



COLGATE UNIVERSITY

POSC 153: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Spring 2019)

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Overview

This course offers an introduction to the main theoretical and methodological issues in the comparative study of politics. Its goal is to provide students with the basic tools to understand the nature of the research questions that comparativists ask, the theories that they produce to answer them, and the empirical evidence that they garner to substantiate their theoretical claims. The course is organized around five macro-components (States and Nations; Political Regimes; Institutions; Contentious Politics; and Political Economy), which in turn are subdivided into narrower topics. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the basic contours of varied political phenomena and their determinants, including, among others: state capacity, nationalism, political violence, democratization, parties, forms of government, and development. The historical and empirical material covered in the course draws from different regions of the world including Africa, South and North America, East and Southeast Asia, and Western Europe.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete all readings for the session prior to each class and to actively participate in the discussion of the material assigned. There will be two in-class exams and students will have to complete a “country journal” that will be graded twice in the semester (see below). Performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:

- In-class exams: 25% each, 50% total.
- Country journal: 35%.
- In-class participation: 15%.

**Late Policy:* Barring an extraordinary excuse, all late assignments will be marked down a third of a grade (example: A to A-) for every 24 hours that it is handed in after the due date.

Country Journal

Early in the semester students will select one country from any region of the world that will serve as the basis for their journal. The journal will have one entry for every macro-component covered in the course. Each entry will seek to answer some of the general questions that guide the exploration of different topics, as they apply to the country in question (e.g. for topics 4 and 5, you will ask “Is my chosen country a democracy? For how long has it been one? Does it have an authoritarian past? When and how did it democratize (if at all)?,” etc.)

Some of you may find that writing can sometimes be hard. Fortunately, the University counts with an excellent resource that may be of help: the Writing and Speaking Center in 208 Lathrop Hall offers assistance with essays for any course. Experienced writing consultants can help native and non-native speakers alike with a written paper’s focus, development, organization, clarity, citations, or grammar. Details about all meetings remain private. To make an appointment, go to:

<http://www.colgate.edu/writingcenter> or call [\(315\) 228-6085](tel:3152286085).

Use of electronic devices

Please note that computers, cell phones, and all other technological devices must be turned off during class out of respect for everyone in the classroom. This is an interactive course that demands your attention and participation.

Readings

Please plan to order the following textbook:

- O’Neil, Patrick. (2018) *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

All other readings will be available on Moodle.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Topic 1 – What is Comparative Politics?

January 21st - *Intro*

January 23th - *Basic Ontological and Theoretical Considerations*

- Almond, Gabriel, and Stephen Genco (1977). “Clouds, clocks, and the study of politics”. *World Politics*, 29(04), 489-522.
- O’Neil, Patrick (2018). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 3-19)

1) States and Nations.

Topic 2 – The Emergence of the Modern State.

January 28th – *What is the State?*

- O’Neil, Patrick (2018). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 30-60)

January 30th – *Where does the Modern State come from?*

- Tilly, Charles (1985). “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime” in Peter Evans, Dietrich Reuschmeyer and Theda Skocpol (eds) *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 169-191)
- O’Neil, Patrick et al. (2018) *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 41-44, 156-163)

****February 4th – NO CLASS****

February 6th – *State Formation in the Developing World*

- Herbst, Jeffrey (1990). “War and the State in Africa”. *International Security*, 14(04), 117-139.
- Centeno, Miguel (1997). “Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America.” *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6), 1565–605.

Topic 3 – Nations and Nationalism.

February 11th – *Types of Identities and Nationalism*

- O'Neil, Patrick (2018). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 62-95)
- O'Neil, Patrick et al. (2018) *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 254-256, 484-487)

February 13th – *Nationalism and Modernity*

- Smith, Anthony (2010). *Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (Ch. 3)
- Anderson, Benedict (2006). *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso Books. (Ch. 1)

****First entry of country journals is due on February 15th****

2) Political Regimes

Topic 4 – Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Hybrid Regimes

February 18th – *What are Political Regimes? What is democracy?*

- O'Neil, Patrick (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 136-141, 178-181, 193-199)
- Dahl, Robert (1971). *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (pp. 1-10)

February 20th – *Authoritarianism and Hybrid Regimes*

- Hadenius, Axel and Jan Teorell (2007). “Pathways from Authoritarianism”. *Journal of Democracy*, 18(1), 143-157. (Only 143-152).
- O'Neil, Patrick et al. (2018) *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 349-360)
- Levitsky, S., & Way, L. A. (2010). *Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the cold war*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 3-20)

Topic 5 – Democratization

February 25th – *Modernization Theory*

- O'Neil, Patrick (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 141-148)
- Boix, C., & Stokes, S. C. (2003). “Endogenous democratization.” *World politics*, 55(04), 517-549.
- Przeworski, A., & Limongi, F. (1997). “Modernization: Theories and facts.” *World politics*, 49(02), 155-183.

