



CPO 2002-Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2017

Graham Center 289

Tuesday and Thursday 6.25-7.40 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Orçun Selçuk

Department: Politics and International Relations

Office Location: SIPA 213 Graduate Lounge (Please ring the bell)

Office Hours: Tuesday 3pm-5pm and by appointment

Email(s): oselc001@fiu.edu

NB: This syllabus and schedule are subject to change at any time. If changes occur, the syllabus will be changed on Blackboard and announcements will be made in class.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course provides an introduction to comparative politics at the undergraduate level. It is designed for students who are new to the discipline and the debates in the scholarly literature. The proximate goal of the course is to provide students theoretical and conceptual background for higher-level courses in comparative politics. The course is organized in three parts. The first part of the class helps students understand basic conceptual and methodological discussions in our field and examines democratic and non-democratic regimes with various analytical categories in the literature. The second part of the class focuses on various institutional choices within democracies. The third part of the class applies our conceptual and theoretical discussions to four countries of your choice.

Grades

Participation (15%)

Throughout the semester, you will take part in several individual and group exercises. If you are not present in class, obviously you will not be able to participate them. While in class, I expect you to contribute to the discussions by engaging with your peers and myself. If you come to class prepared and give your full attention to our class activities, you should all get full credit very easily. I will post your weekly participation grade on Canvas.

Exam I: 25%

On February 9, 2017 from 6.25 to 7.40 p.m.

The first exam will cover the first part of the course. It will consist of short answer questions based on the readings and our class discussions. I will provide you a study guide at least one week before the exam so that you have enough time to study the material. The exam will take place in class on February 9, 2017.

Exam II: 25%

On March 9, 2017 from 6.25 to 7.40 p.m.

The second exam will cover the second part of the course. It will consist of short answer questions based on the readings and our class discussions. I will provide you a study guide at least one week before the exam so that you have enough time to study the material. The exam will take place in class on March 9, 2017.

Final Paper: 35%

First draft (5%) due by 5.00 p.m. on February 2, 2016.

Second draft (5%) due by 5.00 p.m. on March 31, 2016.

Peer review (5%) due by 5.00 p.m. on April 4, 2016.

Final draft due (20%) by 7.00 p.m. on April 25, 2016.

For the final paper, you need to choose a specific concept or theme from our syllabus and apply it to one of the four countries we are examining in the class. I highly suggest you start thinking about the paper early and consult me on possible paper topics through email or during my office hours. For the paper, you will go through a multi-draft writing process. That means, you will submit two drafts before submitting the final version. In this process, you will receive feedback from me as well as your peers. The final version will be within the range of 1500 words. For a detailed assignment sheet, please refer to our Canvas page.

Grading Scale

Below 60.00 = F	76.00 to 79.99 = C+	87.00 to 89.99 = B+
60.00 to 69.99 = D	80.00 to 82.99 = B-	90.00 to 92.99 = A-
70.00 to 75.99 = C	83.00 to 86.99 = B	93.00 to 100.00 = A

Late Submissions

Should you decide to submit a major assignment late, I will deduct ten points per day from your final score. In case of emergency, with proper documentation, I will not deduct any points. I also reserve the right to evaluate cases on an *ad hoc* basis. The key is communicating with me and being honest.

Objection Policy

If you believe that the grade you received from an exam or paper is inappropriate, you need to provide a written statement to me. I will consider your appeal and make a final decision.

Extra Credit Policy

Finally, there is a chance for an extra credit assignment which is worth 2 percent of your overall grade. You need to write a 2-page paper on one of the following movies and documentaries below from the perspective of our class discussions and readings. In other words, I am not expecting a summary but an informed analysis and personal reflection. The paper is due by May 1, 2017 at 7.00 pm. You will submit your paper via Turnitin. You can find further instructions on Canvas.

- Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984)
- The Official Story (1985)
- Star Wars: Episodes I-II-III
- Good Bye Lenin! (2003)
- Downfall (2004)
- Machuca (2004)
- V for Vendetta (2005)
- The Lives of Others (2006)
- The Wave (2008)
- Sin Nombre (2009)
- The King's Speech (2010)
- Even the Rain (2010)
- Argo (2012)
- No (2012)
- Leviathan (2014)
- Selma (2014)
- The Interview (2014)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (2015)

Academic Dishonesty

When you started college, you became a part of a learning community. Going to college is an important experience in one's life. Writing and rhetoric convey power to you and with this power, you have a responsibility to our community. To put it in simple terms, I ask that you be honest with yourself and others. If you find something online that you would like to use in your own work, you need to cite it even if you paraphrase. You owe it to the author who inspired your writing and to those that will read your work. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct and it may result in your expulsion from FIU. We all would like to avoid such unpleasant experience. For more information, please review [FIU's policy](#) of academic integrity.

