

University of Washington Department of Political Science
Autumn Quarter 2022
Introduction to Comparative Politics (POL S 204)
Lectures: TTh 11:30-12:50pm
260 Savery Hall

Professor Susan Whiting
Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30pm in 147 Gowen Hall and by appointment via zoom
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Course Description

Welcome to the Introduction to Comparative Politics in the Department of Political Science! In this era of globalization, we, as global citizens, need to understand not only the system of American Politics and the International Relations among states but also Comparative Politics.

What is Comparative Politics (CP)? CP looks *inside* the workings of states around the world and examines the use of power to explain economic, political, and social outcomes. International Relations (IR), by contrast, studies interactions between and among states. For example, IR examines rising powers—like China—and makes predictions about the use of military force beyond a state's borders, while Comparative Politics explains how a state can become a rising power in the first place. CP examines what kinds of institutions and policies support transformative economic growth, how democracies come to be and what keeps authoritarian regimes in power, and how citizens come to identify themselves in terms of particular ethnic groups and nationalities.

Comparative Politics derives insights not only by studying a specific case in detail (as in American Politics) but also by comparing the experiences of many states to identify patterns and test hypotheses. Through comparison, we gain a better understanding of the key factors that explain economic, political, and social outcomes—not just in one case, but in many countries more generally. We also gain insight into our own country.

This course introduces students to Comparative Politics by focusing on three of the most important issues in the field: economic growth, democratization & democratic backsliding, and ethnic & nationalist conflict. The course is organized into three main parts; we will address each issue in turn.

First, why do some countries achieve wealth, while others remain mired in poverty? Social scientists and policy makers continually struggle with this question, which determines the life chances of billions of people around the world. Today, policy makers debate two distinct explanations of economic growth around the world since World War II, and different explanations are tied to two different policy prescriptions: the so-called “Washington Consensus” and what some observers have inaccurately termed the “Beijing Consensus.” These competing ideas actually reflect different emphases on the role of *market* forces versus the role of the *state* in promoting economic growth. We will examine the debates as well as the evidence and reasoning behind them.

Second, why do some countries become democratic, while others remain stubbornly authoritarian? Near the end of the twentieth century, Francis Fukuyama foresaw the “End of History,” suggesting that most countries around the world would naturally become liberal democracies. In the decades since his prediction, vibrant new democracies have indeed replaced authoritarian regimes in some countries; yet, some nascent democracies have returned to authoritarianism—as in Putin's Russia, and elsewhere in the world one authoritarian regime replaced another. In still other countries—like China, existing authoritarian regimes have survived and even thrived. We will examine the factors shaping democratization as well as resilience of authoritarian regimes.

Third, why do ethnic or nationalist conflicts emerge in some countries at certain periods of time but not in others? Ethnic and nationalist conflict is frequently in the news—clashes between the government and ethnic groups in Myanmar is only one recent example. Traditionally, scholars have regarded ethnic or national identity as something immutable and ethnic or nationalist conflict as inevitable, but social scientists increasingly regard these identities as constructed or mobilized—often for the political purposes of elites. We will examine the political causes of ethnic and nationalist conflict as well as some policy prescriptions for ending conflict.

Learning Goals

Through this course, you will gain both substantive knowledge and academic skills. You will encounter **real-world puzzles or problems** and learn some of the Comparative Politics **theories** that explain them. Along the way, you will master **key concepts** that are the building blocks of these theories.

You will hone your skills reading scholarly articles for both the author's theoretical **argument** and the empirical **evidence** he/she relies upon. You will also practice writing your own argument supported by evidence. You will learn how quickly to access **scholarly resources**, and by the end of the quarter you will construct a scholarly bibliography. These skills prepare you for more advanced courses in the social sciences; they also translate readily into other disciplines and the professional world.

You will be introduced to important content through lecture and section as well as readings and assignments. You will receive guidance on readings in the lecture before you tackle the readings. You should complete the readings by the day on which they appear on the syllabus and be prepared to work through them in the discussion sections following the lecture. Note that lecture will include some material not covered in the reading and that you are responsible for all content covered in lecture, section, readings, and assignments.

