



Course PSCI 3350: Comparative Politics
Professor Harold D. Clarke
Teaching Asst. Lu-Chung Dennis Weng
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Term Spring 2013
Meetings M. W., 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM, GR 2.302

Professor

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Course Objectives:

Comparative politics is both a subject and a method for understanding politics. As a subject, comparative politics is the study of different political systems and their major components. As a method, it is a way of trying to establish and test general suppositions about certain political phenomena. In this undergraduate course, students will be introduced to historical contexts, governance arrangements, political parties, and various types of political behavior across various democratic countries.

During the semester, we will introduce some fundamental political themes, such as political systems, political participation, and major variations among nations as well as explanations for the differences. We will attempt to answer questions such as, why are some nations democratic, while others are authoritarian? Why are some governmental agencies more powerful than others? Why do citizens in certain countries participate in politics more than in other countries? At the end of the course, students should be able to analyze political events, drawing on the theoretical explanations provided in the class.

Required Textbook:

Almond, Powell, Dalton, and Strom, 2007. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (9th Edition). (Please use the 9th Edition, NOT the 10th Edition.)

Recommend Readings:

Dalton, Russell. 2008. *Citizen Politics* (5th Edition). Washington, D.C.: C.Q. Press.

Clarke, Harold D., Kornberg, Allan and Scotto, Thomas J. 2009. *Making Political Choices: Canada and The United States*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Clarke, Harold D., Sanders, David, Stewart, Marianne C., and Whiteley, Paul F. 2009. *Performance Politics and the British Voter*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press.

Charlton, Sue Ellen M. 2009. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Boulder: Westview Press. Electronic version via UTD Library website:

<http://site.ebrary.com/libproxy.utdallas.edu/lib/utdallas/docDetail.action?docID=10320179>

Other materials assigned to the class will be found in eLearning. These include published articles, materials prepared by the instructor, research reports by political scientists, etc. Some additional readings may be assigned and will be placed on eLearning.

Grading:**Three Tests (multiple-choice)**

30% each, 90% combined of Total Grade

The tests will cover lectures, readings, and current events. Students need to bring their own Scantron Forms 882-E on test days. All the tests will be closed book, closed note, and in-class. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical emergency.

Attendance/Class Participation

Attendance will be taken daily. You may miss up to **three** class sessions without penalty to your grade. You are responsible for all of the materials discussed in class and all of the assigned readings.

10% of Total Grade, with deductions for more than three absences

- 2% for 4-5 absences
- 4% for 6-7 absences
- 6% for 8-9 absences
- 8% for 10-11 absences
- 10% for 12 or more absences

Grade Scale:

A+: 97-100%; A: 93-96%; A-: 90-92%; B+: 84-89%; B: 78-83%; B-: 72-77%; C+: 66-71%; C: 64-66%; C-: 60-63%; D+: 57-59%; D: 54-56%; D-: 50-53%; F: Below 50%

Course Schedule

Part I: What is Comparative Politics?

Week 1: Institutions and Political Participation

01/14, Monday: Introduction to the Course; Issues in Comparative Politics; Comparing Political Systems; Political Culture and Political Socialization
Reading: Almond Chps. 1, 2, & 3

Recommended Reading: Dalton Chps. 1, 3, & 4

01/16, Wednesday: Politics in the United States
Reading: Almond Chp. 19

Part II: North America

Week 2: The United States

01/21, Monday: Martin Luther King Day (No Class)

01/23, Wednesday: U.S. Elections & Political Parties
Reading: "Political Choices in Hard Times: Voting in the 2010 U.S. House Elections"
(On eLearning)

Making Political Choices: Canada and the United States Chp. 5
(On eLearning)

Week 3: The United States

01/28, Monday: In-class screening of *Recount* (Jay Roach, 2008)

