

## **Comparative Politics (English Version)**

Lecture:  
Wednesdays, 10:15-12:15

Discussion Sections:  
Wednesdays, 13:15-15:15 or 15:30-17:30

### Professor

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### Teaching Assistants

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## **Course Description**

Comparative politics is a subfield within political science that seeks to understand why political outcomes vary across countries. Why are some countries more democratic than others? Why do some countries have more internal conflict than others? Why are some political systems more stable than others? Why does economic growth vary across countries? Why do public policies vary across countries? In this course, we will discuss how the scientific method is used to answer these questions, paying attention to the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches.

## **Course Evaluation**

1. A written final exam (1/3 of the final note). The due date will be scheduled by the Administration between 15/12 and 21/12. We will be informed of the date later in the semester.
2. A research paper (1/3 of the final note). **Due before 18h00 (Paris) 2/12**
3. Discussion section assignments (1/3 of the final note):
  - Engagement with substantive readings reading assignments
  - Participation in discussion section
  - Dossier for draft research paper

## Course Expectations

**Lecture.** Please attend lecture, take good notes, and be prepared to participate (e.g., answer questions, participate in group assignments). I suggest additional readings that you could use to supplement the lecture, but it is **not** required that you read these.

**Discussion Section.** You must attend a 2-hour discussion section led by one of the teaching assistants and that is scheduled after the lecture on Wednesday afternoons. The discussion section aims to serve three objectives: 1) a place to discuss assigned readings, 2) a place to learn more about research design and the comparative method, and 3) a place to develop and workshop your research paper. Please consult the syllabus for the Discussion Section for more information (available on Moodle).

**Research Paper.** You will be asked to write an original research paper (in English) that answers a research question selected by you by comparing two (or more) countries with empirical data that you collect. It should be 30,000 characters (+/- 10%) and written in scientific style. See the “Guidelines for Research Paper” document and its summary on Moodle for a more in-depth discussion of the research paper. Much of the discussion section will be devoted to developing and workshoping your research paper. As an original piece of research, it should be written by you, with the ideas and quotations of others clearly cited. You will be asked to submit your paper to me via URKUND.

**Final Exam.** There will be written final exam (in English) at the end of the semester. You will be tested on the material covered in lecture and the readings discussed in your sections. You will be evaluated on how well you synthesize and analyze material.

**Respect Due Dates.** As a general matter, I do not accept late work. Please turn in work by the due date. Assignments turned in late will receive a 0. In rare and extreme circumstances, I will make an exception, but in order to be considered for an exception, ***you must contact me before the due date.***

**Language.** The lecture and discussion sections will all be conducted in English. The assigned readings are in English and all written work should be submitted in English. If you have yet to master English (e.g., your level is below C1), please budget the time necessary to complete assignments. In lecture, please do not hesitate to stop me and ask me to clarify something if it is not clear. In the discussion sections, please make an effort to participate even if you feel unsure. The teaching assistants and I are committed to making this a welcome and encouraging learning environment and we do not expect you to be perfect! Please take advantage of this course to improve your ability to communicate in English.

**Plagiarism and Cheating.** Learning takes time and effort. If you pass off other people’s hard work as your own, it is the academic equivalent of stealing. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. It will earn you an immediate 0 in the course and be reported, which could lead to your removal from the program. If you are unclear about whether something crosses the line, ask me first.

## Course Lectures and Additional Readings

*Note: Additional readings are **not** mandatory and are available via the library*

### 6/9. Introduction: What is Comparative Politics?

Clark, W. R., Golder, M., and Golder, S. N. (2018). "Introduction and what is science?" In *Principles of Comparative Politics*, chapter 1-2. SAGE Publications

Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and hypothesis testing in political science." *World Politics*, 43(2):169-95

### 13/9. The State

Berwick, Elissa, and Fotini Christia. 2018. "State Capacity Redux: Integrating Classical and Experimental Contributions to an Enduring Debate." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21 (1): 71–91. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-072215-012907>.

