Comparative politics is a very broad and inter-disciplinary field which explores politics and societies across the world and historically. It is concerned with methods of study, empirical accuracy, and learning through comparing. The goals of this course are to introduce students to the tools, debates, and subjects of modern comparative politics. It also aims to expose students to political change and important issues on the global stage. While we will not focus on individual countries, we will cover themes relevant to modern to Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

**Grades and responsibilities**

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings. Grading is comprised of five components:

1. Exam 20%
2. Weekly Reviews (8) 10%
3. Analytical Book Review 20%
4. Final exam 40%
5. Participation/Attendance 10%

In addition to two exams during the semester, eight weekly reviews of course readings are required. The participation and attendance grade is based on an objective presence in class and on a subjective assessment of being prepared (i.e. having done assigned readings and prepared to discuss). You are allowed three excused absences (with documentation); any absences beyond three will affect the grade as well as possible failure. A key to doing well in the class is keeping pace with the readings and actively participating in class discussion.

**Required Text, available in book store:**


**Please turn off mobile phones**

**More than three unexcused absences from class will result in failure.**

**Laptops may only be used in class for note taking. Please see me for permission**

**Due dates and times for all assignments are strictly enforced.**
LECTURES and READINGS

All readings are available in the documents section of our class blackboard site.

**Week 1**

**Introduction: Comparative Politics and Political Order**


**Week 2**

**Concepts: Power, Legitimacy, Community, Violence**

1/18  **Martin Luther King Day**


**Week 3**

**What is Political Development? Why should we care?**

1/25-27  Samuel Huntington, “Political Order and Political Decay” *World Politics*, April 1965, focus on pp. 386-417


Charles Tilly, “Does Modernization Breed Revolution?” *Comparative Politics*, April 1973 (selection)

**Week 4**

**The State Debate: How is the state defined, what are its boundaries, and what does it do?**

2/1-3  Theda Skocpol, Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research,” in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press, 1985.


**Week 5**

**States: Origins and Importance in Europe**


Alexander Gerschenkron, “Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective” in

Week 6
Exam Week
2/15
No Class
2/17
EXAM I

Week 7
States and Late Development in Africa and the Middle East
2/22-24


FILM NIGHT: The Ambassador

Week 8
Regime Types: Debating Democracy
2/29-3/2


Larry Diamond, “Thinking about Hybrid Regimes,” Journal of Democracy, 2002

Week 9
SPRING BREAK
3/7-9
NO CLASS

Week 10
Comparative Political Economy
3/14-16


Comparative Outcomes and Processes: England and East Asia

3/21-23


The Resource Curse Debates: Middle East and Latin America

3/28-30

Michael Ross, “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53 no.3, 2001


Week 13

Cases Study: Iraq

4/4-6


Peter Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 1-87

Week 14

Intervention and Nation-State Building

4/11-13

Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 88-164


Jason Brownlee, “Can America Nation Build?” *World Politics* 59 (January 2007)

Week 15

The Aftermath

4/18-20

Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 165-261


Paul Bremmer interview on Al Jazeera, http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/headtohead/2015/12/occupation-create-isil-
151201105427673.html

“ISIS” Middle East Report, Winter 2015

Book Analysis Due, 4/22 noon

Week 16

4/25 TBA
Comparative politics is the study of processes and institutions within countries, whereas international relations is the study of interactions among countries. Prompted by real-world puzzles, comparativists investigate broader, more theoretical questions: How stable are different forms of government? How does one country become more democratic than another? Why do relations between some ethnic groups turn violent? POSC 215 Political Communication in Comparative Context Fall '10. POSC 215 Federalism, State and Local Politics Spring '03, Fall '01. POSC 216 Direct Democracy (Initiative, Referendum & Public Policy) Winter '07. POSC 264 Introduction to Political Economy Spring '98. POSC 283 Separatist Movements Winter '18. POSC 284 War & Peace in Northern Ireland Winter '19 Spring '16. POSC 2401: COMPARATIVE POLITICS Fall 2013-2014. Duane Swank, Office: 450 Wehr Physics Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday; 12:45 - 3:45 Contacts: phone (414 288-6842/3418); email (duane.swank@marquette.edu). INTRODUCTION. This course is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the comparative study of politics throughout the world. In one sense, comparative politics involves the systematic study of politics across a range of nations. As such, it provides a powerful technique for understanding the causes and effects of political processes and institutions across subsets of nations or even Introduction to Comparative Politics book. Read 3 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Written by a distinguished group of comparativi... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read.