Introduction

How can we better grapple with the complex and interdependent world of globalization and the major security and economic challenges we currently live in? The study and understanding of the policies and political processes outside one’s borders is crucial to find plausible answers to this question. Hence, comparative politics (the study of domestic politics and issues related to politics), as a field of study, offers the right tools in achieving just that.

This said, comparative politics is more than just “a series of country studies highlighting the key similarities and differences among political institutions around the world […] or focused on the important concepts in the discipline.” In other words, we ought to transcend purely descriptive or conceptual approaches to comparative politics. As such, following the book’s outline and purpose, this course will attempt to mesh the empirical with the conceptual exposing the student to a “competence framework” teaching valuable analytical (and practical) skills.

In sum, this course will introduce students to Comparative Politics as a field of study and demonstrate how it can be used as a tool in mapping intra and intergovernmental relations, while attempting to provide answers to current global issues and challenges from a domestic approach.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, the attentive and laborious student, should understand:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1</th>
<th>Chapter 2</th>
<th>Chapter 3</th>
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| • The purpose of the field of comparative politics  
• Some concrete, real-life examples of what comparativists explore through their research  
• The broad range of methods used by comparativists | • The definition of state  
• The main elements of the modern state (territory, sovereignty, legitimacy, and bureaucracy)  
• The difference between feudal states, absolutist states, and modern states | • The difference between citizens and subjects  
• The civil, political, and social rights of citizens  
• The relationship between ideology and regime type  
• The main regime categories that |
- The main questions that comparative politics seeks to answer and different theoretical approaches to answer those questions

- The concept of weak and failed states
- The historical development of the modern state, with examples drawn from the chapter’s case studies

appear in the book, with knowledge of at least one example of each

### Chapter 4
- The concept of identity politics
- The differences between primordialist, constructivist, and instrumentalist approaches to the study of national identity
- The concepts of nation, nationalism, and autonomy
- The difference between cultural and civic nationalism
- The difference between ethnicity and race as classifications

### Chapter 5
- The definitions of market economy, capitalism, and command economy
- The different roles, essential, beneficial, and political, that a state can play in the economy
- The idea of market failure in presence of public goods, externalities, and monopolies
- The differences between Keynesianism and monetary policy
- Broad political preferences, such as protectionism and neoliberalism
- Some of the impacts that globalization has had in a state’s ability to direct the economy

### Chapter 6
- The difference between horizontal and political accountability
- The different branches that comprise democratic states
- The difference between the majoritarian and the consensus models of democracy
- The difference between heads of state and heads of government
- The difference between presidential, parliamentary, and semi-presidential systems
- The concept of judicial review
- The difference between common law and civil law
- The concept of federalism

### Chapter 7
- Formal institutions of participation in democracies
- The difference between single-member districts with first-past-the-post voting and proportional representation
- The difference between open-list and closed-list proportional representation systems
- The definition and types of party systems
- Duverger’s Law
- Types of relationships between the government and citizens

### Chapter 8
- The distinctions among various types of authoritarian regimes
- The role of institutionalization within authoritarian systems
- The role of the following institutions within authoritarian regimes
  - the supreme leader
  - the military
  - political parties
  - the legislature
  - the judiciary
  - the bureaucracy
  - elections
- The concept of patron-client networks

### Chapter 9
- Military coups
- Revolutions
- Democratization

### Chapter 10
- The key differences between the hyperglobalization and the varieties of capitalism perspectives
- The key differences between liberal and coordinated market economies
- The role of states in the development process
- The basics of the relationship between economic development and regime type

### Chapter 11
- The concept of market failure
- The different categories of social policy
- Different types of welfare state
- Different health care systems
- Some types of environmental policies

### Chapter 12
- Identity groups and their basic collective goals
- Different approaches to secularism
- General understanding of gender issues
- General understanding of issues connected to sexual orientation
Course Expectations, Grading, Requirements, and more…

1. **Expectations:** I expect each and every student to:

   • Be on time
   • Attend all classes
   • No early dismissal without prior approval – this may result in being marked absent
   • Complete the required reading and be familiar with the terms and concepts covered in the reading before class meets
   • Take notes of your reading and review before class
   • Make use of the online resources to test your knowledge and preparation (e.g., quizzes, practice questions, flash-cards, summaries)
   • Prioritize studying and dedicate adequate time to studying; hence, be prepared for class, reading-checks, quizzes and exams
   • Be willing to work hard and be proactive regarding performance and preparation
   • Stay away from procrastination
   • Complete the required online exercises **before** class meets (no later than 07:20AM)
   • Pay attention during lectures, take copious and well rounded notes
   • Actively participate
   • Show academic integrity and honesty at all times (plagiarism and/or cheating in quizzes/exams will automatically be reported)
   • Refrain from interrupting class (no cell phone, texting, computers or tablets will be allowed during lectures)
   • Finally…..Ask for help when needed.

