

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Politics 60 – Summer 2016 University of California, Santa Cruz

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to Comparative Politics with a focus on countries of the global south. Focusing on the cases of Nigeria, Indonesia, India, and Brazil, it aims to address questions such as the following:

- How do the state agencies and political systems of such countries work (or fail to work)?
- To what extent are they democratic, and what are the problems and contributions of democracy?
- How is governance affected by legacies of colonialism and other historical forces, domestic and international economic currents, and the actions of other states?
- How does the study of politics help us to understand issues like poverty, inequality, disease, and violence?

Each country case provides an in-depth look into different key concepts and issues of the comparative politics subfield, as noted throughout this syllabus.

READINGS

- All assigned items (as well as optional materials) will be made available on eCommons.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- Attendance and participation – 25%
- In-class quizzes – 15%
- Three essays – 30%
- Final exam – 30%

All grades are given on a 0-100 scale, where 92-98 is an A, 90-92 is an A-, 88-90 is a B+, 82-88 is a B, etc. A-range grades are reserved for work of exceptionally high quality. Specific grading guidelines for the papers and for class participation will be posted on eCommons.

Attendance and participation

Attendance and active participation in every class is required. Because we only have ten class meetings, any single absence will substantially detract from your learning experience (and from your participation grade). There is no way to “make up” a missed class. Of course, we are understanding about family emergencies, illness, or other serious exigencies, and will treat them as excused absences if verifiable documentation is provided.

Participation points must be earned by being prepared for class (which requires having done all of the assigned readings) and contributing actively and constructively to discussions and group activities. Constructive participation requires all of us to contribute to fostering a positive environment for everyone to participate; learning when to step back and let others speak is just as important as participating frequently.

Quizzes

There will be short quizzes at the beginning of every Monday class meeting (with the exception of the first week, when the quiz will take place on Wednesday). The quizzes will cover basic concepts and arguments from the assigned material. They are intended to help you keep up with the readings, remember important facts and details, and strengthen your ability to retain the most fundamental information from the assigned material.

Essays

You will write **three (3)** essays in response to a prompt related to each week's readings, lectures, and other in-class activities. The purpose of these essays is to analyze a question and develop an argument that addresses that question in a critical, conceptually sound, and empirically well-supported manner.

- The essays must be submitted on eCommons by the deadline noted for each week.
- **Everyone must write an essay on week 1.**
- For the remaining two essays, you may choose which two of the four country cases you want to analyze; however, you must submit your essay by the deadline of the week in which that country is covered (no late submissions will be accepted).
- The essays should be between 700 and 900 words in length.

Final exam

The take-home final exam will cover the entirety of the course contents, ensure that you have developed a strong grasp of the material, and challenge you to engage in cross-case comparative analysis to address broader thematic and theoretical questions.

EXPECTATIONS, ETIQUETTE, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- You must use and check your UCSC email while you are taking this course.
- Email is a convenient way to reach me or your TA. At the same time, substantial questions or concerns are best discussed in person. You are encouraged to come to our office hours or to reach out to make an appointment if needed.
- *Electronics:* Cell phones should be on silent and put away while you are in class. The use of electronic devices such as computers or tablets is only acceptable for class materials, note-taking, or to look up pertinent information in the context of discussions or other activities. This policy may be modified if we determine collectively that such devices can become disruptive of the learning process.
- *24-Hour Rule for Help on Assignments:* We are always happy to answer questions about assignments, but the last 24 hours before a deadline or an exam are for you to work independently. We will not reply to emails or meet with you during this window of time.
- *Late Assignment Policy:* Given the short nature of summer session courses, late work will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Do not take this class if you foresee that you will not be able to meet the deadlines. If an emergency arises, please make every effort to contact me or the TA *before* the deadline.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any form of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will be met with a failing grade and referral to the university for further discipline. Consult this website to clarify what constitutes plagiarism:

http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students.

CITATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF SOURCES IN PAPERS

Please choose one of the two following ways citing academic work for this course: (1) parenthetical or in-text citations (MLA or Chicago) or (2) footnotes (Chicago). The style guides for both systems can be found on the Politics Department website (<http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html>).

