

PO 151/IR 251: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Boston University, Fall 2016

Last revised: November 9, 2016

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Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30–5 p.m.

Lecture location: KCB 101 (Kenmore Classroom Building, 565 Commonwealth Ave.)

Lecture time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30–11 a.m.

Course website: <http://learn.bu.edu/> (for assignments and lecture slides)

Teaching Fellows:

Valeriya Kamenova, vkamenov@bu.edu. Office hours (rm. 313D): Tuesday/Thursday 11:30–1

Seulah Choi, seulah@bu.edu. Office hours (rm. 403): Monday 10–11:30, Thursday 1–2:30

1 Course Description

In a world where the major security and economic challenges depend heavily on policies and political processes outside our borders, understanding the domestic politics of foreign countries is crucial. Introduction to Comparative Politics teaches you how to better understand the world—as well as the United States—by studying how politics and political systems are similar or different across countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The first objective of the course is to increase your substantive knowledge about the countries that we will be covering—Brazil, China, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom—as well as how they compare to the United States. The second objective is to learn how political scientists compare specific cases in order to answer general questions such as “Why are some countries democratic and others authoritarian?” or “Why does the state play a large role in some national economies and a small role in others?”

Introduction to Comparative Politics should provide a good foundation for more advanced courses in political science as well as other departments such as history, sociology, and economics. Since

this is an introductory course, I do not assume any background in political science. However, I do assume that you have an interest in the world around you and are excited to learn about it.

2 Requirements

2.1 Grade Breakdown

Section grade: 15%

Pop quizzes: 10%

In-class midterm exam: 25%

Response paper: 25%

In-class final exam: 25%

2.2 Required Readings

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before each lecture. For each topic in the course, we first cover material from the textbook and then touch upon the additional readings. The additional readings are generally more challenging than the textbook, so you will probably want to spend extra time on them. There are approximately 80 pages of reading per class; please plan your time accordingly.

The following textbook is required for the course and is available at the Boston University Barnes & Noble (you do need to get the third edition as a lot has changed since the first two):

Stephen Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, 3rd ed. (Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press, 2014).

In addition to the textbook, there is a separate, free Student Resources website, <https://edge.sagepub.com/orvis3e>, that contains chapter summaries, flashcards, and practice quizzes.

Additional readings (articles and book chapters that explore the course topics via case studies of particular countries) are available electronically via Mugar Library E-reserves. The easiest way to access these is via an electronic copy of this syllabus (on Blackboard, or at http://people.bu.edu/tboas/intro_comparative_syllabus.pdf). Click on the hyperlinks in the reading list below (you will need to enter your BU ID and password).

2.3 Quizzes

Approximately six short pop quizzes will be given during lecture and will cover material from lecture and assigned readings. They may be given at the beginning of lecture, in the middle, or at the end. Question formats will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer. Quizzes will be worth ten points, and you get five points just for showing up, so there is an incentive to attend lecture. Missed quizzes cannot be rescheduled. However, if you miss a quiz because you

came late to lecture or went to the bathroom while it was being given, speak to your TF after the lecture, and you can get five points. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

2.4 Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover material from Part I of the course, corresponding to the first five chapters of the textbook and the additional readings associated with those topics. The exam will be closed-book and held in class on **Thursday, October 13**.

2.5 Response Paper

Students are required to write a 5–7 page paper (double-spaced) that responds to themes raised in lecture and course readings during Part II of the course. A paper prompt with several options will be distributed in early November. The paper must be turned in at the start of lecture on **Tuesday, Nov. 22** (please note that this is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving). Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., B+ to a B) per day, including weekends and holidays.

2.6 Final Exam

A final exam, covering the post-midterm material (Parts II and III of the course), will be held during the scheduled exam period: **Saturday, December 17, 9–11 a.m.** Requests to take the exam at an alternate time will be considered only in extreme circumstances, and only if you (a) discuss the issue with me in person as soon as you are aware of a potential conflict, and (b) provide documentation. Having booked a flight home for an earlier date because you want a longer holiday break does not count.