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2: 131–50. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pan/2.1.131>.

Sekhon, Jasjeet S. 2004. "Quality meets quantity: Case studies, conditional probability, and counterfactuals." *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (2): 281-293.

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and social revolutions: A comparative analysis of France, Russia and China*. Cambridge University Press.

Spruyt, Hendrik. 2002. "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (1): 127–49. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.5.101501.145837>.

### 20/9. Democracies and Autocracies

Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Joshua Krusell, Juraj Medzihorsky, Josefine Pernes, Svend-Erik Skaaning, et al. 2019. "The Methodology of 'Varieties of Democracy' (V-Dem) <sup>1</sup>." *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology* 143 (1): 107–33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0759106319854989>.

Clark, W. R., Golder, M., and Golder, S. N. (2018). "Varieties of Dictatorship" In *Principles of Comparative Politics*, chapter 10. SAGE Publications

Haber, S. (2006). Authoritarian government. In Weingast, B. R. and Wittman, D. A., editors, *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*, pages 693-707. Oxford University Press

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "Elections without democracy: The rise of competitive authoritarianism." *Journal of democracy* 13 (2): 51-65.

#### 27/9. Regime Change

Cleary, Matthew R., and Aykut Öztürk. 2022. "When Does Backsliding Lead to Breakdown? Uncertainty and Opposition Strategies in Democracies at Risk." *Perspectives on Politics* 20 (1): 205–21. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592720003667>.

Diamond, Larry. 2021. "Democratic Regression in Comparative Perspective: Scope, Methods, and Causes." *Democratization* 28 (1): 22–42. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2020.1807517>.

Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the market: Political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.

Przeworski, Adam. 2019. *Crises of democracy*. Cambridge University Press.

Schedler, Andreas. 2001. "Measuring Democratic Consolidation." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36 (1): 66–92. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02687585>.

#### 4/10. Accountability and Responsiveness

Gerber, Alan S, Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M Dowling. 2011. "Citizens' Policy Confidence and Electoral Punishment: A Neglected Dimension of Electoral Accountability." *Journal of Politics* 73 (4): 1206–24.

Holmberg, Sören. "Feeling Represented." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Representation in Liberal Democracies*. 2020.

Huber, Gregory A., Seth J. Hill, and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2012. "Sources of Bias in Retrospective Decision Making: Experimental Evidence on Voters' Limitations in Controlling Incumbents." *American Political Science Review* 106 (04): 720–41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055412000391>.

Lueders, Hans. 2021. "Electoral Responsiveness in Closed Autocracies: Evidence from Petitions in the Former German Democratic Republic." *American Political Science Review*, December, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421001386>.

Ward, George. 2019. "Happiness and Voting: Evidence from Four Decades of Elections in Europe." *American Journal of Political Science* 64 (3): 504–18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12492>.

## 11/10. Public Opinion

Claassen, Christopher. 2020. "In the Mood for Democracy? Democratic Support as Thermostatic Opinion." *American Political Science Review* 114 (1): 36–53. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055419000558>.

Malka, Ariel, Yphtach Lelkes, and Christopher J Soto. 2017. "Are Cultural and Economic Conservatism Positively Correlated? A Large-Scale Cross-National Test." *British Journal of Political Science* 49 (3): 1045–69. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123417000072>.

Malka, Ariel, Yphtach Lelkes, Bert N. Bakker, and Eliyahu Spivack. 2020. "Who Is Open to Authoritarian Governance within Western Democracies?" *Perspectives on Politics*, September, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592720002091>.

Van Der Brug, Wouter, and Joost Van Spanje. 2009. "Immigration, Europe and the 'New' Cultural Dimension." *European Journal of Political Research* 48 (3): 309–34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6765.2009.00841.x>.

## 18/10. Party Systems and Contestation

Abou-Chadi, Tarik, and Simon Hix. 2021. "Brahmin Left versus Merchant Right? Education, Class, Multiparty Competition, and Redistribution in Western Europe." *The British Journal of Sociology* 72 (1): 79–92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12834>.

