

Political Science 3321: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Semester:	Summer 2020
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Class Times:	Online

Course Description

This course is numbered as PLSC 3321: Comparative Politics. The catalog provides this description of the course: A comparative examination of the political system of selected economically developed nations. And while the catalog is certainly correct, it is slightly more complicated than the catalog description.

This course is numbered PLSC 3321: Introduction to Comparative Politics. It is an upper level course in political science that fulfills 3 hours of credit for political science majors and minors. It serves as the department of political science's introduction to one of the three main subfields in political science. Many students may have already taken Introduction to International Relations which is a similar introductory course in that particular subfield. In comparative politics, the focus is on the development of comparative politics through an institutional approach. Once students have a clearer grasp of comparative politics through an institutional perspective, the transition to certain subtopics such as democratization, political economy, pork barrel politics and area studies such as Latin American Politics, East Asian Politics, The Politics of Western Europe, and the Politics of Japan will be less rocky.

Also, in this course, students will be exposed to some of the main methodological conventions in comparative politics. This does not mean that all students will have a firm grasp of empirical and formal modeling, but students will be exposed to the conventions so they may grasp the findings and implications of research in political science. This course will discuss the following topics: methodology in comparative politics (in a conceptual not mathematical context), Comparative Democratization, Rational Choice Institutionalism, Electoral Systems, Political Institutions, Political Culture and Civil Society, Distributive Politics, and Comparative Political Economy. This course requires a considerable amount of reading and writing.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, it would be useful for students to have taken PLSC 3301 or 3302 prior or concurrently with this course. It will help aid the transition into scientific explanations of politics. Also, students should have an openness to basic mathematical concepts. Additionally, students should expect to spend roughly 6 hours a week in the course. This is just an estimate as some students may complete the work in less or more time; it depends on the student.

Course Materials

This course requires one textbook:

- Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. ISBN: 978-1608716791

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the following assessments:

- 3 Evaluative Essays
 - Each is worth 15% of the final course grade and collectively represent 45% of the final course grade.
- 3 Objective Examinations
 - Each is worth 15% of the final course grade and collectively represent 45% of the final course grade.
- 3 Intensive Discussion Topics
 - Each is worth 3% of the final course grade and collectively represent 10% of the final course grade.
- Letter Grade Assignment
 - A: 89.5-100
 - B 79.5-89.4
 - C 69.5-79.4
 - D 59.5-69.4
 - F 59.4 or lower
- Student Authentication
 - Additionally, students must satisfy a secondary authentication method as required by University of Texas of the Permian Basin policy:
 - * The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) maintains policies and procedures to ensure that each student who registers for a distance or correspondence course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to authenticate student identity by employing at least two methods of verification. To access online courses students must login to the Canvas learning management system to establish their identity by using their unique personal identifying username login and a secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy allows faculty multiple options for satisfying the second method of validating student identity. This course satisfies the second method of student verification by requiring the following (non-graded but mandatory):

- A clear image of yourself
 - * In color
 - * Well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image
 - * Must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance
 - * Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
 - * With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open
- Then a picture of your ID (can be a UTPB ID or government issued ID) with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers)).
- Make sure to attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- State and explain the scientific method
- Differentiate between Most Similar and Most Different Systems Designs. Understand and explain arguments, premises, conclusions.
- Understand and explain the concepts of exit, loyalty, and voice from Albert Hirschman's Responses to Decline in Firms, Organizations and States. Produce some examples of citizens may express exit, loyalty and voice in public life.
- Define and explain the concepts of a game, strategy, and Nash equilibrium in the context of formal modeling.
- Identify and explain the difference between extensive and normal form games.
- Define and explain the concept of a Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium.
- Explain and identify the functions and limitations of the state.
- Explain and understand the premises of the Prisoner's Dilemma.
- Calculate the conditions under which an individual and the state may enter a social contract.
- Identify, explain, and list predatory state functions.
- Explain and understand Classic Modernization Theory.
- State the empirical relationship between wealth and democracy.
- Explain and deduce quasi-rents.
- Understand and explain the resource curse.

- Understand and explain the difference between Primordialist and Constructivist formulations of culture.
- Explain various hypotheses regarding the relationship between religion, democratic transitions and democratic survival.
- Identify and restate the common theoretical reasons democracy should be linked to economic growth.
- Identify and deduce why authoritarian regimes may have advantages in terms of economic growth.
- Understand, restate, and explain the differences between monarchies, military juntas, and civilian dictatorships.
- Understand the implications of the assumptions in Selectorate Theory.
- Graph the spatial relationship between the Size of Selectorate (S), Winning Coalition (W), and regime type.
- Analyze the importance of the distribution tax rates, public and private goods in retaining power.
- Analyze and deduce the weaknesses in Selectorate Theory.

