

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Boston University
Political Science 251/International Relations 251
Fall 2011

Last Revised: September 8, 2011

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Office hours: Monday 2:30-4, Wednesday 3:30-5

Teaching Fellows:

Fatima Mustafa, fatima@bu.edu. Office location and hours: 232 Bay State Rd., rm. 404A;
Thursday 3-5, Friday 1-2

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Thursday 9-10:30

Dominic Zarecki, dominic.m.zarecki@gmail.com. Office location and hours: 232 Bay State Rd.,
rm. 404A; Tuesday 2:15-3:15, Thursday 2-3, Friday 12-1

Lecture location: Collage of Arts and Sciences, rm. B12

Lecture time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50

Course site: http://blackboard.bu.edu/bin/course.pl?course_id=11fallcaspo251_a1 and
http://blackboard.bu.edu/bin/course.pl?course_id=11fallcasir251_a1

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 government 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.

Grade Breakdown:

Section grade: 15%

Pop quizzes: 10%

In-class midterm exam: 25%

Response paper: 25%

In-class final exam: 25%

Required Readings

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

Carol Ann Drogus and Stephen Orvis, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, 2nd ed. (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011).

Additional readings (articles and book chapters that explore the course topics in particular countries) are available electronically as Mugar Library E-reserves (<http://library.bu.edu/search/p?SEARCH=Boas&submit=Search>).

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before each lecture. Each week of the course will introduce a new topic. For the first lecture on each topic, I have assigned readings from the textbook; for the second lecture, I have assigned 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 35 pages of reading per lecture; please plan your time accordingly.

Quizzes

Approximately six short pop quizzes, with T/F or multiple choice questions, will be given during lecture and will cover material from lecture and assigned readings. I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Missed quizzes cannot be rescheduled.

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 for those weeks. The exam will be closed-book and held in class on **Tuesday, October 18**.

Response Paper

Students are required to write a 6-7 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 approximately 2-3 weeks before the due date. The paper must be turned in to your Teaching Fellow at the start of lecture on **Tuesday, November 22**. Please note that this is the **Tuesday before Thanksgiving**. This is a normal day of classes and you are expected to attend, but if you have to be absent, you are responsible for making arrangements to get the paper to your TF before the deadline. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., B+ to a B) per day, including weekends and holidays.

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: **Wednesday, December 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** Requests to take the exam at an alternate time will be considered only in extreme circumstances, and only if you discuss the issue with me in person as soon as you are aware of a potential conflict. Having booked a flight home for an earlier date because you want a longer holiday break does not count.

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 (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>); 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 sources, contact me or your Teaching Fellow; we will be happy to assist you.

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 semester much better for both of us.

Schedule and Required Readings

PART I: FRAMEWORK

1. Introduction and Overview

Tuesday, Sept. 6: No readings.

Thursday, Sept. 8: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 1 (entire).

Week 2: States

Tuesday, Sept. 13: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 2 (39-60, 69-74, 90-93); Ch. 6 (280-285).

Thursday, Sept. 15:

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.

Week 3: Regimes

Tuesday, Sept. 20: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 3 (entire).

Thursday, Sept. 22:

Sherri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics* vol. 49, no. 3 (April 1997), pp. 401-429.

Week 4: Identity

Tuesday, Sept. 27: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 4 (entire).

Thursday, Sept. 29:

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 US Case," in Michael Hanchard, ed., *Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999), pp. 82-97.

Week 5: States and Markets

Tuesday, Oct. 4: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 5 (189-216, 222-231, 236-240).

Thursday, Oct. 6:

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

PART II: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Week 6: Systems of Government

Tuesday, Oct. 11: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 6 (245-280, 292-304).

Thursday, Oct. 13:

Martin Laffin and Alys Thomas, “The United Kingdom: Federalism in Denial?” *Publius* vol. 29, no. 3 (Summer 1999), pp. 89-107.

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 18: In-class **MIDTERM EXAM**. Covers Part I (weeks 1–5) only.

Weeks 7-8: Participation and Representation

Thursday, Oct. 20: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 7 (309-338, 352-365).

Tuesday, Oct. 25:

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.

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), pp. 277-294.

Weeks 8-9: Authoritarian Institutions

Thursday, Oct. 27: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 8 (369-385, 394-408, 416-419)

Tuesday, Nov. 1:

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.

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.

Weeks 9-10: Regime Change: Coups and Revolutions

Thursday, Nov. 3: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 8, Nigeria case (390-394, 413-416); Ch. 9 (423-444).

Tuesday, Nov. 8:

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.

Weeks 10-11: Regime Change: Democratization

Thursday, Nov. 10: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 9 (444-477).

Tuesday, Nov. 15:

Timothy J. Colton and Michael McFaul, "Russian Democracy Under Putin," *Problems of Post-Communism* vol. 50, no. 4 (July/August 2003), pp. 12-21.

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

PART III: POLICY ISSUES

Weeks 11-12: Globalization and Development

Thursday, Nov. 17: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 10 (485-496, 501-522, 532-534).

Response paper due in class: Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Tuesday, Nov. 22:

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.

Thursday, Nov. 24: No class (Thanksgiving)

Week 13: Social Policy

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 11 (539-580, 596-600).

Thursday, Dec. 1:

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.

Week 14: Religion, Gender, and Gay Rights

Tuesday, Dec. 6: Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 12. (pp. 605-609, 612-618, 629-648, 656-658); Ch. 8, Iran case (pp. 409-413).

Thursday, Dec. 8:

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.

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m., in our normal lecture location.