DRC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require accommodations due to a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to the instructor after lecture or during office hours within the first week of the quarter. Feel free to request a private meeting with me about this or anything else.

LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES:

Learning Support Services helps students find the resources they need to succeed academically. I encourage you to take advantage of this service. Learning Support Services are free of charge. For more information, see <http://lss.ucsc.edu>.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Course Introduction and Key Concepts

Required readings (and podcast) for Monday, July 25

- Gianfranco Poggi, “The Nation State” in *Comparative Politics*, D. Caramani, ed. (Oxford 2014)
- United Nations Development Programme, “Drivers of Development Transformation,” Chapter 3 of *The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*, Human Development Report 2013, pp. 63-85.
- “Lawless Lands,” *Reveal*, Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX, <https://www.revealnews.org/episodes/lawless-lands> (also available on iTunes: <http://apple.co/29lZu9B>). Transcript available on the *Reveal* site.

Required readings for Wednesday, July 27

- Richard Katz, “Political Parties” in *Comparative Politics*, D. Caramani, ed. (Oxford 2014)
- David Samuels, “Democratic Political Regimes,” in *Comparative Politics* (Pearson 2013).

Essay #1 due Friday, July 29, by midnight (everyone must write this week)

Recommended for this week:

- Peter Mair, “Democracies” in *Comparative Politics*, D. Caramani, ed. (Oxford 2014)
- Kenneth Roberts, “Democracy in the Developing World: Challenges of Survival and Significance,” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 51, no. 1 (2016), 32-49.
- Explore Purchasing Power Parity through the *Big Mac Index*, <http://www.economist.com/content/big-mac-index>.
- Explore data and trends for our countries (and any other you are curious about):
 - Polity V project (<http://www.systemicpeace.org>)
 - Freedom House (<http://www.freedomhouse.org>)
 - World Bank Governance Indicators (<http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi>)
 - Amnesty International Country Reports (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries>)
 - World Values Survey (<http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org>)

Week 2: Nigeria

A closer look at: Federalism, colonial legacies, democratization processes, ethnic conflict, natural resource politics, armed insurgency and armed conflicts

Required readings for Monday, August 1

- Alexandra Scacco, “Nigeria,” in *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*, by David Samuels (Pearson 2012), 320-364.
- Jeremy Lind and Jesse Salah Ovadia, “How Revenues from Oil and Gas in Africa Can Be Made To Work for Ordinary People,” *The Conversation*, July 18, 2016, <https://theconversation.com/how-revenues-from-oil-and-gas-in-africa-can-be-made-to-work-for-ordinary-people-61918>.

Required readings for Wednesday, August 3

- Peter Lewis and Darren Kew, “Nigeria’s Hopeful Election,” *Journal of Democracy* 26, no. 3 (2015), 94-109.
- Chinua Achebe, “Girls at War,” in *Worlds of Fiction*, R. Rubenstein and C. Larson, eds. (Prentice Hall 2002).
- International Crisis Group, “Boko Haram on the Back Foot?” *Crisis Group Africa Briefing* no. 120. May 4, 2016.

Essay due Friday, August 5, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:

- John Campbell, “The ‘Election-Like Event’ of 2007,” in *Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011), 97–113.

- Peter Lewis, “Nigeria Votes: More Openness, More Conflict,” *Journal of Democracy* 22, no. 4 (2011), 60-74.
- Suranjan Weeraratna, “Theorizing the Expansion of the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria,” *Terrorism and Political Violence* (2015), doi: 10.1080/09546553.2015.1005742.

Week 3: Indonesia

A closer look at: Decentralization, authoritarian legacies, political culture (with a focus on Islam), coalitional politics and power-sharing

Required readings for Monday, August 8

- Edward Aspinall “Indonesia: Redistributing Power,” in *Politics of the Developing World*, edited by P. Burnell et al., 314-323 (Oxford 2014).
- Dan Slater “Unbuilding Blocs: Indonesia’s Accountability Deficit in Historical Perspective,” *Critical Asian Studies* 46, no. 2 (2014), 287-315.

