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Office Hours: Monday 1-2  
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### **POLS Y107: Comparative Politics Explaining Political Participation**

Comparative politics is the branch of political science that consider the similarities and differences in political outcomes across different political regimes and different states. The subfield is organized around three major questions: why some countries democracies and others are not, why some countries are rich while others are poor, and why some countries engage in or experience conflict when others do not. In this course, we explore how these three factors—regime type, wealth, and conflict—influence political participation. The goal of the class is to not only read about comparative politics but also do some comparative analysis. A secondary goal is to apply these critical concepts to contemporary politics in order to better understand contemporary global politics.

The class is divided into three broad sections. The first section of the class provides a brief overview of comparative politics, focusing on the basic approaches that scholars use when they think about comparative work. The second section of the class examines the relationship between regime type, economic system, and patterns of popular participation. The final section of the class applies these tools to understand a key question in democratic politics: why different political party systems take on different structures and the implications of these structures for political outcomes, including vote choice and voter turnout.

***There are no Required Texts for this class.*** I have not ordered a textbook for this course. If the reading is marked with \*\*\* then it is available on ONCOURSE (*resources/readings*). All other readings are available through the IU library's electronic journal system. In most cases, journals can be accessed through multiple search engines. You can access the system at: <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId=1044>. If you do not know how to use the libraries online journal system, please make sure you attend one of the sessions at the library. It is an essential tool for this class and any research you do at IU.

**Course Requirements:** The course is aimed at providing intellectual and practical skills that will help you in social science research. Your grade in this class will be based on three components:

*Participation and Short Assignments:* Eleven homework assignments, three or more inclass assignments, and participation (40 percent of your grade). All homework assignments must be submitted through ONCOURSE prior to the class period in which it is due. No late assignments will be accepted. The details of the homework and writing assignments are available on the ONCOURSE website under the resources/assignments heading. Some of the homework assignments involve worksheets that are available under resources/handouts heading.

*Exams:* The first exam will be held in class and one will include short answer questions and a brief essay. The second exam will cover the third section of the class and will take the same format. Both exams will be worth *20 percent* of your grade.

*Lecture Summaries:* The final requirement for this class (20 percent of your grade) will be to attend two lectures on comparative politics during the semester and submit summaries (up to 2 pages double spaced) of those talks. Summaries must conform to the requirements listed on oncourse and must be turned in within a week of the talk. The latest date to submit all summaries is **Monday, April 22**.

Indiana University is an important center for the study of comparative politics. We have area studies centers that focus on India, Central Asia, The European Union, West Europe, Russia and East Europe (REEL), Latin America, Africa and Asia. A list of these centers and their web addresses is on ONCOURSE. Many of them have listservs that will provide you with updates about talks and events at the Center. Each of these centers sponsors a number of talks or seminars by important scholars from around the globe. I will post notification of upcoming talks on the ONCOURSE website and you will receive notification by e-mail. Talks are held frequently, on different days, and at all times of day so finding interesting talks that fit your schedule should not be a problem unless you wait until the last minute.

**Academic Honesty:** All Indiana University policies regarding academic honesty will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism, cheating or academic misconduct in any manner will not be tolerated. I would encourage you to read Section 3 of IU's Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, which describes what constitutes academic misconduct and can be found at:  
<http://dsa.indiana.edu/Code/index1.html>.

While most examples of misconduct are blatantly obvious, knowing when and how to acknowledge and appropriately cite sources is something you must learn. For example, even if you acknowledge the source, you can not stay too close to the language of the original source. If you have questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please do not hesitate to ask. Additionally, you may find the Campus Writing Program's information useful: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>. This document actually gives examples of what constitutes plagiarism and how you can avoid it.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with any disability or special learning needs should contact me and/or Disabilities Services for Students (Franklin Hall 096; 812-855-7578) as soon as possible so that any necessary arrangements can be made.

## **Course Introduction**

### **Week 1 – Monday, January 7**

What is Comparative Politics?

