

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Political Science 045 University of Iowa • Spring 2011

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Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 2:30-4:30 pm or by appointment in 313 SH

Lectures: Mon. and Wed. 1:30-2:20PM at 106 GILH

TA: Cassie Cumings-Peterson

TA Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:30-4:00 pm or by appointment in 330 SH
(additional contact information, office hours, etc. on section syllabus)

Course Description

In this course, you will be introduced to many of the key questions and themes in the study of comparative politics as well as the comparative approach to political science. We will address topics in the study of political culture, institutions and behavior in both democracies and non-democracies. Examples will be drawn from authoritarian states, and developing and developed democracies. This course will function as a foundation for all future courses you take in comparative politics at the University of Iowa.

Reading Materials

1) There is one required book for this course, which is available at Iowa Book. A copy will also be on reserve at the library:

- Kenneth Newton and Jan W. Van Deth. 2010. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2) You will also be required to read articles and other book chapters throughout the semester. These will be available via ICON unless otherwise noted.

3) As we will be discussing and referring to current political developments throughout the course, you should keep on top of world events. To this end, you should read at least one of the following on a fairly regular basis:

- *The Economist*—www.economist.com (weekly British news magazine). Student subscriptions available online.

- *The New York Times*—free copies available in campus news boxes also www.nyt.com.
- Other good resources for news: *BBC News*—www.bbc.co.uk, *Der Spiegel* (int'l. version, in English)-- <http://service.spiegel.de/cache/international>, *The Japan Times*-www.japantimes.co.jp/news.html, *The Australian*—www.theaustralian.news.com.au/.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following:

Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	30%
Lecture Quizzes and Assignments	5%
Abstract and bibliography	20%
Section	20%

Class Policies

I expect you to come to lectures. If you want to do well in this course, attendance in lecture and section, and completing the readings is mandatory. However, lecture is not the place to read the newspaper, do a crossword puzzle, or text message your friends. If you plan to do any of these activities in lecture, I suggest you not come. These are disruptive and distracting to both me and your fellow students and I will not tolerate them.

Personal computers will be tolerated in lecture so long as you are not distracting those around you. If you choose to bring a laptop or other electronic device to class, please refrain from accessing the internet for non-course related sites (facebook, email, etc) or playing games.

Should you need any special accommodations, please let me know ASAP.

Important Info & Policies

In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and **not** the day the assignment is due or afterwards. We will work together to come up with a solution.

All assignments are due at the **beginning** of class. Assignments turned in more than 5 minutes after the start of class are considered late. A late assignment will be penalized 5 points for each day it is late. **After 3 days**, I will no longer accept it.

Grade appeals must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade different than what you received. I require at least 24 hours to review your grade appeal before setting up a meeting.

Syllabus

I. Introductions and Preliminaries (1/19)

Newton and van Deth, Introduction

II. What is comparative politics and how do we study it? (1/24)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 1 – “The Development of the Modern State”

Michael Sodaro. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*. 2nd ed. New York, NY. McGraw Hill. Ch. 3, pgs. 56-93.

“Where Money Seems to Talk.” *The Economist*. July 14, 2007. Pgs. 63-4.

II. Democracies (1/31)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 2 – “States and Democracy”

Robert Dahl. 2005. “What Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?” *Political Science Quarterly*. 120.2: 187-97.

Philippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. “What Democracy Is ... and Is Not.” *Journal of Democracy*. 2.3: 75-88

Arend Lijphart. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in 36 Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Ch. 1. Pgs. 1-8.

III. Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Transition (2/7)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 3 – “Democratic change and persistence”

Guillermo O’Donnell. 1994. “Delegative Democracy.” *Journal of Democracy*. 5.1: 55-69.

“An Election with Only One Candidate.” *The Economist*. June 28, 2008.

Persepolis (2007)** - Showing location and time TBA or available from course reserves at the library

"The Iranian Revolution." *Macrohistory and World Report*
<http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch29ir.html>

Assignment: Write up overview of film and how it relates to themes that we've covered this week on authoritarian regimes and democratic transition. 2 pages double spaced. Due 2/16 in lecture. Counts as 1 quiz.

