Study Mexico
Week 10
Oct 27-29  Socialism, Communism and the Rise of the Working Class
Readings: CP Chapter 4, pages 95-102
The Communist Manifesto
Karl Marx
Topic: The Russian Revolution

Week 11
Nov 3-5  Gender and Politics
Readings: CP Chapter 8 pages 201-227
Religion and Politics
CP Chapter 7 pages 173-200

Week 12
Nov 10-12  Political Parties and Party Systems
Readings: CP Chapter 9 pages 246-256
Russell Dalton on his main thesis in *The Good Citizen*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OH040FD1JHoR
Russell Dalton on the Pirate Party in the US
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aErBzgcL4w

Week 13
Nov 17  The Policy Making Process
Readings: *Policy Paradigms, Social Learning and the State*
Peter A. Hall
The Role of Trust in Political Institutions: the Case of post-Communist Societies. William Mishler and Richard Rose
Readings: http://www.u.arizona.edu/~mishler/TRUSTorigins.pdf
Governance performance: Economic performance & welfare state
Readings: G. Hyden  Governance and poverty reduction in Africa
http://www.pnas.org/content/104/43/16751.full

Nov 19  Second Quiz in class

Week 14
Nov 24  Development and Public Policy
Readings: States and Social Policies
Skocpol and Amenta
Readings: Partisanship, Christianity, and Women in the Legislature:
Determinants of Parental Leave Policy in U.S. States
Williamson and Carnes

Nov 26  No classes: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15
Dec 1-3  Nation Building and Global Governance
Readings: Essentials chapter 11, pages 325 - 339
Global Governance Redefined
Miles Kahler
Topic: Beyond War and Peace: Pacific Alliance in the Americas

Week 16
Dec 8  Case Studies: Comparing China and India
Dec 10  Review for Comprehensive Exam in Class

Final Exam  TBA

CAMPUS RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS
Tutoring, Help Labs, Academic Support [www.purdue.edu/tutoring](http://www.purdue.edu/tutoring). This website maintains location, hours, and lists of tutors and resource rooms. (e.g. Biology Resource Center, Physics Help Center, Purdue Writing Lab, Math Help Room, Chemistry Resource Room, COSINE, etc.)

Office of the Registrar HOVD 45 [www.purdue.edu/registrar](http://www.purdue.edu/registrar). Where students can obtain copies of their transcripts, discuss registration concerns, and change student directory listing.

Office of the Bursar HOVD 009 [www.purdue.edu/bursar/](http://www.purdue.edu/bursar/) Where students can pay most of their bills, learn about tuition payment plans, fee rates, and refunds.

Division of Financial Aid SCHL 305 [www.purdue.edu/dfa/](http://www.purdue.edu/dfa/) Where students can find information about student loans, grants and scholarship opportunities, and student employment.

Office of the Dean of Students SCHL 207 [www.purdue.edu/odos/](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/) Where students can learn about student organizations, seek counseling, and receive assistance from Adaptive Programs.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) PUSH 246 or PSYC 1120 [www.purdue.edu/caps/](http://www.purdue.edu/caps/) Offers a variety of professional services, including individual, group, and couples psychotherapy; psychological testing; psychopharmacology; crisis intervention; drug and alcohol programs; outreach and consultation.

Academic Success Center (ASC) ENAD 242 [www.purdue.edu/asc/](http://www.purdue.edu/asc/) Offers a collection of services and programs designed to help students be successful and achieve their academic goals.

Center for Career Opportunities (CCO) YONG 132 [www.cco.purdue.edu/](http://www.cco.purdue.edu/) Prepares students to launch successful careers by providing career development and job search services.

Supplemental Instruction ENAD 212 [www.purdue.edu/si/](http://www.purdue.edu/si/) Student-led study sessions for some of Purdue’s most challenging courses.

Libraries [www.lib.purdue.edu/](http://www.lib.purdue.edu/) Find out about Purdue’s Libraries, what services are offered, where the libraries
are located and hours of operation.

Distance Learning Center (DRC) STEW G59 www.distance.purdue.edu/
Offers a variety of distance learning opportunities of degree and non-degree programs.

Disability Resource Center YONG 830 www.purdue.edu/odos/drc/
This office facilitates services for qualified student with disabilities as they pursue their academic career.

Assistive Technology Center STEW 111
www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/support/atc/ Provides consultation/training for students who need assistive technologies.

Boiler Volunteer Network (BVN) STEW G4 www.purdue.edu/odos/bvn/
Helps students, student organizations, faculty and staff fine community engagement and service opportunities.

Student Health Center PUSH www.purdue.edu/push/
Offers healthcare, counseling and wellness services to students.

Counseling and Guidance Center BRNG 3202
www.edst.purdue.edu/counseling_psychology/PCGC.html
Assists students with a variety of educational, career and personal problems.

Dean of Students Testing Center SCHL B42
www.purdue.edu/odos/testingcenter/
Offers pre-employment testing, advanced credit exams, independent study exams, career and personality testing (by referral) as well as several national exams.

Latino Cultural Center (LCC) 600 N. Russell St www.purdue.edu/lcc/
Serves as a resource to Latinos and celebrates and enhances understanding of Latino culture.

Black Cultural Center (BCC) 1100 Third St. www.purdue.edu/bcc/
Presents the rich heritage of the African American experience through art, history and cultural understanding.

Native American Education and Cultural Center (NAECC) 503 Harrison St.,
SCC-B www.purdue.edu/naecc/
Native American students' home away from home, providing resources and support for all tribal nations.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Center (LGBTQ) ENAD 301 www.purdue.edu/lgbtq/
Provides a welcoming and affirming locations on campus for all, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Computer Labs www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/facilities/instructionallabs/index.html Find computer lab locations and hours of operation.

Student Activities and Organizations (SAO)/ B-Involved SCHL 250 www.purdue.edu/b-involved Engage Purdue students in a meaningful co-curricular learning experience that leads to success at Purdue and beyond.
Veterans Success Center ENAD 242 www.purdue.edu/veterans/
One-stop opportunity for veterans, military students, and immediate family members to connect with education benefits and services.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities SCHL B50 www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/welcome.php Promotes responsibility and encourage honesty, integrity and respect among Purdue students through education, compliance with behavior standards, and support of individual rights.

Information Technology at Purdue (ITaP) HSSE Library www.purdue.edu/cio/support.cfm Find help with email, network, etc. Either call (765) 494-4000 or stop by ITaP in STEW.

BlackBoard mycourses.purdue.edu/ BlackBoard login and support email addresses.

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