

# Introduction to Comparative Politics: INTL 3300

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11a–11:50a MWF  
212 Baldwin Hall  
Office Hours: W 2p-4p

**Course Description:** The pursuit of knowledge in all scientific fields is based in comparison. Clinical studies involve comparing treatment and control groups, taxonomy involves comparison and classification of organisms, and political science often involves comparing countries and political systems. This course will give students a broad overview both of classic debates in the study of comparative politics and of questions the field is grappling with in the present day. Students will be introduced to regime types, political culture, institutions, and political behavior. We will draw examples from authoritarian states, developing states, and developed democracies. We will approach comparative politics through the scientific method which focuses on generalizing across countries, identifying causes and effects, and using empirical evidence. One of the goals of this course is for you to become critical consumers of information about politics. This course will serve as a useful foundation for all future courses you take in comparative politics.

As part of learning about comparative politics, you should follow current international events throughout the semester (and throughout your life!). We will be discussing relevant world events in lecture and discussion, and they may appear on the quizzes and exams. There are many great online resources for international news, including the [New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), [Foreign Policy](#), and others. There are also plenty of excellent non-English language sources.

As the semester progresses, attentive students will be able to:

- Explain the role of controlled comparison in the scientific study of politics
- Understand the different analytical strategies used by comparativists to answer research questions
- Discuss key debates in the study of comparative politics
- Significantly increase their knowledge of political/economic systems throughout the world

**Text(s):** Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop, and John McCormick. 2016. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

## Course Policies:

- **Reading**

- This is a small class and we will regularly discuss course material at length. You are responsible for reading all assigned material for each class period.
- Some of the academic articles we will read are dense. You are not expected to understand all of the technical aspects of these articles, but you are expected to make a good faith effort to identify the argument, evidence, and conclusions presented by the authors.

- **General**

- Computers are only to be used for taking notes. If you browse the internet or social media while in class, I will ask you to put your device away and use pen and paper for notes.
- Please set your phone on **silent**, not vibrate.
- Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes.

- **Constitution Paper**

- During the second-half of the class, you will be working on a constitution project. This will be a 6-7 pg. paper (plus bibliography) and will be due on Dec. 8th in section. You will bring a hard copy to class. A draft will be due at the end of week 10, and the final paper will be due on the last class meeting day. Details will be given in a handout.

- **Quizzes**

- There will be 6 unannounced quizzes. I will drop the lowest one (only 5 will be counted). These quizzes will cover material from readings and lecture from the previous week's lectures, textbook and recitation readings, and current events. They are a way for us to check in and see if you are doing the readings, coming to class, understanding things, and keeping up with the news.
- There will be no make-ups.

- **Lecture and Discussion**

- Mondays and Wednesdays will be fairly lecture-heavy, while Fridays will be discussion format. On discussion days, you will usually be assigned reading from popular media outlets such as the *New York Times* or *The Economist*. You should come to class having read the assigned material as well as being familiar with current events.

## Grade Distribution:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Constitution Paper	20%
Quizzes	15%
Attendance & Participation	20%

### Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

### Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

### Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Monday: <b>Course Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No reading</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>The Comparative Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapters 1 &amp; 5.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>How do we Study Comparative Politics?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 5 (no discussion assignment this week)</li> </ul>
Week 2	<p>Monday: <b>How do we Study Comparative Politics?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapters 5 and 6.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>How do we Study Comparative Politics? (cont.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 6.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Does Money make you Happy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">“Where Money Seems to Talk.”</a> <i>The Economist</i> July 14, 2007.</li> </ul>
Week 3	<p>Monday: <b>A Whisper to a Roar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Available on Amazon Prime Video for a \$1.99 rental. First, read the <a href="#">“About the Film”</a> section.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Democracies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 3 (skip pages 48-54).</li> <li>– Robert Dahl. 2005. “What Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?” <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 120(2): 187-97.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>What is a Democracy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. “What Democracy is... and is Not.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 2(3): 75-88.</li> <li>– <a href="#">“The March of Democracy Slows.”</a> <i>The Economist</i> August 20 2016.</li> </ul>
Week 4	<p>Monday: <b>Democracies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 3 (skip pages 48-54).</li> <li>– Robert Dahl. 2005. “What Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?” <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 120(2): 187-97.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Transitions to Democracy and Backsliding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick pp. 48-54.</li> <li>– O’Donnell, Guillermo. 1994. “Delegative Democracy.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 5(1): 55-69.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 4	<p>Friday: <b>Democracies no Longer?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Diamond, Larry. 2015. “Facing up to the Democratic Recession.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 26(1): 141-155.</li> <li>– “What comes after a Farical ‘Election’ in Venezuela.” <i>The Economist</i> August 5 2017.</li> <li>– “Venezuela’s New, Powerful Assembly takes over Legislature’s Duties.” <i>New York Times</i> August 18 2017.</li> </ul>
Week 5	<p>Monday: <b>Authoritarian Regimes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick pp. 282-284, 299-302, 338-40.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Authoritarian Regimes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Persepolis</i>. Available for \$3.99 on Amazon Prime. First, read Marjane Satrapi’s “<a href="#">Historical Context</a>.”</li> <li>– Krieger, Joel, ed. 2001. “Iran.” <i>The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 431-434.</li> <li>– “<a href="#">Iranian Revolution</a>.”</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Life in an Authoritarian Regime</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No new readings—our discussion will be based on this week’s material.</li> </ul>
Week 6	<p>Monday: <b>Political Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 12.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Political Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Putnam, Robert, Robert Leonardi, and Raffaella Nanetti. 1994. <i>Making Democracy Work</i>. Chapters 1 &amp; 4 (available online).</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Clash of Cultures?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Huntington, Samuel P. “<a href="#">The Clash of Civilizations?</a>” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Summer 1993.</li> <li>– Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. “<a href="#">The True Clash of Civilizations</a>.” <i>Foreign Policy</i> November 4 2009.</li> </ul>
Week 7	<p>Monday: <b>Civil Society and Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapters 13 &amp; 18.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Civil Society and Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 18.</li> <li>– Anderson, Lisa. “<a href="#">Demystifying the Arab Spring</a>.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> May/June 2011.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 7	<p>Friday: <b>Civil Society: Too much of a good thing?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Berman, Sheri. 1997. “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic.” <i>World Politics</i> 49 (April): 401-429.</li> </ul>
Week 8	<p>Monday: <b>Catch-up and Midterm Review</b></p> <p>Wednesday: <b>Midterm Exam</b></p> <p>Friday: <b>Research and Writing in Political Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assign Constitution Paper</li> <li>– Farrell, Henry. 2010. “Good Writing in Political Science: an Undergraduate Student’s Short Illustrated Primer.”</li> </ul>
Week 9	<p>Monday: <b>Multi-Level Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– First, read this as an introduction to the “Institutions and Actors” section of the course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Lijphart, Arend. 2012. <i>Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in 36 Countries</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chapter 1.</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 11.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Multi-Level Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 11.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>What’s up with Catalonia?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Encarnacion, Omar G. 2004. “Democracy and Federalism in Spain.” <i>Mediterranean Quarterly</i> 15(1): 58-74.</li> <li>– “Spain and Catalonia: the Trials of Keeping a Country Together.” <i>The Economist</i> November 24 2012.</li> <li>– “Catalonia plans an Independence Vote whether Spain lets it or not.” <i>The Economist</i> July 15 2017.</li> </ul>
Week 10	<p>Monday: <b>Legislatures–One House or Two?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 8.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Legislatures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 8.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>What’s a Senate Good For?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Russell, Meg. 2001. “What are Second Chambers For?” <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> 54(3): 442-458.</li> <li>– Dalby, Douglas. “Irish Say No to No Senate in Blow to Prime Minister.” <i>New York Times</i> October 5 2013.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 11	<p>Monday: <b>Presidential, Parliamentary, and Semi-Presidential Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 9.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Presidential, Parliamentary, and Semi-Presidential Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 9.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Presidents and Prime Ministers: The Good and the Bad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Linz, Juan. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 1(1): 51-69.</li> <li>– “<a href="#">A Bold Move.</a>” <i>The Economist</i> March 31 2014.</li> </ul>
Week 12	<p>Monday: <b>Parliamentary Systems and Government Formation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 9 (focus on pp. 150-156).</li> <li>– Watch in class: British Prime Minister’s <a href="#">Question Time</a> *CORRECT CLIP*</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Finish Question Time video</li> <li>– No new readings</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Forming a Government in Germany/Netherlands/TBA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Articles TBA</li> <li>– <b>Draft of Constitution paper due at beginning of class.</b> The draft must include the structure, executive, and legislature sections of the paper.</li> </ul>
Week 13	<p>Monday: <b>Elections and Electoral Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 16</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Electoral Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 16</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Why Change the Rules?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Denmark, David. 2001. “Choosing MMP in New Zealand: Explaining the 1993 Electoral Reform.” In <i>Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of both Worlds?</i> M.S. Shugart and M.P. Wattenberg, eds. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 70-95.</li> <li>– “<a href="#">With Different Rules, Some Big Elections in 2015 Would Have Had Very Different Outcomes.</a>” <i>The Economist</i> December 28 2015.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 14	<p>Monday: <b>Political Parties and Party Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hague, Harrop, and McCormick chapter 15 &amp; pp. 286-294.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Political Parties and Party Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “<a href="#">Empty Vessels?</a>” <i>The Economist</i> July 22 1999.</li> <li>– “<a href="#">The March of Europe’s Little Trumps.</a>” <i>The Economist</i> December 10 2015.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Designing a Constitution: Discussion and Reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Constitution paper due at beginning of class</b></li> </ul>