University Policies

- Students with Disabilities
 - Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.
 - ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington
Address: Mesa Building 4242/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762
Voice Telephone: 432-552-4696
Email: ada@utpb.edu
 - For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to Accessibility and Privacy Statements.
- Office of the Registrar (Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal)
 - All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

- Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals at
 - * <http://www.utpb.edu/services/academic-affairs/office-of-the-registrar/adds-drops>
- For grade appeal process go to
 - * <http://www.utpb.edu/campus-life/dean-of-students/grievances>

Course and Instructor Policies

- Professionalism
 - This is an upper-division course in political science, as such professionalism is required. This includes completing essays, exams, and discussions by the due date. If you do not, a score of 0 will be given for the requirement.
- Etiquette Expectations
 - This course will require discourse between students and the instructor. As the course deals with multiple competing views of how comparative politics is conducted, spirited disagreements may persist. These are naturally welcome and expected, however make sure to be civil and criticize the weaknesses in argument, not the other person.
- Technical Skills Required
 - I do not require many technical skills in the course. However, you must have a computer, connection to the internet, Adobe Reader. Additionally, I will post video announcements, so you must be able to view Youtube videos.
- Complete Honesty in Assessment
 - Because this is an upper-division course, I will give you an honest assessment of your performance. When I say honest, I mean I am not going to sugarcoat it for you. As a result, I don't say things like, "well, at least you gave it your best shot." It is nothing against you as a person, it comes from my (and our department's) desire to train majors and minors to the utmost quality so that you are prepared for whatever profession you may choose.
- Writing Aids in the Course
 - Write well. This is not a suggestion, but a rule. If you are uncomfortable with your writing abilities, you have several options.
 - * First, you may go see the University Writing Center. However, they are normally hold an English background, which does not lend itself to technical and specific writing. But, if you are having fundamental writing problems, this is not a bad place to start.
 - * Second, you may allow a student to read your paper and ask for comments. Now, this doesn't mean they can crib your arguments and use them as their own. This is by far the most successful way to get better. Academics and other non-fiction writers who write for a living often ask their friends and colleagues to read what they write.

For example, before I submit a paper, I normally ask former colleagues from graduate school to read my papers to see if they make sense. They see things that you will not pick up and see large holes in your logic that you may not see.

- * Third, you may submit your paper to me a week before the due date and I will read it for you. I will give you comments and you may resubmit your paper. However, you must email me your paper 1 week before the due date.

- Communications Plan

- Office Hours

- * Normally, I keep regular office hours during any semester. However, COVID-19 restrictions largely prohibit students from coming to campus and access to Mesa Building is limited. As a result, I will not have posted physical office hours.

- Email

- * Email is the best method for contacting me. My email is mc michael_t@utpb.edu. I respond to all emails within 48 hours excepting weekends and university holidays.

- Phone

- * You may call my office. My office phone number is (432) 552 2340. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

- Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty is not permitted in this course. According to the Handbook of Student Conduct:

- * “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses (without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such acts.”

- * All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the university’s handbook at: <http://ss.utpb.edu/dean-of-students/scholastic-dishonesty/>

- * Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will receive notification through secure communication either verbally or via email. The student may exercise the right to explain themselves or explain how the instructor made an error in judgment regarding the suspicion. If the student agrees with the assessment, I will not file a disposition of academic dishonesty with the Dean of Students and, if it is a first time offense, the course assignment will receive a score of 0. If the student disputes the allegation, I will file a disposition of academic dishonesty with the Dean of Students and the Dean of Students will continue the process.