February 27th – *Waves and World-System Factors*

- Levitsky, S., & Way, L. A. (2006). “Linkage versus leverage. Rethinking the international dimension of regime change.” *Comparative Politics*, 379-400.

****Second entry of country journals is due on March 1st****

Topic 6 – Democracy Beyond Procedures.

March 4th – “Civicness” and Democratic Performance

- Putnam, R. (1994). *Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Ch. 4)
- Putnam, R. (1995). Bowling alone: America's declining social capital. *Journal of democracy*, 6(1), 65-78.

****March 6th – Mid-term Exam****

****March 9th – 17th Mid-term Recess****

3) Political Institutions

Topic 7 – Forms of Government and Electoral Systems

March 18th – Presidentialism and Parliamentarism.

- O'Neil, Patrick (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 148-158)
- Shugart, M. S. (2005). "Comparative Executive-Legislative Relations" in R.A.W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder and B. A. Rockman (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, pp. 344-365

March 20th – Electoral Systems

- O'Neil, Patrick. (2015) *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 159-167)
- Taagepera, R., & Shugart, M. S. (1989). *Seats and Votes: The effects and determinants of electoral systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chapter 3)

Topic 8 – Parties and Party Systems

March 25th – Political Consequences of Electoral Systems

- Cox, Gary (1997). *Making votes count: Strategic coordination in the world's electoral systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 2 and 10)

March 27th – Types of Parties

- Gunther, Richard and Larry Diamond (2003). “Species of political parties: A new typology”. *Party Politics*, 9(2), 167-199.
- O’Neil, Patrick et al. (2018) *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 61-68, 241-251)

Topic 9 - Does it Matter? Effects of Institutional Design

April 1st – *Relative Merits of Presidentialism and Parliamentarism/ Policy Consequences of PI*

- Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Shugart (1997). “Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: a Critical Appraisal.” *Comparative Politics*, 29(4), 449-471.
- Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini (2003). *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press. (Chapters 2 and 9)

****Third entry of country journals is due on March 29th****

4) Contentious Politics

Topic 10 – Social Movements and Revolutions

April 3rd – *Movie screening*

April 8^h – *Intro to Contentious Politics and Overview of Political Violence*

- Tarrow, Sidney (2013). “Contentious Politics”. *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- O’Neil, Patrick. (2018) *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (Chapter 7)

April 10th – *The Political Process Model*

- McAdam, Doug (1999). *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Ch. 3)

April 15th – *States and Social Revolutions*

- Goodwin, Jeff (2001). *No Other Way Out*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 5, pp. 142-178).
- O’Neil, Patrick et al. (2018) *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (pp. 568-571)

5) Political Economy

Topic 11 – Development, Growth, and Institutions

April 17th – *Institutions and Growth*

- Acemoglu, Daron et al (2005). “Institutions as the fundamental cause of economic growth,” in Philippe Aghion and Steven N. Durlauf (eds) *Handbook of Economic Growth*. Amsterdam: Elsevier. (pp. 388-396, 402-407, 421-428).

****Fourth entry of country journals is due on April 19th****

April 22nd – *Dependency Theory*

- O’Neil, Patrick. (2018) *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. (Chapter 10)
- Cardoso, F. H., & Faletto, E. (1979). *Dependency and development in Latin America*. Oakland: University of California Press. (pp. 8-28)

April 24th – *Colonialism and Late Development I*

- Mahoney, James. (2010). *Colonialism and postcolonial development: Spanish America in comparative perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (ch. 1)

April 29th – *Colonialism and Late Development II*

- Amsden, A. H. (1979). Taiwan's economic history: a case of etatism and a challenge to dependency theory. *Modern China*, 5(3), 341-379.
- Evans, “Class, State, and Dependence in East Asia: lessons for Latin Americanists”

May 1st – *Review session*

****Fifth entry of country journals is due on May 3th****

**** FINAL EXAM ****

Tuesday May 7th 3:00 – 5:00 pm