2. **How To Succeed In This Class:** The purpose of this course is to allow every student to learn a great deal and to develop those knowledge-based and analytical skills necessary to succeed in future academic endeavors. To some, this class may appear difficult and demanding at times. The course is, however, structured in such a way as to enable anyone who is dedicated and hard working to succeed. The above expectations should provide a valuable framework to achieve just that.

3. **Lectures:** Due to the limited time available (only 1h:37m) it is important to keep in mind that lectures are meant to complement your reading and **ARE NOT** to be taken as replacements of the required reading. As such, lectures cannot cover in details entire chapters or materials. Lectures are primarily meant to bring to the fore the most important points of the readings and as a forum for meaningful discussions (**N.B.** lectures, assignments, and assessments will be drawn from the textbook and the assigned articles).

4. **Reading-Check Quizzes:** Students’ preparedness will be assessed with a short quiz at the beginning or end of each class. These quizzes are imposed to make sure students read the required materials before class. Be advised that these quizzes will count for ten percent (10%) of your final grade.

5. **Class Participation:** This course requires **ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION** during lectures. Active class participation is defined as “a student i) **repeatedly** verbally demonstrating preparation, ii) **repeatedly** offering analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of
materials and/or relevant domestic/world events, iii) **repeatedly** contributing in a significant way to ongoing discussion, iv) **repeatedly** demonstrating ongoing active involvement.

On the other hand, absent or poor class participation is defined as “a student i) who is present in class but does not participate for the duration of the course, ii) tries to respond when called on but does not offer much, iii) demonstrates very infrequent, negligible, or trivial involvement in discussion

Participation is important because it allows students to work with the readings, airing ideas, thoughts, opinions, and to learn from each others; hence, contributing to the progress of instruction and student’s preparation. To achieve this goal it is therefore important to complete **the assigned readings, and/or online exercises before coming to class**.

6. **Quizzes**: Students’ knowledge and preparedness will be assessed with periodical chapter quizzes throughout the course. These quizzes will be administered either during the first ten (10) minutes of class or ten (10) minutes before the end of class. Late arrivals, and early departures, will not be allowed to sit for the quiz.

7. **Online Activities**: Students must familiarize themselves with the Companion Site during the first week of classes and must complete the listed/assigned online activities **before class meets** (no later than 07:20AM). Online activities must be hand-submitted at the beginning of class (typed or hand written). Be advised that only the students’ first attempt will be considered for grading.

8. **Exams**: The **Mid-Term Exam** will cover the lectures, classroom discussions, and reading assignments covered in this course. The **Final Exam** may/may not be cumulative, and will be held during the scheduled examination week. We will talk about the format of the exams in class a week or so before.

9. **Attendance and Absences**: Attendance is **MANDATORY** for this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning/during/end of each class. Absences are **highly** discouraged, as they will have a negative effect on a student’s final grade. An **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** negates the right to make-up missing assignments/assessments/exams. However, life is unpredictable and students will not be penalized for **EXCUSED ABSENCES** and will be allowed to make-up assignments/assessments/exams. **Please note that only medical emergencies accompanied by proper documentation describing the reason for the absence (i.e., doctor’s note) or other serious extenuating circumstances with supporting evidence/proof will be accepted**. Also important to note is that students who fail to attend to at least sixty percent (60%) of class sessions will automatically be awarded a F0 grade.

10. **Grading**: Your final grade will be determined on the basis of these course requirements. Please note that this grading scale is tentative and it may change during the course of the semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading-Check Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion of Online Activities</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Excellent</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>Poor</td>
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*Missed assignments/quizzes/exams will count against the student’s total and final grade. NO EXCEPTIONS.*

11. **As per FIU Grading Policy:** A F0 grade is awarded to students who both earn a failing grade based on course standards and who fail to complete at least 60% of the course requirements or fail to attend at least 60% of class sessions. A F0 grade equals zero grade points per credit hour and is a permanent grade.

12. **Make Sure You Understand The Passing Grade:** This is particularly important if you are enrolled in a major where a minimum grade C is required to continue in the program or similar.

13. **Class Cancellation:** In the event that a class needs to be cancelled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings and/or online exercises. Do not assume that class is cancelled unless so informed by me, or by another school representative *in person*.

14. **Extra Credit:** This class awards one extra credit assignment: Meaningful, engaging, and contributing class participation – see above for details (10%). *No other extra credit assignment will be available for this course.*

15. **Electronic Devices:** During class, cell phones, texting, computers, tablets, or other electronic devices will not be permitted. All electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight to avoid interruptions; electronic devices are strictly forbidden during quizzes/exams.