Course Requirements

Class participation requires that you read the assigned material on schedule, that you complete all exercises and assignments in lecture and discussion section, and that you are prepared to respond to questions. The teaching staff will provide additional information on exercises and assignments in class. The weekly "Friday Focus" highlights the key themes that TAs will address in Friday section meetings. **20%**

Three in-class tests will require you to demonstrate your understanding of course readings, lectures, discussions, and exercises. Each test counts for 20 percent of your total grade. **60%**

A final paper of 5-6 pages in length will give you the opportunity to explore one of the themes of the course in greater depth. We will discuss the final paper assignment in class during the quarter. A preliminary, 2-page draft of the paper will be due via Canvas on Friday, December 2nd. The final paper will be due via Canvas on Wednesday, December 14th by 12:00 noon. **20%**

Sections

The teaching assistants for the course are, by section, AA (9:30am-10:20am) and AB (10:30am-11:20am): Tongtian Xiao (ttxiao@uw.edu); AC (10:30am-11:20am) and AD (11:30am-12:20pm): Brian Leung (kpleung@uw.edu); and AE (11:30am-12:20pm) and AF (12:30pm-1:20pm): Tao Lin (soxvlin@uw.edu).

Office Hours

Office hours for Prof. Whiting are Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30pm in 147 Gowen Hall and by appointment; request an appointment via email (swhiting@uw.edu). Office hours for TAs will be announced in section meetings.

Course Materials

Assigned reading selections are available through Canvas. In addition, journal articles marked "full text online" are available in the UW Library E-Journals collection.

A student subscription to the [New York Times](#) or [Wall Street Journal](#) is required. (Click for student access).

Additional Course Information

Diversity Statement

The Department of Political Science recognizes and affirms the University of Washington's mission to "value and honor diverse experiences and perspectives, strive to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promote access, opportunity and justice for all." We expect every member of this community to contribute toward cultivating an inclusive and respectful culture throughout our classrooms, work environments, and campus events.

Disability Resources

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates Hall (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs>). If you have a letter from DRS indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so that we can discuss the accommodations you may need for class.

Religious Accommodation

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](#). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request [Form](#).

Academic Integrity

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are violations of the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120).

Covid Information

We will follow UW guidance for classes. FAQs about COVID-19 and UW Policy can be found [here](#).

Course Schedule

The following course schedule indicates the required readings for each week and the topic for each lecture.

WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Thursday, September 29, 2022

Introduction to the Course

Introduce exercise 1 on war making and state building. Why didn't the Afghan government survive? Come up with some hypotheses before we read Tilly next week.

Friday Focus: Introductions

Exercise #1 due.

WEEK TWO

BACKGROUND: ORIGINS OF THE STATE AND DEVELOPMENT

2. Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Origins of States and Defining Development as a Political Goal

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Peter Evans, et al. eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 169-186. Canvas.

Tatyana P. Soubbotina, *Beyond Economic Growth* (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2004), pp. 7-16 only. Canvas.

PART I: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3. Thursday, October 6, 2022

Early, Middle, and Late Industrializers

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (New York: Praeger, 1962), pp. 5-30. Canvas.

Friday Focus: Understanding Gerschenkron and the differences between early and later developers

Review Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness*.

WEEK THREE

4. Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Catching up to Rich Countries: Growth with and without Equity

Gary Gereffi, "Paths of Industrialization," in Gary Gereffi and Donald L. Wyman, eds., *Manufacturing Miracles* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990), pp. 3-23 only. Canvas.

Mu Yang and Michael Siam-heng Heng. "The Flying Geese Model," in *Global Financial Crisis and Challenges for China* (World Scientific Publishing Company, 2011). excerpts (~5 pgs). Canvas.

5. Thursday, October 13, 2022

Catch-up Strategies: Import-Substituting and Export-Oriented Industrialization

Jeffrey A. Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006), pp. 301-320; 413-425 and 433-434. Canvas.

Keun Lee, John Mathews, and Robert Wade, "Rethinking Development Policy: A New Consensus," *Financial Times* October 19, 2007. Canvas.

Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Euijin Jung, "Scoring 50 Years of US Industrial Policy, 1970-2020," Peterson Institute for International Economics, November 2021, excerpts. Canvas.

Friday Focus: States have incentives to promote industrialization (for better or worse); what is industrial policy?

Review Gereffi, "Paths of Industrialization" and Lee et al. "Rethinking Development Policy."

WEEK FOUR

6. Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Economic Development in an Era of Globalization: Global Production Chains

Gary Gereffi, "The Organization of Buyer-Driven Global Commodity Chains: How U.S. Retailers Shape Overseas Production Networks," in Gereffi and Korzeniewicz (eds.), *Commodity Chains and Global Capitalism* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994), pp. 95-117. Canvas.

Introduce exercise 2: Using media sources, research UW's social responsibility policy for UW-licensed apparel.

7. Thursday, October 20, 2022

Who's Responsible for Labor Conditions: Corporate Social Responsibility or a "Race to the Bottom"?

Stefan Schmalz, Brandon Sommer & Hui Xu. The Yue Yuen Strike: Industrial Transformation and Labour Unrest in the Pearl River Delta, *Globalizations*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (2017), pp. 285-297. Canvas.

Friday Focus: Understanding global commodity chains and who's responsible for poor labor conditions

Exercise #2 due.