### **Wednesday, January 9**

Introduction to the Course and Its Requirements

*Required Reading:* Course Syllabus

### **Week 2 – January 14**

How do we compare? Picking a set of tools based on your worldview.

**Reading:** \*\*\*Lichbach and Zuckerman, *Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*

### **Wednesday, January 16**

Collective Action and Rational Choice

### **Week 3 – January 21, No Class MLK Celebration**

**Homework 1 Due:** Complete the Approaches Worksheet available from oncourse/resources/handouts

### **Wednesday, January 23**

Culture versus Structure: Explaining Russian Political Development

**Reading:** Richard Pipes, “Flight from Freedom: What Russians Think and Want,” *Foreign Affairs*, 83, 3 (May-June 2004): 9-15.

Charles Recknagel, “Understanding Different Approaches: Explaining Russian Political Development For The New Middle Class, Greater Democracy Or Authoritarian ‘Stability?’” *Radio Free Liberty*, January 13, 2010 .

Available at:

[http://www.rferl.org/content/For\\_The\\_New\\_Middle\\_Class\\_Greater\\_Democracy\\_Or\\_Authoritarian\\_Stability\\_/1928536.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/For_The_New_Middle_Class_Greater_Democracy_Or_Authoritarian_Stability_/1928536.html)

## **Regime Types**

### **Week 4 – January 28**

Regime Types and the Relationship between State and Society and State and the Economy

**Reading:** Gabriel Almond, “Capitalism and Democracy,” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 24, 3 (September 1991): 467-474. Available on JSTOR.

Alan Ware, “Liberal Democracy: One Form or Many,” *Political Studies*, XL, Special Issue (1992): 130-145.

### **Wednesday, January 30**

Is Modern Capitalist Democracy In Crisis? Global Economic Protest

**Reading:** \*\*\*Arindrajit Dube and Ethan Kaplan, “Occupy Wall Street and the Political Economy of Inequality,” *Economists Voices*, March 2012.

**Homework 2:** Three Interviews

**Week 5- Monday, February 4**

Differences Across Democracies

**Reading:** \*\*\*Arend Lijphart , Chapters 2 and 3

**Wednesday, February 6**

Understanding Democratic Trade-offs: The Fiscal Cliff Simulation

**Homework 3:** The Fiscal Cliff

Do some reading around the debates over the fiscal cliff. In no more than a single page, identify the central points of debate that defined the negotiation process.

What were the different positions taken within the Democratic and Republican parties in the US? What about the President? What were the relative sizes of the factions that took those positions?

**Week 6 – Monday, February 11**

The Pluralist Model and Citizen Participation

**Reading:** David Easton, “An Approach to the Analysis of Political Systems,” *World Politics*, 9, 3 (April 1957): 383-400.

**Wednesday, February 13**

The Corporatist Model and European Social Democracy

**Reading:** Adam Gopnick, “Comment: Vive la France,” *The New Yorker Magazine*, May 7, 2012, Available at:

[http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2012/05/07/120507taco\\_talk\\_gopnik](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2012/05/07/120507taco_talk_gopnik)

Jonathan Blitzer, “Has the Euro Crisis Killed Off Social Democracy For Good?” *The New Republic*, December 3, 2011. Available at:

<http://www.tnr.com/print/article/politics/98096/spain-euro-crisis-social-democracy>

**Week 7 – Monday, February 18**

Comparing Democratic Systems

The Concept of Social Capital

**Reading:**

World Bank Social Capital Project. Look at the overview and then click on the tabs “What is Social Capital” and “Sources of Social Capital” investigate those sources: available online at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTSOCIALCAPITAL/0,,contentMDK:20642703~menuPK:401023~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:401015,00.html>

Robert Putnam. “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital,” *Journal of Democracy*. 6, 1(1995): 65-78.