- Pay special attention to misrepresenting facts. If you misrepresent any facts to gain an unfair advantage against other students (including lying to the instructor), you will be charged with academic/scholastic dishonesty. This includes false statements used to have exams reset.
- Extra Credit
 - There is no extra credit in this course for any reason.
 - * This is very important. If I grant extra credit to a student, I must extend that offer to all students. As a result, this requires substantial more work and effort on my part and cheapens the work done by other students who completed the assigned work at a high level.
- Late Work
 - I do not accept late work.
 - * I give a 8 hour grace period from the due date (normally 11:59 P.M. on the day a unit is due) to allow for slowness in internet connections or submission issues. If you are having trouble submitting an assignment, send me an email with the material so that I know the materials were completed on time.
 - * Additionally, I may allow an extension on a unit or assignment if you explain why you cannot complete the unit or assignment at least 24 prior to the due date.
- Submitting Essays
 - All documents in the course may be submitted in two acceptable formats: word or pdf.
 - * Word documents may either come in .doc or .docx format.
 - * If you are technically inclined, you may use tex or any other derivative (L^AT_EX, PDFL^AT_EX, or XeL^AT_EX) to compile a pdf. I don't need your source, I just need your PDF.
- Feedback
 - I provide extensive feedback when I hand back the essays. Many students that have taken my upper-level classes before know this, but it bears repeating. I will usually write a couple of paragraphs about your work. To do this, I have to read very carefully, so be aware that I read pretty carefully.
- Evaluations
 - At the end of the semester, you will be given an opportunity to evaluate both myself and the course. Now the evaluation is not mandatory or required and I will not know what you write, but it will help make the course better in the future.
- Attendance and Class Participation
 - Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

- Tracking
 - The learning management systems contains tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.
- Absenteeism
 - All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation.

University Services

The university provides a number of services to students. Make sure you take advantage of these services:

- ADA Accommodation/Support: (432) 552 2630
- Advising UTPB E-Advisor
- Bookstore: (432) 552-0220
- Email, Outlook 365, my.utpb.edu Information Resources Service
- Financial Aid and Scholarship (432) 552-2620
- Library (432) 552-2370
- Registrar: (432) 552-2635
- Student Services
- Technical Support Canvas 1-866-437-0867
- Tutoring & Learning Resources If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).¹

Technical Requirements

- Technical Requirements as stipulated by REACH:
 - <http://www.utpb.edu/online/reach/technical-requirements>
- Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to Student Services below or visit:

¹This source will not help you in any way shape or form with this course. It is only in the syllabus at REACH's behest.

- <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-on-computer-accounts-e-mail/office-365>
- To obtain software licensing and media for selected Microsoft titles at very low cost through a software agreement visit:
 - <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-for-students/software-distribution/microsoft-select>

Sample Syllabus

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: May 11-17

- Lectures
 - Lecture 01: What is Science?
- Readings
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 2.

Week 2: May 18-24

- Lectures
 - Lecture 02: What is Politics?
- Readings
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 3.
 - Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." The American Political Science Review 65: 682-693.
- **Unit 1 Due Sunday, May 24, 11:59 P.M.**

Week 3: May 25-31

- Lectures
 - Lecture 03: The Origins of the Modern State
 - Lecture 04: Democracy and Dictatorship: Conceptualization and Measurement
- Readings
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 4.
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 5.

Week 4: June 1-7

- Lectures
 - Lecture 05: The Economic Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship
 - Lecture 06: Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship

- Readings
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 6.
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 7.
 - Bates, Robert and Da-Hsiang Donald Lien. 1985. “A Note on Taxation, Development and Representative Government.” Politics and Society 14: 53-70.
 - North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. 1989. “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England.” Journal of Economic History 49: 803-832.
 - Moore, Barrington. 1966. Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. Chapter 1.
 - Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1994. “Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships.” American Political Science Review 88: 635-652.

Week 5: June 8-14

- Lectures
 - Lecture 07: Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it make a Difference?
- Reading
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 8
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 9
- **Section II Discussion, Essay and Exam due Sunday, June 14, 11:59 P.M.**

Week 6: June 15-21

- Lectures
 - Lecture 08: Varieties of Dictatorship
 - Lecture 09: Parliamentary, Presidential and Semi-Presidential Democracies: Making and Breaking Governments
- Reading
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 10
 - Cheibub, Jose Antonio, Gandhi, Jennifer and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. “Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited.” Public Choice 143: 67-101.

- Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 12.
- Warwick, Paul and Jamie Druckman. 2001. “Portfolio Salience and the Proportionality of Payoffs in Coalition Governments.” *British Journal of Political Science* 31: 627-649.

Week 7: June 22- 26

- Lectures
 - Lecture 10: Elections and Electoral Systems
 - Lecture 11: Social Cleavages and Party Systems
- Reading
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 13
 - Clark, William, Golder, Matt and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2nd Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 14
- Section III Discussion, Essay and Exam Friday, June 26th, 11:59 P.M.