IV. Do Institutions Matter 1: Centralized and Decentralized States (2/14)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 6 – "Multi-level government: international, national and subnational"

Montserrat Guibernau. 2000. "Spain: Catalonia and the Basque Country." *Parliamentary Affairs*. 53.1: 55-68.

V. Political Culture and Civil Society (2/21)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 9 – "Political Attitudes and Behavior"

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris. 2003. "The True Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Policy*. March/April. Pgs. 63-70.

Sheri Berman. 1997. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics*. 49 (April). Pgs. 401-29.

VI. Do Institutions Matter 2: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems (2/28)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 5 – "Presidential and parliamentary government"

Juan Linz. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy*. 1.1: 51-69.

Simon Romero. "Venezuela Hands Narrow Defeat to Chávez Plan." *New York Times*. Dec. 3, 2007.

Question Time: British Parliament at work

VI. Recap, Review, and Midterm (3/7)

Study!!!

*****MIDTERM EXAM—March 9*****

Spring Break—March 14 and 16

VIII. Political Science Research and Writing (3/21)

Janet Buttolph Johnson, Richard A. Joslyn and H.T. Reynolds. 2001. *Political Science Research Methods*, 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. Chap. 3, pgs. 45-68

Re-read Sodaro Pgs. 77-93

<http://research.berkeley.edu/ucday/abstract.html>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/abstracts.html>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/polisci.html>

IX. Voting and Elections 1: Electoral Systems: How Do Elections Work? (3/28)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 12 (pg. 245-254) – “Voters and elections”

Scott Mainwaring. 1991. “Politicians, Parties, and Electoral Systems: Brazil in Comparative Perspective.” *Comparative Politics*. 24.1: 21-43.

Steven Lee Myers. “Only in Russia: ‘None of the Above’ Is on the Ballot, and Wins.” *New York Times*. March 23, 2004.

X. Voting and Elections 2: Voting: Decisions, Decisions... (4/4)

Newton and van Deth, 12 (pg. 254-265) – “Voters and elections”

Ellen Lust. 2009. “Democratization by Elections? Competitive Clientalism in the Middle East.” *Journal of Democracy*. 20.3: 122-35.

Arend Lijphart. 1997. “Unequal Participation: Democracy’s Unresolved Dilemma.” *American Political Science Review*. 91.1: 1-14.

Documentary: “My Country, My Country” (2006)

XI. Political Parties (4/11)

Newton and van Deth ch. 13 (pg. 269-271; 281-288) – “Party Government”

Ronald Inglehart. 1997. *Modernization and Postmodernization*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 9. Pgs. 237-266.

“Empty Vessels?” *The Economist*. July 24, 1999. Pgs. 51-2.

XII. Party Systems (4/18)

Newton and van Deth ch. 13 (pg. 271- 281) – “Party Government”

Bradley Richardson. 2001. “Japan’s ‘1955 System’ and Beyond.” In *Political Parties and Democracy*. Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther, eds. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. Pgs. 143-169.

“The Vote that Changed Japan.” *The Economist*. Sept. 5, 2009.

XIII. Political Participation and Social Movements (4/25)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 10 – “Pressure groups and social movements”

Sidney Tarrow. 1998. *Power in Movement*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 5. Pgs. 71-90. [CP]

Ali Afshari and H. Graham Underwood. 2009. “Iran in Ferment: The Green Wave.” *Journal of Democracy*. 20.4: 6-10.

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 2007. “Activists without Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics.” In *The Politics of Globalization: A Reader*. Mark Kesselman, ed. Pgs. 368-79.

*****Abstract Assignment due in lecture 4/27*****

XIV. Public Policy and Social Spending (5/2)

Newton and van Deth, ch. 15 – “Decision Making”

Stephen Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman. 2009. “Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy: How Regions Differ.” *Journal of Democracy*. 20.4: 64-78.

“Admire the Best, Forget the Rest – The Swedish Model.” *The Economist*. Sept. 9, 2006.

Clips from “Does Europe Hate Us?” (2005)

****FINAL EXAM – Wed. MAY 11th @ 7:30AM****