**Wednesday, February 20**

Electoral Authoritarianism

**Reading:** Julia Ioffe, "Russian Elections: Faking It," *The New Yorker Magazine*, December 5, 2011.

Available online at:

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2011/12/russian-elections-faking-it.html#ixzz2HDvXYlmK>

**Week 8- Monday, February 25**

Unsocial Capital: Channeling Civil Society in EARs

*Required Reading:* Julia Ioffe, "Taking It Off for Putin," *The New Yorker Magazine*, July 21, 2011. Available online at:

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2011/07/putins-army.html>

Robert Horvath, "Putin's 'Preventive Counter-Revolution': Post-Soviet Authoritarianism and the Spectre of Velvet Revolution," *Europe-Asia Studies*, 63:1 (2011), 1-25

**Wednesday, February 27**

The Range of Regime Types: Other Types of Authoritarian Systems

**Reading:** \*\*\*Linz, Juan and Alfred Stepan. "Modern Non-Democratic Regimes," chapter 3 in *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 38-54.

**Homework 4:** Authoritarian Regime Structure

Go to the Website [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org), choose a country with a Freedom House score over 4. Identify the regime structure, the core constituency of the authoritarian government, and the elements of society that are included and excluded from the political structure.

**Week 9 - Monday March 4**

Review Session and Strategies for Answering the Take Home Essay Question

**Homework 5:** Exam Review

Compile a list of 12 terms that you think might appear on the midterm exam

**Wednesday, March 6**

Exam 1

**Political Parties and Political Representation****Week 10 - Monday, March 18**

Variation in Political Parties

**Reading:** \*\*\*Alan Ware, Chapter 3, "Party Organizations," *Political Parties and Party Systems*.

Kitschelt, Herbert, "Linkages Between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Politics," *Comparative Political Studies*, 33 (August-September 2000), 845-879.

**Wednesday, March 20****What is a political party system?**

**Reading:** \*\*\*Alan Ware, Chapter 5, “The Classification of Party Systems,” *Political Parties and Party Systems*.

### **Week 11 – Monday, April 1**

Changes in Political Party Systems over Time

**Homework 6:** Mapping Party Systems

### **Wednesday, April 3**

Institutional Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Parties: Strategic Voting and Strategic entry

**Reading:** \*\*\*Andre Blais and Louis Massicotte, Chapter 2, *Comparing Democracies 2*  
 \*\*\*Norris, Chapter 2, *Electoral Engineering. Voting Rules and Political Behavior* and  
 \*\*\*Gallagher, Laver and Mair (GLM), “Electoral Laws” excerpt from *Representative Government in Modern Europe*

### **Week 12 – Monday, April 8**

**Electoral Simulation**

**Homework 7:** Simulation Prep

### **Wednesday, April 10**

Voting Rules, Party Structure and Turnout: Explaining Apathy

**Reading:** Rafael Lopez Pintor, Maria Gratschew and Kate Sullivan, *Voter Turnout Rates from a Comparative Perspective*, IDEA Report, available at:

[www.idea.int/publications/vt/upload/Voter%20turnout.pdf](http://www.idea.int/publications/vt/upload/Voter%20turnout.pdf)

**Homework 8:** Explaining Voter Turnout

### **Week 13 – Monday, April 15**

Cultural Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Political Parties

**Reading:** \*\*\*Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan, “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments”, in Mair, Peter. 1990. *The West European Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 9.

\*\*\* Gallagher, Laver and Mair (GLM) “Lipset and Rokkan” excerpt from *Representative Government in Modern Europe*

### **Wednesday, April 18**

Class Canceled for a Showing of Daens, TBD

### **Week 14, Monday, April 22**

Party Formation in Belgium

**Homework 9:** Complete the Party Formation Worksheet

### **Wednesday, April 25**

The legacy of party development in Belgium

**Reading:** The *Economist's* Country Report, available online at:  
<http://www.marketresearch.com/Economist-Intelligence-Unit-v458/Country-Belgium-February-6820394/>

**Week 15 - Monday, April 29**

Exam Review

**Homework 10:** Exam Review

**Wednesday, May 1**

Second Exam