16. **Accommodations:** The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

**Academic Integrity**

Familiarize yourself with the University’s rules concerning academic misconduct as described in the Student Handbook. Cheating or other forms of misconduct can result in severe penalties (which, according to University policy, may include a failing grade and/or expulsion from the University).
For more information on these policies, see the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution website:

http://undergrad.fiu.edu/academic-misconduct/pdfs/code-of-academic-integrity.pdf

Textbook and Readings

1. TEXTBOOK:

3. COMPANION WEB SITE:

http://edge.sagepub.com/orvis3e

Office Hours, Communication, Questions, Problems, or Concerns

- **Office Hours:** By Appointment

Keep in mind that the best, and fastest, way to contact me is via e-mail (lzini@fiu.edu).

It is also important that you check your FIU e-mail daily for notices or other general information.

Final Recommendations

**CURRENT EVENTS READINGS**
The nature of this course requires students to be abreast of current domestic and international news and affairs. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that students complement the required readings with current events. This will help you relate with what we are learning in this class to ongoing real-world events. Most importantly, this will also become a key component of class discussion and participation. A few suggestions (in no particular order of importance):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Newspapers:</th>
<th>News Channels (Varied):</th>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly Magazines:</th>
<th>Radios:</th>
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You may also want to check out FlipBoard for your device at [http://flipboard.com/](http://flipboard.com/)
**Tentative Course Outline and Weekly Readings**

TB= Textbook; ART=Article/Excerpt; RC=Reading-Check Quiz

**PART I: A Framework for Understanding Comparative Politics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (1/17 &amp; 1/19)</th>
<th>Introduction to CPO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to CPO (Part 1)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Big Issues; CPO: What is it? Why Study it? How to Study it?&lt;br&gt;TB Intro (pp. 1-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to CPO (Part 2)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Three Key Questions in CPO&lt;br&gt;TB Intro (pp. 14-31)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 (1/24 &amp; 1/26)</th>
<th>The Modern State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td><strong>The Modern State (Part 1)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Characteristics of the Modern State; Historical Origins of the Modern State&lt;br&gt;TB Ch. 2.1 (pp. 36-50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td><strong>The Modern State (Part 2)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Strong, Weak, and Failed States&lt;br&gt;TB Ch. 2.2 (pp. 50-58)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 (1/30, 2/1 &amp; 2/3)</th>
<th>The Modern State Case Studies</th>
<th>States, Citizens, and Regimes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td><strong>The Modern State Case Studies (Part 1)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Student presentations of assigned case studies (Germany, UK, USA, Japan, Brazil, Mexico)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td><strong>The Modern State Case Studies (Part 2)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Student presentations of assigned case studies (Russia, India, China, Iran, Nigeria)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td><strong>States, Citizens, and Regimes</strong>&lt;br&gt;Citizens and Civil Society; Regimes, Ideologies, and Citizens&lt;br&gt;TB Ch. 3 (pp. 98-110)</td>
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Online Graded Activities – *Ch. 1 Introducing Comparative*
Politics. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Week 4 (2/7 & 2/9) States, Citizens, and Regimes Case Studies

2/7 States, Citizens, and Regimes Case Studies
Student presentations of assigned case studies (UK, Russia, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Iran)

2/9 Debates in CPO: TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 2 Section: Characteristics of the Modern State (Legitimacy). This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Quiz Ch. 2

Week 5 (2/13, 2/15 & 2/17) States and Identity and Case Studies | States and Markets

2/13 States and Identity
The Debate over Identity; Identity-Based Political Mobilization and Violence; Nations and Nationalism
TB Ch. 4 (pp. 144-159)

2/15 States and Identity and Case Studies
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Germany, Nigeria, US, and Brazil)

Quiz Ch. 3

2/17 States and Markets (Part 1)
The Market, Capitalism, and the State | Key Economic Debates | Globalization, States, and Markets Around the World
TB Ch. 5.1 (pp. 196-215)

Week 6 (2/22 & 2/24) States and Markets

2/22 States and Markets (Part 2)
Globalization, States, and Markets Around the World
TB Ch. 5.2 (pp. 215-225)

2/24 States and Markets Case Studies
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Germany,
Nigeria, US, Mexico, and Japan)

Online Graded Activities – *Ch. 3 Section: Citizens and Civil Society*. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; *late submissions will not be accepted.*

**PART II: Political Systems and How They Work**

**Week 7 (2/28 & 3/2)**

**Governing Institutions in Democracies**

2/28

**Governing Institutions in Democracies**
Executives and Legislatures
TB Ch. 6 (pp. 258-267)

3/2

**Governing Institutions in Democracies Case Studies**
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Britain, India, US, Brazil, Russia, and Japan)

