

POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSC 123: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

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|  Fall 2023 |  M/W 11:40-12:35 |  Newhouse 3 141 |  Professor Erin Hern |
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HOW TO REACH ME

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| <u>Hern's Drop-In Hours</u> M: 1-3 PM 400B Eggers Hall | <u>Hern Online</u> Email: chern@syr.edu Zoom: by appt |
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why are some countries wealthier than others? Why do some countries become democratic? Why is voter turnout higher in some places? Comparative politics is the study of variation in political outcomes across and within countries. This course provides a broad introduction to the various topics covered under comparative politics, including issues of economic development, regime type, and management of social and political conflict. As a discipline, comparative politics uses comparison across countries to better understand variation in important outcomes. This course introduces theoretical explanations of variation in these outcomes (such as wealth, quality of democracy, or revolution) alongside case studies to evaluate these theories.

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Identify variation in important outcomes in major comparative politics subject areas
 - Apply theory to explain variation in outcomes
 - Use comparative case analysis to evaluate theory

Communicating
If there are any changes to the course schedule, I will email you through BB. **Make sure you check your .syr email regularly** and use BB to stay on top of course deadlines.

WHERE TO FIND THINGS

Readings
Readings are available on BB: Coursework>Week#>Readings

OR

politicsexperiment.com

Assignments
All assignments are listed on the course schedule below and available on BB: Coursework>Week#

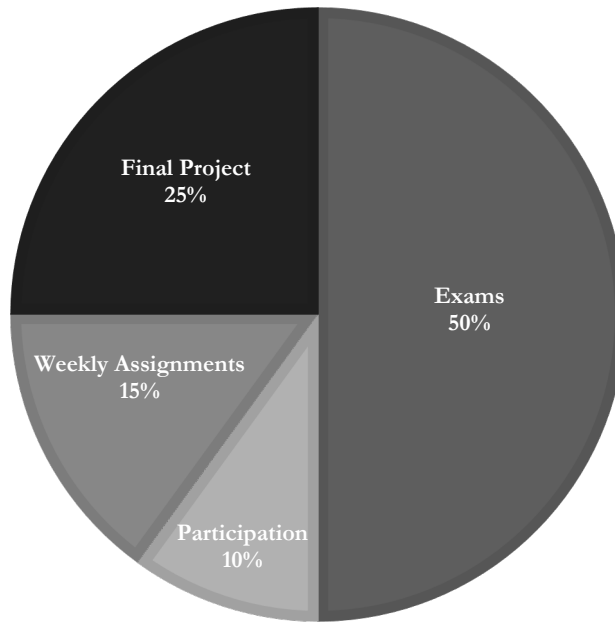
Lectures
Slides are available on BB: Coursework>Week#>Lecture

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Final Project:
a comparative analysis of at least two countries based on one of the topics we discussed in the course.

Weekly assignments:
Reading guides (to help you know what to focus on in the reading assignments) and exercises (to practice skills).

Participation in
recitation will be evaluated by your TA.



Exams: 3 in-person open-note blue book exams over the course of the semester. Your lowest score will be dropped.

At any point in the semester, you can earn one point of **extra credit** by making a meme related to the class topic. You can do this up to three times over the course of the semester. Please note: any extra credit opportunities are available to the whole class, not to individuals.

Late Work

Unless other arrangements have been made in advance, late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% for each day the assignment is overdue. In the case of severe illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances, contact your TA as soon as possible to discuss an extension.

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| A | >93 |
| A- | 90-92.9 |
| B+ | 88-89.9 |
| B | 83-87.9 |
| B- | 80-82.9 |
| C+ | 78-79.9 |
| C | 73-77.9 |
| C- | 70-72.9 |
| D | 60-69.9 |
| F | <60 |

Grade Disputes

Your TA will evaluate your work in this course. If you believe your work has been graded unfairly by your TA, you are entitled to a second opinion from the professor. In this case, students should first meet to discuss the grade with the TA. If you still disagree with your grade, you may submit a written statement explaining your disagreement along with the original assignment to me. I will issue a final grade. **Please note that in this case, your grade may go up or down.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Most readings are available on the course Blackboard site under the “Coursework” tab, in the folder for the corresponding week. Chapters from “A Political Science Experiment” (PSE) are linked in Blackboard and are available for purchase for \$1 each.

Note: Readings marked with a * are challenging. Don’t give up on them! Do the best you can with the Reading Guide. We will go through major concepts in lecture.

UNIT 1: STATES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Week 1: Theoretical Underpinnings (1)

8/28 M Course Introduction
8/30 W Theories and Cases in Comparative Politics

Assignment 1 (Exercise) due 8/31, 8 AM

Week 2: Theoretical Underpinnings (2)

9/4 M Labor Day – No Class
9/6 W States and State Formation
Reading: Collier, Paul. 2009. *Wars, Guns, and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places*. Chapter 8 (pgs 169-187)

Assignment 2 (Reading Guide) due 9/7, 8 AM

Week 3: Economic Development

9/11 M Competing Theories of Underdevelopment
Reading: Rodrik, Dani. 2003. *In Search of Prosperity*. Chapter 1.
9/13 W Testing Theories of Underdevelopment: The Nogaleses
Reading: Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2013. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* Chapter 1: pgs. 7-44.

