

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Boston University

PO 151

Summer II 2014

Last Revised: June 26, 2014

Instructor: Taiyi Sun

Email: suntaiyi@gmail.com

Office location: Department of Political Science, 232 Bay State Rd., room. 305

Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-3:30pm or by appointment

Lecture location: MET B02B

Lecture time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-12:30 p.m.

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:

Attendance and participation: 10%

News presentation: 10%

Individual and group project: 30%

Project management: 10%

Mid-term: 20%

Final: 20%

Required Readings

The following textbook is required for the course:

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 on Blackboard Learn or will be distributed via email.

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before each lecture. Each week of the course will introduce a new topic. Each class we have readings from the textbook and additional readings. The additional readings are generally more challenging than the textbook, so you will probably want to spend extra time on them. The readings with “*” is optional.

Attendance and participation:

Required, unless you are sick or have an official BU conflict. You must notify me of your absence in advance. (Repeatedly being late might also accumulate to an absence.) Participation is crucial, and this requires that you keep up with the course readings.

You are expected to attend all classes. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. Absences for illness for more than two days require a medical certificate. Absences for religious observances and for family or personal reasons require documentation. Absence for purposes of representing the University in authorized athletic events or officially sponsored activities are excused by notification from your sponsoring department or activity. The stated University policy reads: “Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit.” I define “excessively absent” for this course to be three absences, excused or not.

News Presentation:

You will be assigned to present news or current events once during the semester. You will need to send out the web link of the news article to the entire class by noon before the day you present. Your presentation should be between 5-10 minutes. Describe what happened and why this is important. Relate the news article to a topic that we have covered or going to cover is strongly encouraged

Individual and Group project (30%):

- Individual country research paper (15%)

- Background (government institutions, major parties and power balance, ethnic divide and identity, regime type and political process, welfare system, medical system, major trade partners and trade volume, etc.)
- Important numbers (GDP, military budget, population, etc.)
- Political history (state formation, voting outcome, regime changes, important figures, etc.)
- Important upcoming events (election date and potential candidates or successors, major forums or sports events, etc.)
- Anything interesting or worth-noting (scholarly work recently written about the country, typical case of a debate, etc.)
- Analysis (group theme)
- ➔ Citation with actual electronic files, URLs (if it has to be a book, attach an amazon link)
- ➔ Subtitles, graphs and illustrations are encouraged
- ➔ Min 5 pages, Max 10 pages for the individual portion
- Group introduction, analysis and summary (10 %)
 - Make an argument: use the evidences to support an argument
 - Additional 5-10 pages for each group
- Group presentation (5%)

Project management (10%):

- Scribe notes (5%)
 - Why you made certain decisions
 - Did the rules work or not?
- Creativity, effectiveness, actual management (5%)
 - Decision making process
 - Necessary functions and institutions
 - Awareness and adjustments
 - Leader selection and terms
 - Effective resource mobilization
 - Meeting attendance
 - Meeting schedule (discussions on individual countries, theme selection, comparison and material gathering, etc.)
 - Communication with the instructor (apply for time needed at the end of the class, default 60 min; representative; written document, etc.)
 - Which country is your team modeling (most similar to)?

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

7.1 Introduction

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 1

*Jason Seawright and John Gerring, "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options", *Political Research Quarterly*; Jun 2008; 61, 2

*Michael Coppedge and John Gerring, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach"

*Ken Waltz, *Man, the State and War*

*Tsebelis, George. 2000. "Veto Players in Institutional Analysis." *Governance* 13:4 (October).

7.3 State and state building

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 2 (39–60). Ch. 2 (69–74, 90–93);

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.

*Andreas Wimmer, *The Rise of the Nation-State across the World, 1816 to 2001*

7.8 Regimes and legitimacy

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 3

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.

Michael Coppedge and John Gerring, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach"

7.10 Identity and nation building

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 4

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.

7.15 States and Markets

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 5 (189–216, 222–231, 236–240).

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

Robert Wade, *Governing the Market: Economic Theory and The Role of Government in East Asian Industrialization*, Chapter One

7.17 Federalism and Decentralization

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 6

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.

*Tsai, Lily Lee. 2007b. “Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China.” *American Political Science Review* 101:2 (May) 355-72.

7.22 Mid-term exam

Participation and Representation

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 7

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.

7.24 Authoritarian Institutions

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 8 (369–385, 394–408, 416–419)

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.

7.29 Regime change

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 9 (423–444).

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 9 (444–477).

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 8, Nigeria case (390–394, 413–416).

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.

7.31 Long term development

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 10 (485–496, 501–522, 532–534)

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.

*Nunn, Nathan. 2008. “The Long-term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (February) 139-76.

8.5 Public policies

Drogus and Orvis, Ch. 11 (539–580, 596–600).

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.

8.7 Religion, Gender and Gay rights/Final Exam

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

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.