2.7 Excused Absences

If you plan to miss class or section for a reason known in advance, and you think you have a legitimate excuse (e.g., religious holiday, wedding, funeral, medical appointment, etc.), please inform me or your TF by email ahead of time. If your absence falls on a day when a quiz is given or section is held, AND you present us with a legitimate excuse in advance, it will not count against you. In some cases we may require verification of the reason for the absence. No absence can be excused after the fact.

2.8 Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work and to accurately and honestly give credit for information, ideas, and words obtained elsewhere. Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly according to the Academic Conduct Code;¹ please review the website for examples of what counts as plagiarism so you know how to avoid it. If you have questions or concerns about how to properly cite outside

¹<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

sources, please let me know and I will be happy to assist.

The Internet makes it quite easy, and tempting, to cheat by copying and pasting material that you found online, or by buying a paper that someone else wrote. But it also makes it much easier to get caught. I have caught plagiarizers in the past and am always on the lookout. Don't do it. You will make the course much better for both of us.

3 Schedule and Required Readings

Note: Each entry contains a hyperlink to the electronic reading, where available.

3.1 Tuesday, Sept. 6: Introduction and Overview

No readings.

3.2 Thursday, Sept. 8: Comparative Politics Framework and Theories

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 1 (entire)

3.3 Tuesday, Sept. 13: States

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 2 (38–61, 71–74 [Brazil case study], 93–96); Ch. 6 (296–301).

3.4 Thursday, Sept. 15: State-building in Germany and Brazil

Charles Tilly, [“War Making and State Making as Organized Crime,”](#) in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 169–187.

Steven Topik, [“The Hollow State: The Effect of the World Market on State-Building in Brazil in the Nineteenth Century,”](#) in James Dunkerly, ed., *Studies in the Formation of the Nation-State in Latin America*. London: Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, pp. 112–132.

3.5 Tuesday, Sept. 20: Regimes

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 3 (entire).

3.6 Thursday, Sept. 22: Regimes and Legitimacy in Germany and Brazil

Sherri Berman, [“Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic,”](#) *World Politics* vol. 49, no. 3 (April 1997), pp. 408–426 ONLY.

John Markoff and Silvio R. Duncan Baretta, “[Economic Crisis and Regime Change in Brazil: The 1960s and the 1980s](#),” *Comparative Politics* vol. 22, no. 4 (July 1990), pp. 421–444.

3.7 Tuesday, Sept. 27: Identity

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 4 (entire).

3.8 Thursday, Sept. 29: National Identity in Germany and France; Racial Identity in Brazil and the U.S.

Rogers Brubaker, “[Migrants into Citizens? Traditions of Nationhood and Politics of Citizenship in France and Germany](#),” in William Julius Wilson, ed., *Sociology and the Public Agenda* (Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1993), pp. 73–96.

Edward E. Telles, “[Ethnic Boundaries and Political Mobilization among African Brazilians: Comparisons with the U.S. Case](#),” in Michael Hanchard, ed., *Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999), pp. 82–97.

3.9 Tuesday, Oct. 4: States and Markets

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 5 (197–232, 237–243, 253–257).

3.10 Thursday, Oct. 6: Economic Development in Japan

Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1982). Ch. 1, “[The Japanese ‘Miracle’](#),” pp. 3–34.

3.11 Thursday, Oct. 13: Midterm Exam

3.12 Tuesday, Oct. 18: Systems of Government

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 6 (258–295, 305–322)

3.13 Thursday, Oct. 20: Devolution in the U.K. and Federalism in India

Charlie Jeffery, “[Devolution in the United Kingdom: Problems of a Piecemeal Approach to Constitutional Change](#),” *Publius* vol. 39, no. 2 (Spring 2009), pp. 289–313.

Atul Kohli, “[India: Federalism and the Accommodation of Ethnic Nationalism](#),” in Ugo M. Amoretti and Nancy Gina Bermeo, *Federalism and Territorial Cleavages* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), pp. 281–299.

3.14 Tuesday, Oct. 25: Participation and Representation

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 7 (324–366, 373–385, 391–396).

3.15 Thursday, Oct. 27: Party System Change in Japan and India

Steven R. Reed, “[Japan: Haltingly Towards a Two-Party System,](#)” in Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell, eds., *The Politics of Electoral Systems* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 277–294.