Required readings for Wednesday, August 10

- Mirjam Künkler, “How Pluralist Democracy Became the Consensual Discourse Among Secular and Nonsecular Muslims in Indonesia”, en *Democracy and Islam in Indonesia*, editado por Mirjam Künkler y Alfred Stepan (Columbia University Press, 2013): 53-72.
- Edward Aspinall, “The Irony of Success,” *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2 (2010), 21-34.

Film Screening: *The Look of Silence* (2014)

Essay due Friday, August 12, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:

- Saiful Mujani and R. William Liddle, “Personalities, Parties, and Voters,” *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2 (2010), 35-49.
- Edward Aspinall, “Parliament and Patronage,” *Journal of Democracy* 25, no. 4 (2014), 96-110.

Week 4: Brazil

A closer look at: Party systems, corruption, democratic backsliding, gender politics, clientelism, social policy

Required readings for Monday, August 15

- Alfred Montero, “Brazil,” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, edited by Kesselman et al., 357-400 (Wadsworth, 2015).
- Milton Hatoum, “The Truth is a Seven-Headed Animal,” *Grand Street* 64 (1998), 102-107.

Required readings for Wednesday, August 17

- Pedro dos Santos and Farida Jalalzai, “The Mother of Brazil: Gender Roles, Campaign Strategy, and the Election of Brazil’s First Female President,” in *Women in Politics and Media: Perspectives from Nations in Transition*, edited by Maria Raicheva-Stover and Elza Ibroscheva, 167-180 (Bloomsbury, 2014).
- Natasha Borges Sugiyama and Wendy Hunter, “Whither Clientelism? Good Governance and Brazil’s Bolsa Família Program,” *Comparative Politics* 46, no. 1 (2013): 43-62.
- Héctor Perla, Jr., “Here’s Why Some People Think Brazil is in the Middle of a ‘Soft Coup’” *The Washington Post*, April 16, 2016, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/04/16/heres-why-some-people-think-brazil-is-in-the-middle-of-a-soft-coup>.
- Amy Erica Smith, “Is the Impeachment Trial of Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff a Coup?” *The Washington Post*, April 20, 2016, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/04/20/is-the-impeachment-trial-of-brazils-dilma-rousseff-a-coup>.

Essay due Friday, August 19, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:

- Barry Ames, Andy Baker, and Lucio R. Rennó, “The Quality of Elections in Brazil: Policy, Performance, Pageantry, or

Pork?," in *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, edited by Peter R. Kingstone and Timothy J. Power, 107-133 (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008).

- Excerpt from "Five Lives Affected by Vargas-Era Reforms," in *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, edited by Levine and Crocitti, 217-221 (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).

Week 5: India

A closer look at: parliamentarianism, majoritarian electoral systems, nationalism, rise and fall of political parties, colonial legacies, ethnic conflict, developmental states

Required reading (and video) for Monday, August 22

- Rudra Sil, "India," in *Comparative Politics*, edited by Jeffrey Kopstein et al., 339-89 (Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Tariq Thachil, "Electoral Strategy in India," The MacMillan Report, Yale University (2011), *YouTube* (18:14), <https://youtu.be/zSliLkItJ88>.

Required readings for Wednesday, August 24

- Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society," *World Politics* 53, no. 3 (2001): 362-398.
- Aseema Sinha, "Rethinking the Developmental State Model: Divided Leviathan and Subnational Comparisons in India," *Comparative Politics* 35, no. 4 (2003): 459-476.
- Indira Goswami, "The Journey," in *A Game of Chess: Classic Assamese Stories*, edited by Dharendra N. Bezboruah (Penguin, 2009).

Essay due Sunday, August 28, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:

- Tariq Thachil, "Elite Parties and Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India," *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 2 (2014): 454-477.
- "Indian media: Modi's two years in power a 'mixed bag,'" *BBC News*, May 26, 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-36386252>.
- Jonah Blank, "A Milder Modi? What to Expect in a BJP-Led India," *Foreign Affairs*, May 2014, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/india/2014-05-16/milder-modi>.

Take-home final exam due Friday, August 26, by midnight
(prompt handed out at the end of class on Wednesday)