Quiz Ch. 4

**Week 8 (3/6, 3/8 & 3/10)**

**Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies**

3/6

**Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies (Part 1)**
Formal Institutions: The Electoral System
TB Ch. 7.1 (pp. 324-337)

3/8

**Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies (Part 2)**
Formal Institutions: Political Parties and Party Systems
TB Ch. 7.2 (pp. 337-350)

3/10

**Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies (Part 3)**
Civil Society; Patron-Client Relationship; Case Studies in Participation and Representation
TB Ch. 7.3 (pp. 350-361)

Online Graded Activities – *Ch. 4 Section: The Debate Over Identity and Section: The Debate Over Identity*. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; *late submissions will not be accepted.*

**Week 9 (3/14 & 3/16)**

**Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies Case Studies | Debates in CPO**
3/14 Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies
Student presentations of assigned case studies (UK, Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil)

Quiz Ch. 5

3/16 Debates in CPO: TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 5 Section: The Market, Capitalism, and the State/Essential Roles. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Week 10 (3/22 & 3/22) Authoritarian Institutions

3/22 Authoritarian Institutions
Authoritarian Rule Around the World; Governing Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes.
TB Ch. 8 (pp. 398-412)

3/22 Authoritarian Institutions
Student presentations of assigned case studies (China, Iran, and Nigeria)

Quiz Ch. 6


3/27 Debates in CPO: TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 6 Section: Comparing Executive-Legislative Institutions/Accountability and Section: Policymaking. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

3/29 Debates in CPO: TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 7 Section: Party Systems and Section: Social Movements. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

3/31 Debates in CPO: TBD
Online Graded Activities – *Ch. 8 Section: Section: Governing Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes and Section: Nigeria: Weakening Institutions under Military Rule*. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; *late submissions will not be accepted.*

Week 12 (4/4 & 4/6) Review Midterm Exam

4/4

**Review Midterm Exam**

Chapters Covered TBD

Online Graded Activities – *Ch. 9 Section: Why Do Military Coups Happen? and Section: What Are the Results of Revolution?* This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; *late submissions will not be accepted.*

4/6

**Thursday, April 6: MIDTERM EXAM**

_______________________

**April 10 – April 16: SPRING BREAK**

_______________________

**PART III: Issues and Policies**

Week 13 (4/17, 4/19 & 4/21) Regime Change | Globalization, Economic Sovereignty, and Development | Case Studies

4/17

**Regime Change**

The Military in Politics: Coup d’Etat

TB Ch. 9 (pp. 454-461)

4/20

**Globalization, Economic Sovereignty, and Development**

Wealthy Countries: Globalization and Economic Sovereignty

TB Ch. 10 (pp. 512-544)

4/21

**Regime Change Case Studies**

Student presentations of assigned case studies (Brazil,

4/25
Globalization, Economic Sovereignty, and Development Case Studies
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Germany, China, India, Brazil, and Iran)

4/27
Public Policies When Markets Fail: Welfare, Health and the Environment
“Welfare”: Social Policy in Comparative Perspective
TB Ch. 11 (pp. 570-584)


5/1
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Germany, US, Brazil, Germany)

5/3
Student presentations of assigned case studies (UK, US, US, and China)

5/5
Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values
Inclusion and Group Rights; Politics of Inclusion and the Modern State; Religion: Recognition, Autonomy, and the Secular State
TB Ch. 12 (pp. 640-653)

Week 16 (5/9 & 5/11) | Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values

5/9
Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values (Part 1)
Student presentations of assigned case studies (UK, India, Mexico, and Russia)

5/11
Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values
(Part 2)
Student presentations of assigned case studies (Iran, US, and Brazil)

Quiz Ch. 9

Week 17 (5/15, 5/17 & 5/19) Review for Final Exam

5/15
Review Final Exam
Chapters Covered TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 10 Section: What is Foreign Trade? and Section: Responses to Globalization. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Quiz Ch. 10

5/17
Review Final Exam
Chapters Covered TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 11 Section: Sweden’s Welfare State and Section: The Environment and Market Failure. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Quiz Ch. 11

5/19
Review Final Exam
Chapters Covered TBD

Online Graded Activities – Ch. 12 Section: Arguments against Group Rights and Section: The Different Forms of Secularism. This activity is accessible through OneDrive. Submit your work at the beginning of class no later than 7:20 AM; late submissions will not be accepted.

Quiz Ch. 12


5/23
Review Final Exam
Chapters Covered TBD

5/25

Thursday, May 25: FINAL EXAM