





**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**PSC 123 : COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

 Spring 2022	 M/W 11:40-12:35	 Hall of Languages 207	 Professor Erin Hern
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**HOW TO REACH ME**

<p><u>In Person: Office Hours</u>  M/W, 10-11 AM  400B Eggers Hall</p>	<p><u>Online</u>  Email: <a href="mailto:chern@syr.edu">chern@syr.edu</a>  Zoom: by appointment</p>
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**TAs**

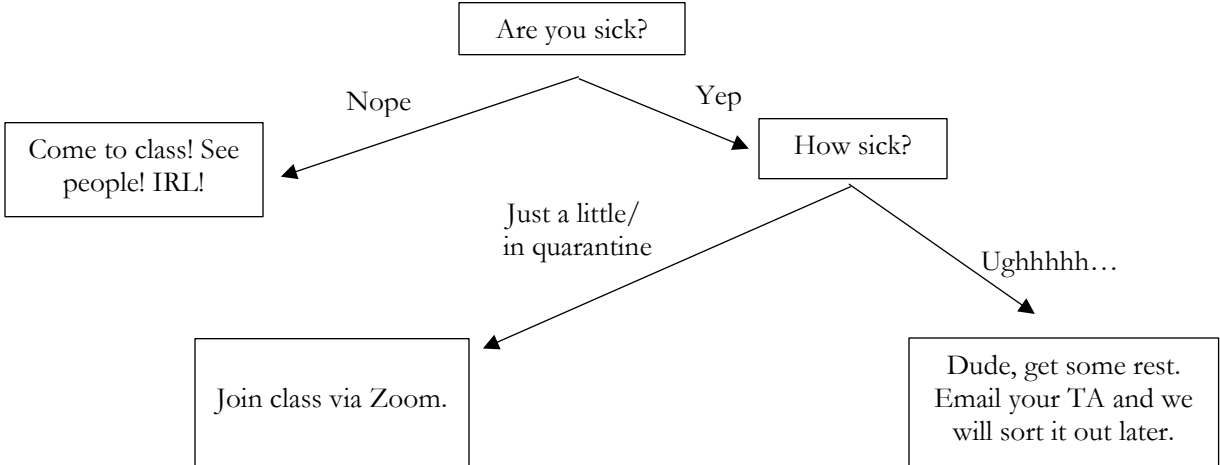
Ana Jones (Th) [aejones@syr.edu](mailto:aejones@syr.edu)  
Kari Waters (F) [krwaters@syr.edu](mailto:krwaters@syr.edu)

**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 states 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
  - Find credible sources of data to evaluate hypotheses
  - Use comparative case analysis to test hypotheses

**HOW TO ATTEND CLASS**



## COURSE MATERIALS + INFO

(pssst....everything is on Blackboard (BB))

Readings

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

Zoom Links

On BB:  
“Virtual Classroom”

Communicating

If there are any changes to the course schedule or format (for example, if I have to quarantine), I will email you through BB. **Make sure you check your .syr email regularly** and use BB to stay on top of course deadlines.

Lectures

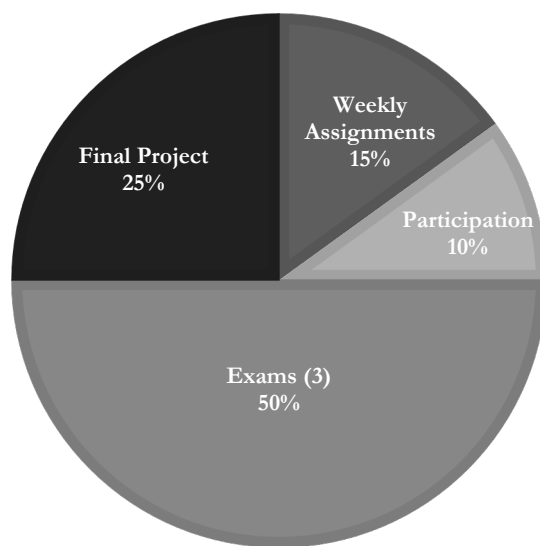
Slides and recordings (where available) are available on BB:  
Coursework>Week#>Lecture

Assignments

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

**Final Project**  
a comparative analysis of at least two countries based on one of the topics we discussed in the course. We will talk about this project in more detail later in the semester.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING



**Weekly Assignments**  
Due 3PM each Thursday, made up of reading guides and exercises. Reading guides will help you know what to focus on in the reading assignments. Exercises prep for section activities. Graded for completion rather than accuracy, feedback + answers in section.

