**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**POLS 2200**

Spring 2013

Professor Sam Handlin (samhandlin@gmail.com)

Teaching Assistant: Laura Shrum (laurashrum@yahoo.com)

Time: TTH 10:45-12:05

Classroom: OSH 130

Office (Handlin): OSH 321

Office Hours (Handlin): By appointment

Office (Shrum): OSH 210A

Office Hours (Shrum): Wednesday 11:00-1:00 (or by appointment)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course offers an introduction to the subfield of comparative politics, which is mainly concerned with understanding and explaining major differences in political dynamics among countries of the world. The focus of the class is to introduce students to basic questions in the field, such as: What is the modern state and what is its role in shaping forms of identity such as nationalism? What is the difference between democracy and authoritarianism and what explains why some countries are democratic and others are authoritarian? What are the key representative and participatory institutions of democratic regimes and how do differences in these institutions shape the contours of public policy? How do authoritarian regimes operate and endure, even in the face of global pressures for democratization? What is the proper role of the state in the economy and what is the future of the “welfare state” in the 21st century? What challenges has globalization presented to states and governments and what explains different patterns of response? What explains the emergence of challenges to state authority such as revolutions and civil wars?

**TEACHING METHODS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The course will consist mainly of lecture but also provide some time for discussion and small group activities. These lectures will focus on (a) elaborating upon and explaining key concepts and ideas for the week and then (b) exploring how the week’s topic played out in a few country cases. To the degree possible, we will try make connections between course topics and current events. You should come to class having thought about the readings extensively and ready to discuss them with your classmates, but you should always conduct yourself respectively and keep in mind the different backgrounds, experiences, and interests that others bring with them.

**COURSE GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Attendance and Participation (10%)**

**Students are expected to attend class**. While you may miss a few classes over the semester, skipping a significant number of classes will cause you to lose points in this category.

Consistent attendance, high participation – 9-10%

Either inconsistent attendance or low participation – 7-8%

Both inconsistent attendance and low participation – 5-6%

**Two Review Tests (50%)**

At roughly the 1/3 and 2/3 points in the semester, students will be given a take-home “review test” which they will have one week to complete. The test will be open-note and open-book and will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and very short essays. Absolutely no collaboration is allowed on the review tests.

**Final (40%)**

Students will also take a final exam, which will be weighed toward the last third of the course while still covering the entire semester. The format of the final will be determined later but is likely to be similar to that of the review tests.

**COURSE READINGS**

There is one required textbook for the class, which is available in the campus bookstore:

Drogus, Carol Ann and Stephen Orvis. 2012. Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context. Second Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Most weeks will have supplemental readings, which have been made available on Canvass in the “files” section of the web site.

**MISCELLANEA**

**Academic Misconduct**

All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.com and other measures, including comparing your answers to those of your classmates in order to assess the possibility that illegal collaboration occurred. All quotations in written assignments must include a clear citation to the work from which they are taken. Otherwise they will be treated as plagiarism. **Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the university.**

**Late Assignments**

Late written assignments will lose one third of a grade (ie, from A to A-) for every day they are late. Extensions are only available on rare circumstances, in the case of documented emergencies and medical conditions, and **must be discussed with me prior to the deadline for that assignment.**

**Cell Phones in Class**

Cell phones must be turned off in class and kept out of sight. I don’t want to ever see the phone in your hand or on your desk.

**Wellness**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - [www.wellness.utah.edu](https://www.umail.utah.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=Ymwy-SOKuE6GY48_wj6EqSLsK2zAUc8IDJsotYSsy8asD2rKSYVrD9MEPeQ0puY8N0Q3xhhKSK4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wellness.utah.edu" \t "_blank); 801-581-7776.

**ADA Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**January 8 – Course Introduction and Housekeeping**

**January 10 – What is Comparative Politics?**

Drogus and Orgus, Chapter 1

**II. THE STATE AND THE NATION**

**January 15-17 – What is the State?**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 2

Tilly, Charles. 1985. War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. *Bringing the State Back In*. Peter Evans, Dietrich Reuschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. Cambridge, UK; Cambridge University Press.

**January 22-24 – States, Nationalism, and Identity**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 4.

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Chapter 1.

**III. POLITICAL REGIMES AND DEMOCRACY**

**January 29- 31 – Political Regimes and Democracy**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 3

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press: 1-32.

**February 5 – Varieties of Authoritarianism**

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2. 51-65.

**February 7, 12 – Explaining Democratization and Regime Change**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 9 (But ignore pages 434-443 on revolutions)

Przeworski , Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts,” *World*

*Politics* 49, 155-183.

**February 14 – The Third Wave of Democratization: Where Do We Stand?**

Freedom House. 2012. Freedom in the World: The Arab Uprisings and their Global Repercussions. **SKIM ONLY**

**IV. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**February 19-21 – Governing Institutions in Democracies**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 6

Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. Presidentialism, Multipartism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination. *Comparative Political Studies*. 26:2. 198-228.

**Feburary 26-28 – Institutions of Participation and Representation**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 7

Samuels, David and Richard Snyder. 2001. The Value of a Vote: Malapportionment in Comparative Perspective. *British Journal of Political Science*, 31. 651-671.

**March 5-7 – Authoritarian Institutions**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 8

Blaydes, Lisa. 2010. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 48-63.

**March 12-14 – No Class, Spring Break**

**V. STATES AND MARKETS**

**March 19- 21 – What Role for States in Markets?**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 5

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1964. Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays*. New York: Praeger Publishers.

**March 26- 28 – The Welfare State**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 11

Pierson, Paul. 1996. The New Politics of the Welfare State. *World Politics*. 48:2. 143-179.

**April 2, 4, 9 Globalization and Development**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 10

Rodrik, Dani. 2007. How to Save Globalization from its Cheerleaders. *The Journal of International Trade and Diplomacy*, 1:2. 1-33.

One additional reading TBD.

**April 11 – No Class (I will be out of town for a conference)**

**VI. CHALLENGES TO STATE AUTHORITY**

**April 16 - 18 – Revolutions and Civil Wars**

Drogus and Orvis, Chapter 9, just pages 434-443 on revolutions.

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers*. 56:4, 563-595.

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War*.* *American Political Science Review*.

**April 23 – Course Recap and Review**