Gethin, Amory, Clara Martínez-Toledano, and Thomas Piketty. 2021. "Brahmin Left Versus Merchant Right: Changing Political Cleavages in 21 Western Democracies, 1948–2020." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 137 (1): 1–48. <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjab036>.

Lipset, S.M. and Rokkan, S. (1967) "Cleavage structures, party systems, and voter alignments: an introduction," in S.M. Lipset and S. Rokkan (eds.), *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, Toronto: The Free Press, pp. 1–64.

Sartori, Giovanni. 1976. *Parties and party systems: A framework for analysis*. ECPR press.

Wardt, Marc van de, Catherine E. De Vries, and Sara B. Hobolt. 2014. "Exploiting the Cracks: Wedge Issues in Multiparty Competition." *The Journal of Politics* 76 (4): 986–99. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022381614000565>.

## 25/10. Polarization

Carlin, Ryan E, and Gregory J Love. 2018. "Political Competition, Partisanship and Interpersonal Trust in Electoral Democracies." *British Journal of Political Science* 48 (1): 115–39. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123415000526>.

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the social construction of ethnic identity." *International organization* 54 (4): 845–877.

Gonthier, Frederic, and Tristan Guerra. 2022. "How Party Polarization Shapes the Structuring of Policy Preferences in Europe." *Party Politics*, January, 135406882110646. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688211064606>.

Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4): 529-545.

Wagner, Markus. 2021. "Affective Polarization in Multiparty Systems." *Electoral Studies* 69 (February): 102199. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2020.102199>.

1/11. Fall Break

8/11. Counter-majoritarian Institutions

Abizadeh, Arash. 2021. "Counter-Majoritarian Democracy: Persistent Minorities, Federalism, and the Power of Numbers." *American Political Science Review* 115 (3): 742–56. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000198>.

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press.

Samuels, David. 2009. "Separation of powers." In *The Oxford handbook of comparative politics*, pp. 703-726. Oxford University Press.

Tavits, Margit. 2007. "Clarity of responsibility and corruption." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (1): 218-229.

Vanberg, Georg. "Constitutional courts in comparative perspective: A theoretical assessment." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (2015): 167-185.

15/11. The Fourth Estate: Where Do News Media Fit In?

Asimovic, Nejla, Jonathan Nagler, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2021. "Testing the Effects of Facebook Usage in an Ethnically Polarized Setting." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (25): e2022819118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2022819118>.

Bor, Alexander, and Michael Bang Petersen. 2021. "The Psychology of Online Political Hostility: A Comprehensive, Cross-National Test of the Mismatch Hypothesis." *American Political Science Review*, August, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000885>.

Curran, James, Shanto Iyengar, Anker Brink Lund, and Inka Salovaara-Moring. 2009. "Media system, public knowledge and democracy: A comparative study." *European Journal of Communication* 24 (1): 5-26.

Hallin, Daniel C., and Paolo Mancini. 2004. *Comparing Media Systems: Three Models of Media and Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

## 22/11. Political Economy

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *The American Economic Review* 91 (5): 1369–1401.

Carlin, Ryan E., Timothy Hellwig, Gregory J. Love, Cecilia Martínez-Gallardo, and Matthew M. Singer. 2022. "When Growth Is Not Enough: Inequality, Economic Gains, and Executive Approval." *Political Science Research and Methods* 10 (2): 298–316. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.25>.

Enns, Peter K. 2015. "Relative Policy Support and Coincidental Representation." *Perspectives on Politics* 13 (4): 1053–64. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592715002315>.

Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. 2014. "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens." *Perspectives on Politics* 12 (3): 564–81. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592714001595>.

Hall, Peter A., and Daniel W. Gingerich. 2009. "Varieties of Capitalism and Institutional Complementarities in the Political Economy: An Empirical Analysis." *British Journal of Political Science* 39 (3): 449–82. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123409000672>.

## 29/11. Conclusion