WEEK FIVE

8. Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Test #1

PART II: DEMOCRATIZATION, DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING AND AUTHORITARIAN RESILIENCE

9. Thursday, October 27, 2022

Modernization Theory and Democratization as a Uniform Process

Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 53, No.1 (March 1959), pp. 75-84 *only*. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Wetzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, No. 2 (March/April 2009), pp. 39 [top] – 46 [middle] *only*. Full text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Friday Focus: Modernization theory; what does it claim; is it likely to hold for early *and* late developers?

Review Lipset, "Social Requisites"; Inglehart and Wetzel, "Development Leads to Democracy."

WEEK SIX**10. Tuesday, November 1, 2022****Social Forces Theory and Democratization in Late vs. Early Industrializers**

Eva Bellin, "Contingent Democrats: Industrialists, Labor, and Democratization," *World Politics* Vol. 52, No. 2 (January 2000), pp. 175-205. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

11. Thursday, November 3, 2022**Authoritarian Resilience**

Zhengxu Wang and Long Sun, "Social Class and Voter Turnout in China," *Political Research Quarterly* 2017, Vol. 70, No. 2, pp. 243-246; 248-249; 253-254 *only*. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Andrew Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 14, No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 6-17. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Friday Focus: Comparing claims of modernization and social forces theories

Review Bellin, "Contingent Democrats," Wang and Sun, "Social Class."

WEEK SEVEN**12. Tuesday, November 8, 2022****Authoritarian Resilience and Transitions to and from Authoritarianism**

Barbara Geddes, "What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 2 (1999), pp. 115-144. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Introduce exercise 3: Identify one country rated by Freedom House as "not free" or "partly free" and, using the New York Times, consider the regime's resilience/vulnerability to regime change.

13. Thursday, November 10, 2022**Hybrid Authoritarian Regimes, Democratization and International Influence**

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism" *Journal of Democracy* Vol.13, No. 2 (April 2002), pp. 51-64, focus on pp. 51-58 *only*. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "Linkage versus Leverage," *Comparative Politics* Vol. 38, No. 4 (July 2006), pp. 379-400, focus on pp. 379-388 and 394 (bottom) -396 *only*. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Steven Levitsky, "[Democracy Tested: Democratic Backsliding in Latin America](#)," Council on Foreign Relations, April 6, 2021. Podcast.

Friday Focus: Authoritarian resilience: not all dictatorships operate the same way

Review Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience"; Geddes, "What Do We Know."

Exercise #3 due.

WEEK EIGHT**14. Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

Test #2

15. Thursday, November 17, 2022**PART III: ETHNIC AND NATIONALIST CONFLICT****The Construction of Identity**

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* Vol. 54, No. 4 (Autumn 2000) pp. 845-874. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Laura Jakli, "[Contingent Extremism](#)," Presentation at Stanford Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, September 26, 2019. Youtube.

Introduce exercise 4: Using the New York Times, explore the characteristics of a current ethnic or nationalist conflict.

Friday Focus: Ethnic conflict is rare; why does it flare where it does; how & why do elites mobilize identity politics

Review Fearon and Laitin, "Social Construction."

Exercise #4 due.

WEEK NINE**16. Tuesday, November 22, 2022****Political Causes of Ethnic-Nationalist Conflict**

Daniel N. Posner, "Regime Change and Ethnic Cleavages in Africa," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 40, No. 11 (November 2007), pp. 1302-1327. Full-text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Steven I. Wilkinson, "Riots," *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 12 (2009), pp. 336-338 only. Full-text online, UW.

Thursday-Friday, November 24-25, 2022**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY****WEEK TEN****17. Tuesday, November 29, 2022****Final Paper Preparation**

Stephen Van Evera, "How to Write a Paper," *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997), pp. 121-128. Canvas.

18. Thursday, December 1, 2022**DUE TOMORROW: 2-page draft of final paper****State Influences on Nationalist Politics**

Chuyu Liu and Xiao Ma, "Popular Threats and Nationalistic Propaganda: Political Logic of China's Patriotic Campaign," *Security Studies* Vol. 27, No. 4 (2018), pp. 633-664. Full text online, UW Library Catalogue.

Friday Focus: What factors shape national identity

Review Liu and Ma, "Nationalistic Propaganda."

WEEK ELEVEN**19. Tuesday, December 6, 2022****Ending Ethnic and Nationalist Violence**

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society," *World Politics*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (April 2001), pp. 362-398. Full text online, UW Library Catalogue.

20. Thursday, December 8, 2022**Test #3****Friday Focus: Improving your final paper**

Workshop paper drafts.

FINAL PAPER**DUE Wednesday, December 14th by 12:00noon via Canvas**