Pradeep K. Chhibber, *Democracy Without Associations: Transformation of the Party System and Social Cleavages in India* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2001). Ch. 1, “[State Structures, Associational Life, and the Social Basis of Party Systems,](#)” pp. 1–23.

3.16 Tuesday, Nov. 1: Authoritarian Institutions

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 8 (398–418, 429–441, 449–453).

3.17 Thursday, Nov. 3: Authoritarian Succession in Mexico and China

Joy Langston, “[The Birth and Transformation of the Dedazo in Mexico,](#)” in Gretchen Helmke and Steven Levitsky, eds., *Informal Institutions and Democracy: Lessons from Latin America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), pp. 143–159, 303–304.

Jing Huang, “[Institutionalization of Political Succession in China: Progress and Implications,](#)” in Cheng Li, ed., *China’s Changing Political Landscape* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2008), pp. 80–97.

3.18 Tuesday, Nov. 8: Coups and Revolutions

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 9 (454–477).

3.19 Thursday, Nov. 10: Coups in Nigeria and Revolution in Iran

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 8, Nigeria case (424–429, 447–449).

Emmanuel O. Ojo, “[Guarding the ‘Guardians’: A Prognosis of Panacea for Evolving Stable Civil-Military Relations in Nigeria,](#)” *Armed Forces & Society* vol. 35, no. 4 (July 2009), pp. 688–708.

Theda Skocpol, “[Rentier State and Shi’a Islam in the Iranian Revolution,](#)” *Theory and Society* vol. 11, no. 3 (May 1982), pp. 265–283.

3.20 Tuesday, Nov. 15: Democratization

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 9 (477–510).

3.21 Thursday, Nov. 17: Transition from Authoritarian Rule in Nigeria and Russia

J. Shola Omotola, “Elections and Democratic Transition in Nigeria Under the Fourth Republic,” *African Affairs* vol. 109, no. 437 (2010), pp. 535–553.

Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes, “An Autopsy of Managed Democracy,” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 23, no. 3 (2012): 33–45.

3.22 Tuesday, Nov. 22: Response Paper Due; Globalization and Development

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 10 (512–526, 532–550, 562–568).

3.23 Tuesday, Nov. 29: Market Reform in the U.K. and China

Bob Jessop, “From Thatcherism to New Labour: Neo-liberalism, Workfarism, and Labour Market Regulation,” in Henk Overbeek, *The Political Economy of European Employment* (New York: Routledge, 2003), pp. 137–153.

Yingyi Qian, “The Process of China’s Market Transition, 1978-1998: The Evolutionary, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives,” in Lowell Dittmer and Guoli Liu, eds., *China’s Deep Reform* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), pp. 229–250.

3.24 Thursday, Dec. 1: Social Policy

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 11 (570–592, 596–602, 605–613, 632–638).

3.25 Tuesday, Dec. 6: Reforming Welfare in Mexico and Health Care in the U.K.

Michelle Dion, “Globalization, Democracy, and Mexican Welfare, 1988–2006,” *Comparative Politics* vol. 42, no. 1 (October 2009), pp. 63–82.

Rudolf Klein, “The Public-Private Mix in the U.K.,” in Alan Maynard, ed., *The Public-Private Mix for Health* (Oxon, U.K. Radcliffe Publishing, 2005), pp. 43–62.

3.26 Thursday, Dec. 8: Religion, Gender, and LGBTQ Rights

Orvis and Drogus, Ch. 12. (pp. 640–653, 666–689); Ch. 8, Iran case (pp. 441–446).

Homa Hoodfar and Shadi Sadr, “[Islamic Politics and Women’s Quest for Gender Equality in Iran](#),” *Third World Quarterly* vol. 31, no. 6 (2010): 885–903.

Valerie Sperling, “[Women’s Organizations: Institutionalized Interest Groups or Vulnerable Dissidents?](#)” in Alfred Evans, Lisa McIntosh-Sundstrom, and Laura Henry, eds., *Russian Civil Society: A Critical Assessment* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006), pp. 161–177.

3.27 Saturday, Dec. 17, 9–11 a.m.: Final exam