01/30, Wednesday: Finish in-class screening of *Recount*; Class Discussion

Week 4: Canada

02/04, Monday: Canada -- Elections and Political Parties
Reading: "Winners and Losers: Voters in the 2011 Federal Election"
(On eLearning)

02/06, Wednesday: Canada -- Elections and Political Parties
Reading: *Making Political Choices: Canada and the United States* Chp. 2
(On eLearning)

Week 5: Test #1

02/11, Monday: Review for Test #1

02/13, Wednesday: Test #1

Part III: Europe

Week 6: Britain

02/18, Monday: Politics in Britain
Reading: Almond Chp. 8

02/20, Wednesday: Politics in Britain
Reading: *Performance Politics* Chps. 5 & 7
(On eLearning)

Recommended Reading:
Dalton Chp. 7

Week 7: Britain

02/25, Monday: In-class screening of *The Deal* (Stephen Frears, 2003)

02/27, Wednesday: Finish in-class screening of *The Deal*; Class Discussion

Week 8: Britain

03/04, Monday: In-class screening of *The Special Relationship* (Richard Loncraine, 2010)

03/06, Wednesday: Finish in-class screening of *The Special Relationship*; Class Discussion

Week 9: Spring Break (03/10 - 03/16)

Week 10: France and Germany

03/18, Monday: Politics in France

Reading: Almond Chp. 9

03/20, Wednesday: Politics in Germany

Reading: Almond Chp. 10

Week 11: Test #2

03/25, Monday: Review for Test #2

03/27, Wednesday: Test #2

Part IV: Asia

Week 12: Introduction to Asian Politics; China

04/01, Monday: Why Does Asian Politics Matter?

Readings: Sue Ellen M. Charlton. 2009. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Chp. 1. Electronic resource link:

<http://site.ebrary.com/libproxy.utdallas.edu/lib/utdallas/docDetail.action?docID=10320179>

04/03, Wednesday: Politics in China

Reading: Almond Chp. 13

Recommended Reading: Sue Ellen M. Charlton. 2009. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Chp. 3. Electronic resource link:

<http://site.ebrary.com/libproxy.utdallas.edu/lib/utdallas/docDetail.action?docID=10320179>

Week 13: China

04/08, Monday: In-class screening of *Please Vote for Me* (Chen Weijun, 2007)

04/10, Wednesday: Finish in-class screening of *Please Vote for Me*; Class Discussion

Week 14: Taiwan

04/15, Monday: Politics in Taiwan

Reading: Yun-han Chu and Jih-wen Lin, 2001. "Political Development in 20th-Century Taiwan: State-Building, Regime Transformation and the Construction of National Identity." *The China Quarterly*, No. 165, Taiwan in the 20th Century, pp. 102-129. (On eLearning)

04/17, Wednesday: Comparing Taiwan and Western Countries.

Reading: Gunter Schubert, 2004. "Taiwan's Political Parties and National Identity: The Rise of an Overarching Consensus". *Asian Survey*, Vol. 44, No. 4, pp. 534-554. (On eLearning)

Recommended Reading: Clarke et al., *Performance Politics* Chp. 7, Dalton Chp. 7

Week 15: Japan and South Korea

04/22, Monday: Politics in Japan

Reading: Almond Chp. 11

04/24, Wednesday: Politics in Japan & South Korea

Reading: James Cotton, 1992. "Understanding the State in South Korea Bureaucratic -- Authoritarian or State Autonomy Theory?" *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 24 No. 4, pp- 512-531. (On eLearning)

Recommend reading: Sue Ellen M. Charlton. 2009. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Chp. 4. Electronic resource link:

<http://site.ebrary.com/libproxy.utdallas.edu/lib/utdallas/docDetail.action?docID=10320179>

Week 16: Test #3

04/29, Monday: Review for Test #3

05/01, Wednesday: Test #3

NOTE: In addition to the above, students are expected to:

- (a) know that this syllabus, including the calendar, is subject to change at the discretion of the professor;
- (b) access and read related policy material at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>