Comparative Politics (32-144)

Course overview
Comparative politics is the study of politics within nations, as opposed to international relations, which is the study of politics among nations. This particular comparative course has ideological, historical, cultural, and institutional components in the exploration of five countries—Great Britain, the former Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, and India. Specifically, we will explore such topics as the English Civil War and the rise of political liberalism, the emergence of Communism in the Soviet Union, the rise of fascism in Interwar Europe, party politics in Britain, Germany and Japan, state-led development in Japan, decolonization in India, modernization in developing countries, and many more topics. Getting an introduction to such diverse phenomena is a vital part of a higher education in political science.

Student Learning Outcomes
After completing this course students will demonstrate a better understanding of the following:

- The way values and beliefs influence politics (the cultural dimensions of politics)
- The role of the “rules of the game” in politics (the institutional dimensions of politics)
- Decision making processes in different countries
- How to employ the comparative method
- Political analysis through writing. Specifically, the student will learn how to devise a clear thesis sentence, analyze various scholarly arguments, provide evidence to support an argument, consider and refute counterarguments, and properly cite sources using the Turabian style guide.
- Paideia Moments: Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the relationship between topics in this course and those in other courses they are taking.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Quizzes (1/27; 2/5; 3/3; 3/19; 4/2; 4/30)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>In-class exam (2/10)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Paper (3/24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitutional Convention paper (4/14)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (5/8: 6-9PM)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Course Readings
The readings for this course contain conflicting interpretations of both theory and history. It is important that you read actively and critically. There is no single accepted “truth” in most of the topics we explore. Your job is to learn to identify, and then to compare and evaluate competing arguments. The readings for this course complement classroom discussion; neither can substitute for the other. You will learn the most from this class if you do the reading on each topic before coming to class.

Books
The following books are available for purchase as well as on 2 hour reserve in the library:

Weber, Max. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
Roy, Arundhati. The Cost of Living
Participation
Attendance and active participation count for 10% of your final grade. You should come to class having done the readings and prepared to talk about the material. Because discussion is critical to the course, attendance is required. Students are allowed two absences without penalty on the participation grade. Unexcused absences on days when a quiz is given have different consequences (see below). Each absence exceeding two will result in a five point deduction of your participation grade. Doctors’ notes do not exempt absences from this policy. (Please inform the instructor of prolonged severe illnesses or other extenuating circumstances). Those students arriving late to class will be assessed a two point deduction. Students texting, surfing or sleeping in class will be marked absent. Attendance alone does not guarantee a good participation grade. You must also engage in class discussion. Finally, students are required to attend three political science paper presentations at the student works symposium on April 8th. Failure to turn in a presentation critique will result in a 10 point deduction from your participation grade.

Assignment Policies
The following policies hold for all the assignments in this course:

1. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE ON THE ASSIGNMENT. Students who inform the professor on the due date of the assignment that they are unable to turn in the assignment on time will have the opportunity to turn in the work late for no more than 50 points. The student must work out the timeline for the completion of the late work with the professor. Students with unanticipated extenuating circumstances (death in the family, severe documented illness, etc.) must communicate with the professor in person or through the Office of Academic Success by the due date of the assignment. All excuses will be verified and late work will not receive a penalty if turned in by the time agreed on.

2. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN AS HARD COPIES. Assignments will not be accepted as email attachments.

3. PROPER CITATION IS REQUIRED. For formal writing assignments (not exams), you must correctly cite source material in the body of your paper as well as in a works cited at the end of your paper using Kate Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition. Failure to cite source material properly will result in at least a 1/3 letter grade deduction depending on the severity of the citation error. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment.

4. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ON DAYS ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE. The instructor will follow up on documented excuses for absences. Forging medical documents is a federal felony as well as a violation of the university honor code.

5. THE HONOR CODE HOLDS FOR ALL GRADED ASSIGNMENTS. The work should be yours alone and no one else’s.

Expectations for work outside the classroom
The course is designed with the expectation that students will spend at least 1-2 hours on course readings and assignments for every hour in class. In many instances you will need to spend even more time than this, especially when major assignments are due.