**Exams:** 3 over the course of the semester to evaluate your understanding of the readings and lectures. These exams will be timed and available through Blackboard. They are open-note, but are not collaborative. Your lowest score will be dropped.

**Participation** in your discussion section is an important part of engaging with the class and the material. Your TA will evaluate your participation at their own discretion.

You can earn 1pt of **extra credit** by making a meme related to the class, up to 3 times. Email to me + your TA for credit.

A	>93
A-	90-93.9
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

**Late Work and Grade Disputes**

Weekly assignments may not be submitted late. Final project will be docked 10% per day if late. In the case of severe illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances, contact your TA as soon as possible to discuss an extension.

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

All readings are available on the course Blackboard site under the “Coursework” tab, in the folder for the corresponding week.

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)

1/24 M Course Introduction  
1/26 W Cases in Comparative Politics

Assignment 1 due 1/27, 3pm

#### Week 2: Theoretical Underpinnings (2)

1/31 M Theories in Comparative Politics  
**Reading:** Green, Amelia Hoover. “How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps.”  
  
2/2 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 2/3, 3PM

#### Week 3: Economic Development

2/7 M Competing Theories of Underdevelopment  
**Reading:** Rodrik, Dani. 2003. *In Search of Prosperity*. Chapter 1.  
  
2/9 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 2/10, 3PM

#### Week 4: Welfare States

2/14 M Forms of Welfare States  
**Reading:** \*Esping-Anderson, Gosta. 1990. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press: p. 21-29.  
  
2/16 W Assessing Welfare State Performance  
**Reading:** Hemerjick, Anton. 2012. *Changing Welfare States*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 6 (152-163)

Assignment 4 (Reading Guide) due 2/17, 3PM

#### Week 5: Review and Exam 1

2/21 M Review  
2/23 W Exam 1 (remote / via Blackboard)

## UNIT 2: DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM

### Week 6: Democracy

- 2/28 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.
- 3/2 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 3/3, 3PM

### Week 7: Variations of Democracy: Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

- 3/7 M Presidents vs. Prime Ministers  
**Reading:** [BETA] Laver, Michael. "Making and Breaking Governments," pgs 1-13
- 3/9 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 6 (Reading Guide) due 3/10, 3PM

**\*\*\*\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*\*\*\***

### Week 8: Variations of Democracy: Electoral Rules

- 3/21 M Election Rules: Tradeoffs and Outcomes  
**Reading:** [BETA] Blais, Andre and Damien Bol. "Electoral Rules," pgs 1-45
- 3/23 W Designing Election Rules in Practice: Lessons from the United States and Mauritius

Assignment 7 (Reading Guide + Exercise) due 3/24, 3PM

### Week 9: Authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding

- 3/28 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.
- 3/30 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 3/31, 3PM

### Week 10: Review and Exam 2

- 4/4 M Review + Final Project Instructions  
4/6 W Exam 2 (remote / via Blackboard)

## UNIT 3: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

### Week 11: Voting

4/11 M Who Votes?

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

4/13 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 4/14, 3PM

### Week 12: Interest Groups and Social Movements

M 4/18: Collective Action and Contentious Politics in Theory

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

W 4/20: The Yellow Vests and the Umbrella Movement

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

Assignment 10 due 4/21, 3PM

### Week 13: Revolutions

4/25 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.

4/27 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 4/28, 3PM

### Week 14: Exam 3 and Final Project

5/2 M Review and Revisiting Final Project

5/4 W Exam 3

**Final Project Due TBD**

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### **Covid-19 Stay Safe Pledge**

Syracuse University's Stay Safe Pledge reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on the well-being of our community members. This pledge defines norms for behavior that will promote community health and wellbeing. Classroom expectations include the following: wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times, maintaining a distance of six feet from others, and staying away from class if you feel unwell. Students who do not follow these norms will not be allowed to continue in face-to-face classes; repeated violations will be treated as violations of the Code of Student Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

### **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**.