Assignment 3 (Reading Guide) due 9/14, 8 AM

Week 4: Welfare States

9/18 M Forms of Welfare States
Reading: *Esping-Anderson, Gosta. 1990. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press: p. 21-29.
9/20 W Assessing Welfare State Performance
Reading: Hemerjick, Anton. 2012. *Changing Welfare States*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 6 (152-163)

Assignment 4 (Reading Guide) due 9/21, 8 AM

Week 5: Review and Exam 1

9/25 M Review
9/27 W Exam 1 (in class)

UNIT 2: DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM

Week 6: Democracy

- 10/2 M Theories and Definitions of Democracy
Reading: Schmitter, Philippe and Terry Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and Is Not."
Journal of Democracy 2(3): 75-88.
- 10/4 W How Democracy Emerged: The Case of England's Glorious Revolution
Reading: *North, Douglass C. and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutional Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England."
Journal of Economic History 49(4):803-832. ****You are only responsible for the material up to p.819****

Assignment 5 (Reading Guide) due 10/5, 8 AM

Week 7: Variations of Democracy: Electoral Rules

- 10/9 M Fall Break – No class
- 10/11 W Election Rules: Tradeoffs and Outcomes
Reading: [PSE] Blais, Andre and Damien Bol. "Electoral Rules"

Assignment 6 (Reading Guide + Exercise) due 10/12, 8 AM

Week 8: Variations of Democracy: Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

- 10/16 M Presidents vs. Prime Ministers
Reading: [PSE] Laver, Michael. "Making and Breaking Governments," pgs 1-13
- 10/18 W Do Presidents or PMs Perform Better Under Crisis? Covid-19 Response in France and Denmark
Reading: Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69.

Assignment 7 (Reading Guide) due 10/19, 8 AM

Week 9: Authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding

- 10/23 M Competitive Authoritarianism and Democratic Erosion
Reading: Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51-65.
- 10/25 W Why is Democracy Backsliding? The Cases of Venezuela and Zambia
Reading: Haggard, Stephan and Robert Kaufman. 2021. "The Anatomy of Democratic Backsliding," 32(4): 27-41.

Assignment 8 (Reading Guide) due 10/26, 8 AM

Week 10: Review and Exam 2

- 10/30 M Review + Final Project Instructions
- 11/1 W Exam 2

UNIT 3: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 11: Voting

11/6 M Who Votes?

Reading: [PSE] S. Erdem Aytac and Susan Stokes, "Political Participation: Elections and Protests," p.1-22

11/8 W Does Voter Turnout Matter? Argentina and Chile

Reading: Chapman, Emilee. 2019. "The Distinctive Value of Elections and the Case for Compulsory Voting," *American Journal of Political Science* 63(1): 101-112.

Assignment 9 (Reading Guide + Exercise) due 11/9, 8 AM

Week 12: Interest Groups and Social Movements

11/13 M: Collective Action and Contentious Politics in Theory

Watch these videos: (1) [Collective Action Problem](#) (2) [Interest Groups](#)

11/15 W: The Yellow Vests and the Umbrella Movement

Listen to these podcasts: (1) [The French Rebellion](#) (2) [Umbrellas Up](#)

Assignment 10 (Exercise) due 11/16, 8 AM

*****THANKSGIVING BREAK*****

Week 13: Revolutions

11/27 M Revolutions as Social Movements

Listen to Timur Kuran describe "preference falsification" in the podcast [A Conspiracy of Silence](#) (this podcast will help you understand his article)

Reading: *Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44(1): 7-48.

11/29 W Attempted Revolutions during the Arab Spring

Reading: Bellin, Eva. "Reconsidering the robustness of authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring." *Comparative Politics* 44.2 (2012): 127-149.

Assignment 11 (Reading Guide) due 11/30, 8 AM

Week 14: Review and Exam 3

12/4 M Review

12/6 W Exam 3

Week 15: Semester Wrap-Up

12/11 M Recap and Final Project Workshop

Final Project Due Midnight on Friday, 12/15

Course Policy on use of AI Tools:

In this course, I encourage you to use artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs to help you with assignments that indicate the permitted use of AI. You should also be aware that AI text generation tools may present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses; thus they are not yet prepared to produce text that meets the standards of this course. To adhere to our university values, you must cite any AI-generated material (e.g., text, images, etc.) included or referenced in your work and provide the prompts used to generate the content. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Please review the instructions in each assignment for more details on how and when to use AI Generators for your submissions.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university policy. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

Disability Related Accommodations:

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498, TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Religious Observances:

SU religious observances notification and policy, found at <http://hendricks.syr.edu/spiritual-life/index.html>, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they **notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes** and by the submission deadline for flexibly formatted classes. An online notification process is available for students in **My Slice / StudentServices / Enrollment / MyReligiousObservances / Add a Notification**.