POLS 568 – Comparative Politics and Government

Spring 2022

Thursdays 3:30-6:00 PM (MG207A)

Instructor: Julia Albarracín (J-Albarracin@wiu.edu), 428 Morgan Hall, 309-836-5202

Office Hours: Mon TTH 2-3; W1-3:00

Objectives

This course introduces students to the study of comparative politics and surveys both the main methodological approaches as well as most important issues in our discipline. The first part of the class explores the “how” of “the art of comparison,” by introducing students to the main methods of comparative politics and the common problems associated with comparative research. The second part of the course studies some of the main research questions in the discipline of comparative politics as well as the answers given by comparativists to those questions.

Required Readings

1. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics* (Any edition)by Todd Landman (Routledge).
2. *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America* (2014) by Scott Mainwaring and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Cambridge University Press).
3. *Making Democracy Work* (1994) by Robert Putnam (Princeton University Press).
4. *Power in Movement* (2011, 3rd edition) by Sidney Tarrow (Cambridge University Press).
5. *Imagined Communities:* *Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (1983, 2006, or any edition) by Benedict Anderson (Verso).

***There are several book chapters and articles for this course that will be available on Western Online.***

Examinations & Course Requirements

1. **Attendance.** Students are expected to attend all classes and to have completed the readings before the class. This course will be taught in a seminar format. We will discuss the readings together and students will be asked to share their thoughts.
2. **Reaction Papers.** In addition to regular class participation, students will write 6 papers (2 pages max) reacting to ALL the readings for their weeks of choice. Reaction papers should critically analyze the week’s readings and should be posted on Western Online by 7:00 PM on the day before the class meeting. Please, find links on Western Online under, “communication,” “discussions.” Students can opt to write more than 6 reaction papers and get only the 6 highest scores computed for the course grade.
3. **Presentation.** Each student will also be expected to lead two seminars, which will include formal 20-minute presentation and questions for class discussion. Students will be **submit the outline for their presentation to me by email the day before.**
4. **Final Paper Outline:** Students are expected to turn ina 1-page outline and annotated bibliography of their final paper by March, 8th..
5. **Final Paper:** Each student will write a 20-page research paper discussing one of the issues studied in class in reference to at least one country of choice. Paper format: Times New Roman 12, 1 inch margins, and a page with references. Further guidelines will be distributed later in the semester. The paper will be due the last day of class (05/03).
6. **Final Exam:** Students will write an 8-page take-home exam on the topics/questions assigned. The final will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due the day of the final.

Grading

6 Review papers (4 points each) 24%

2 Presentations 30%

Participation 6%

Final Paper 20% (15 paper and 5 outline)

Final Exam 20%

Schedule of Readings

**Week 1 01/18: Introduction**

**Week 2 01/25- Comparative Analysis: Why and How?**

Read Landman, chs. 1-5 (Methods part, may vary depending on version of the book).

**Week 3 2/1 –** **Paradigms.**

Boix and Stokes chs.3, 4, and 5 (WO).

**Week 4 2/8 – Democratic Transitions: Introduction and Structural Approaches**

Landman, chs. 9 and 6.

Martin Lipset, “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy,” *American Sociological Review,* 53, 1: 69-105 (WO).

*Presentation:* Lipset

**Week 5 2/15 – Democratic Transitions: Elite Bargaining**

Guillermo O’Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* (The John Hopkins University Press), chs. 1, 2, 4 and 7 (WO).

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (The John Hopkins University Press)*,* read Chapter 12 (Argentina). (WO)

*Presentation:* Chapter 7 and 12

**Week 6 2/22 – Democratic Transitions: Combined Approaches**

Mainwairing and Pérez-Liñán, *Democracies and Dictatorships* chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9.

*Presentation:* 4 and 5

**Week 7 3/1–Institutional Design and Democratic Performance**

Landman ch. 10.

Juan Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism,” *Journal of Democracy,* 1, 1, 51-69. (WO)

Francis Fukuyama, and others, “Facing the Perils of Presidentialism,” (East Asia), *Journal of Democracy,* 16, 2, 102-116. (WO)

*Presentation:* Linz and Fukuyama

**Week 8 3/8 - Institutional Design and Democratic Performance-\*Paper outline due\***

Arendt Lijphart, “Constitutional Design for Divided Societies,” *Journal of Democracy,* 15, 2, 96-109. (WO)

Benjamin Reilly, “Electoral Systems for Divided Societies,” *Journal of Democracy* 13, 2, 156-170). (WO)

Donald Horowitz, “Conciliatory Institutions and Constitutional Process in Post Conflict States,” *William and Mary Law Review*, 49, 4. (WO)

*Presentation:*

***Spring Break 14-18***

**Week 9 3/22 - Civil Society and Democracy**

Robert Putnam, *What Makes Democracy Work,* Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 6.

**Paper proposal due**

*Presentation:* Chapters 5 and 6

**Week 10 3/29– Non-Violent Political Dissent: Intro and Classical Approaches**

Landman ch. 8.

Williams Kornhauser, *The Politics of Mass Society* (New York, The Free Press, 1966), Introduction and ch. 2. (WO)

Tedd Gurr, *Why Men Rebel* (Princeton University Press, 1970), Ch. 2. (WO)

*Presentation:*

**Week 11 4/5– Non-Violent Political Dissent**

Tarrow 1-6

*Presentation:*

**Week 12 4/12– Non-Violent Political Dissent**

Tarrow 7-12.

*Presentation:*

**Week 13 4/19- Nations and Nationalism**

John Breuilly, “Approaches to Nationalism,” in *Mapping the Nation,* ed. By Gopal Blakrishnan (New Left Review, 1996). (DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS)

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities,* chs. 1-5.

*Presentation:*

**Week 14 4/26– Nations and Nationalism**

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities,* chs. 6-11.

*Presentation:*

**Week 15 5/3**

**Final Paper Due and Presentations (Final distributed in class)**

**Final Exam due Thursday, May 12 at 3:00 PM.**