

“Very Brief” Introduction

About Me

- Sunhee PARK
- Appointment
 - Central European University (Hungary) 2012-2013
 - Yale University (US) 2013-2014
 - Aarhus University (Denmark) 2014-2019
 - Yonsei University (Korea) 2019
 - London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) 2016-2017, 2020-2023
 - HKUST 2021-
- Areas of Research
 - Conflict, Bargaining, Peace Agreement, International Peacekeeping Operations
- Method
 - Modeling, Statistics, Case study

Today's Goal

- Learn about
 - Politics, Political Science, International Relations and Comparative Politics as subfields in Political Science
 - Where International Relations and Comparative Politics stand and cover

Politics and Political Science

- Politics is about ‘Who gets what, when, how?’ Harold Lasswell (1936)
 - "Who gets what": The allocation of resources (Physical or nonphysical) among the actors.
 - "When": The timing of resource distribution and decision-making
 - "How": The method of resource distribution and decision-making.
- ➔ Politics is about the activities involved in making decisions about the distribution of resources

The 2023 Consumption Voucher Scheme

The 2023-24 Budget announced the implementation of the 2023 CVS under which consumption vouchers with a total value of \$5,000 or \$2,500 will be disbursed to each eligible people by instalments. The first-instalment voucher of \$3,000 or \$1,500 will be disbursed on 16 April to eligible people using the registration information of the 2022 CVS. The remaining value will be disbursed from 16 July onwards to those eligible people who meet the eligibility criteria of 2023 CVS (the relevant eligibility criteria will be announced later).

Voucher Value

Eligible people who have successfully registered under the 2022 CVS will receive the first-instalment voucher on 16 April. Depending on the category of residency status which the person belongs to, the value of vouchers to be disbursed will be different. Details are as follows:

Residency Status Category	Voucher Value
Hong Kong permanent resident and new arrival (i.e. meeting eligibility criteria (B)(i) or (B)(ii) of the 2022 (Phase II) CVS)	\$3,000
Eligible person who has come to live in Hong Kong through different admission schemes for talents, professionals and entrepreneurs, and to study in Hong Kong (i.e. meeting eligibility criteria (B)(iii) of the 2022 (Phase II) CVS)	\$1,500

Politics and Political Science

- Political science focuses on the theory and practice of politics at the state and international levels
 - At the international level (IR): attempt to understand political activities that are aimed at affecting the power and wealth distribution between states
 - At the state level (CP): attempt to understand political activities that are aimed at affecting the power and wealth distribution within a state

Political Science as Discipline

Subfields of Political Science

- International relations

Subfields in IR

- International security (war and peace)
- International political economy
- International organizations
- International law
- International history

Political Science as Discipline

Subfields of Political Science

- International relations
- **Comparative politics**
 - Domestic politics
 - Chinese politics
 - Hong Kong politics
 - American politics

Subfields in Comparative Politics

- Regimes
- Institutions and Systems
- Policy outcomes (e.g., demonstration, poverty, terrorism, civil war, inequality)

Political Science as Discipline

Subfields of Political Science

- International relations
- Comparative politics 
 - Domestic politics
 - Chinese politics
 - Hong Kong politics
 - American politics
- Political theory
- Political methodology
 - Statistics (R, Stata, Python)
 - Game or formal theory

What is International Relations?

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 - State-centric approach
 - Considers territory-based state as main and sole actor in world events
 - Studies the ways states interact with one another
 - Traditional approach

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- Concerns how actors interact with one another in the world arena
 - State-centric approach
 - Considers territory-based state as main actor in world events
 - Studies the ways states interact with one another
 - Traditional approach
 - Mixed-actor approach
 - State is not the only important actor in world events
 - Focus on non-state actor influence
 - Multinational corporations
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Terrorist organizations
 - International/regional organizations
 - Studies the way state and non-state actor interact and how non-state actors influence world events (e.g., civil war, terrorism) in addition to the way states interact with one another
 - Also called world politics

What is Comparative Politics?

- Definition of comparative politics
 - The systematic study and comparison of the diverse political systems in the world
 - Comparative: Understand differences and similarities of different regimes, institutions, and systems
 - Systematic: Find patterns and regularities
- The comparative study of political phenomena that are predominantly within states
 - Canonical examples: Studies that compare political outcomes across different states that have different institutional rules (cross-country)
 - Other examples: Case studies that trace and compare political outcomes over time within a state (over-time)

Course Rules/Etiquette

- Class Meeting
 - In-class participation in principle
 - Zoom: Under exceptional conditions with prior permission of the instructor.
- Email
 - Start with “Dear ~ ”
 - If there is no response, check whether there was a mistake.
- Appointment
 - Show up on time

Important Notes

- If you have taken my SOSC 1000 (Introduction to IR), think twice.
 - half of contents are overlapping.
- If you have taken my SOSC 1300 (The World of Politics), drop it.
- If you want this course to be about the politics of specific states, drop it.
- If you are not willing to do any assignments, drop it.
 - Be familiar with the syllabus
 - E.g., If you dislike academic writing or analytical thinking, drop it.
 - If you dislike discussion, drop it.
- If you don't like my style, think carefully.
 - If you want the lecture notes filled with the contents, drop it.

Wrap-up

- This class
 - Politics and Political Science
 - IR and Comparative Politics as subfields of Political Science
 - What IR and Comparative Politics cover
- Next class
 - The main concepts of IR and Comparative Politics