Special Accommodations

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, notify the Disability Resource Center (GC 190, 348-3532) and me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

Class Rules and Norms

This class is scheduled from 6.25 p.m. until 7.40 p.m. We will begin promptly and will generally go for the entire 75 minutes. I expect you to be in your seats and ready to begin at 5.00 p.m., and to give me your undivided attention. If you need to leave early for a reason, make sure you notify me about your excuse.

Laptops, tablet computers, and smart phones are allowed in this class as long as they are used for learning purposes. Feel free to take notes or google any name/term which is mentioned in class that you might not be familiar with. Please do not check your emails and social media sites during the class.

Readings

- I do not require to you buy a textbook. All readings are available on our course's Canvas site (<http://online.fiu.edu/login>).
- If you feel you need an additional source to succeed in this course, I would recommend the following textbook: George Mahler, *Principles of Comparative Politics*. ISBN: 9780205852529.

Part I-Key Concepts

January 10, 2017-Introductions

- Getting to know one another.
- Introducing our Canvas page,

January 12, 2017-Political Science and Comparative Politics

- Going over the syllabus.
- Munck and Snyder, “Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics.”

January 17, 2017-Comparative Methodology

- Van Evera, “Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science.”

January 19, 2017-State and Nation

- Tilly, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.”
- Varshney, “Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict.”

January 24, 2017-Democracy

- Dahl, “Polyarchy.”

January 26, 2017-Democratic Transition

- O’Donnell and Schmitter, “Transitions from Authoritarian Rule.”
- Huntington, “The Third Wave.”

January 31, 2017-Democracy with Adjectives

- Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy.”
- O’Donnell, “Delegative Democracy.”

February 2, 2017-Hybrid Regimes

- Levitsky and Way, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism.”

February 7, 2017-Review of Part I

EXAM I- February 9, 2017

6.25-7.40 p.m.

Part II-Democratic Institutions

February 14, 2017- Legislature and Executive

- Mahler, “Legislatures and Legislative Structures.”
- Mahler, “The Executive.”

February 16, 2017- Presidentialism Debate

- Linz, “Perils of Presidentialism.”
- Shugart and Carey, “Presidents and Assemblies.”

February 21, 2017- Electoral Systems

- Norris, “Chapter 2.”

February 23, 2017- Electoral Integrity

- Norris, Why Electoral Integrity Matters?

FIRST DRAFT OF THE PAPER DUE-February 27, 2017

5.00 p.m.

February 28, 2017- Political Parties

- Norris, “Chapter 6.”

March 2, 2017-Women and Ethnic Representation

- Norris, “Chapters 8 and 9.”

March 7, 2017-Review of Part II

- No reading.

EXAM II- March 9, 2017

6.25-7.40 p.m.

Part III-Country Case Studies

During the first week of class, you will vote on which four countries we should cover. In the default version of the course, I included the United Kingdom, Turkey, Venezuela, and Russia. If you decide to cover other countries, I will update the syllabus accordingly.

March 21 and 23, 2017-The United Kingdom/Germany/France

- Mahler, “Britain.”
- Inglehart and Norris, “Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism.”
- Freedom House 2017, “the United Kingdom.”

March 28 and 30, 2017- Turkey/Egypt/Iran

- Barkey and Taşpınar, “Republic of Turkey.”
- Öniş, “The AKP and the Uncertain Path of Turkish Democracy.”
- Freedom House 2017, “Turkey.”

***SECOND DRAFT OF THE PAPER DUE-March 31, 2017
5.00 p.m.***

***PEER REVIEW DUE-April 4, 2017
5.00 p.m.***

April 4 and 11, 2017- Venezuela/Brazil/Argentina

- Tarver and Frederick, “The History of Venezuela.”
- Alarcón, Álvarez, and Hidalgo, “Can Democracy Win in Venezuela?”
- Freedom House 2017, “Venezuela.”

April 13 and 18 2017- Russia/China/North Korea

- Mahler, “Russia.”
- Shetsova, “Forward to the Past in Russia.”
- Freedom House 2017, “Russia.”

April 20, 2017-Four Countries in Perspective

- No reading.

***April 25, 2017-FINAL PAPER DUE
7.00 p.m.***

***May 1, 2017-EXTRA CREDIT DUE
7.00 p.m.***