Quizzes
There will be six quizzes over the course of the semester. You will be able to drop the lowest of the six grades. If you are absent on the day of the quiz, you will receive a zero. This zero can be dropped as your lowest grade. The quiz dates are listed on the syllabus. Make-up quizzes will only be offered for university excused absences. The quizzes will cover course readings and class materials. You will be asked to identify and give the significance of key course concepts on the quiz. The identification involves defining the concept; the significance should relate the concept to course themes or an author’s thesis.
Papers
The paper assignments will be writing assignments based on course material. These assignments are meant to introduce you to the fundamentals of writing political science papers. These papers will focus on devising a clear thesis sentence, analyzing various scholarly arguments, and considering and refuting counterarguments to your position. These papers will be 4-5 pages in length.

Exams
As this course is based on building comparisons among countries, the exams will be cumulative. The focus of both the midterm and the final will be on broad questions and concepts. Exams may include any of the following: terms to identify and give the significance of, quotes from course readings to identify and give the significance of, short answer questions, and essay questions. Make-up exams will only be offered to students with university excused absences or unanticipated extenuating circumstances (death in the family, severe documented illness, etc). If you are unable to take an exam you must communicate the circumstances as far in advance as possible. Unexcused absences on the day of an exam will result in a failing grade.

Grading
Your grades will be calculated on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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Special Accommodations
Southwestern University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To arrange accommodations, students should contact the Center for Academic Success (success@southwestern.edu). Students seeking accommodations should notify the Assistant Director for Access and Academic Resources at least two weeks before services are needed. It is the student’s responsibility to discuss any necessary accommodations with the appropriate faculty member.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignments
The citations below follow Turabian in most instances. This document, however, is not a formal works cited; it is a list of course readings. As a result, it contains additional notations for your reference which should not be included on a works cited, such as ER which stands for EReserves and selected pages which follow some book citations in parenthesis.

HOW WE COMPARE

January 13  
**Introduction: The Comparative Method**

January 15  
**Tradition and Modernity; Classic Liberalism**


January 20  
**MLK Day—no class!**

January 22  
**Paths to Modernity**


GREAT BRITAIN

January 27  
**Sources of Political and Economic Liberalism**

**QUIZ 1**


Author’s Introduction  
Chapter I: Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification  
Chapter IV: The Religious Foundations of Worldly Asceticism, **Part A. Calvinism**  
Chapter V: Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism

January 29  
**Economic Liberalism**


February 3  
**British Political Institutions**

February 5  Britain Today: Liberalism in Action (or not)? /How to write in political science

QUIZ 2


February 10  In-class exam

THE FORMER SOVIET UNION / RUSSIA

February 12  Marxism


February 17  Marxism/Leninism


February 19  Stalinism and the Legacies of Leninism and Stalinism


February 24  Stalin Trial


February 26  Political Institutions in Russia


GERMANY

March 3  Fascism as a concept

QUIZ 3


SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR MARCH 3RD


March 5 The Causes of Fascism


March 10-12 Spring Break—no class!

March 17 German Political Institutions


March 19 Legacies of Fascism

QUIZ 5

Reading: Green, Simon. 2007. Divergent Traditions, Converging Responses: Immigration and Integration Policy in the UK and Germany. German Politics 16 (1): 95-115. ER

JAPAN

March 24 The Path to Industrialization in Japan

Comparative paper due at the beginning of class


March 26 The Japanese Economic Miracle?


Vogel, Steven K. 2001. The Crisis of German and Japanese Capitalism: Stalled on the Road to the Liberal Market Model. Comparative Political Studies 34 (December): 1103-1131. ER
March 31  Political Institutions in Japan


April 2  Modernization Theory

QUIZ 5


April 7  Constitutional Convention


April 8  From Every Voice: Student Works Symposium (required critique of three political science paper presentations)

April 9  Constitutional Convention

INDIA

April 14  The New Imperialism (Constitutional Convention Paper due)


April 16  The Causes of Colonialism


Readings for April 16th continued on next page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>The Economic Legacies of Colonialism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
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