

GOVT E-20
Fall 2015
Mondays 5:30-7:30pm
Sever Hall 103

Professor Jeeyang Rhee Baum
e-mail: Jeebaum@yahoo.com
Office Hours: by appointment

GOVT E-20
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
(DRAFT)

Course Description: In this course, we will explore questions in contemporary comparative politics. We will focus on several questions that have long been central to research in comparative politics, including: 1) the challenges for democratization and democratic stability in certain social and economic contexts; (2) how countries vary in their political institutions (e.g. constitutional, electoral, administrative, and party systems) and why these variations matter and 3) what explains the persistence of ethnicity and causes of civil conflict. Country cases will be drawn from different regions of the world to ground students in the set of tools of comparative analysis. The objective is for students to use these tools to further examine the political system and policies of any country. Throughout the semester, we will challenge you to link the “facts” to the larger questions discussed above.

Requirements and Grading: The course has an in-class mid-term examination, one 5-7 pages (double-spaced) paper on a topic given by the instructor (graduate students will be required to write a longer, 10-15 pages) and a comprehensive final examination. Participation in both lectures and sections is required, and is crucial to mastering the materials of the course. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss the reading. In-class tests will include both objective and essay questions. Students must complete the midterm, the paper, and the final examination to pass the course. Extensions, incompletes, or make-up exams will be given only in *exceptionally pressing* cases and in accordance with university policy. Petitions must be *timely, properly documented, and submitted in writing*. All requests for grade changes must be made formally in writing to your TA. Any such requests will cause the entire exam or paper to be reevaluated, and may result in either a higher or lower grade. Overall grades in the course will be calculated as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| • Short paper (tbd) | 25 percent |
| • Midterm examination (tbd) | 25 percent |
| • Participation in section | 15 percent |
| • Final examination (tbd) | 35 percent |

Course Materials: All assigned readings have been, or are being, placed on regular or electronic reserve at the Library. Many of the readings can also be downloaded

from JSTOR. The following books are available for purchase at the Harvard University Bookstore:

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strom, eds. 2012, *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* Tenth Edition. (**Hereafter PD&S**)

Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries* (Yale, 2012). Second. Edition.

Disability Services: The Extension School is committed to providing an accessible academic community. The Disability Services Office offers a variety of accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. Please visit www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/disability-services-accessibility for more information.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for understanding Harvard Extension School policies on academic integrity (www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/student-conduct/academic-integrity) and how to use sources responsibly. Not knowing the rules, misunderstanding the rules, running out of time, submitting “the wrong draft”, or being overwhelmed with multiple demands are not acceptable excuses. There are no excuses for failure to uphold academic integrity. To support your learning about academic citation rules, please visit the Harvard Extension School Tips to Avoid Plagiarism (www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/tips-avoid-plagiarism), where you’ll find links to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources and two, free, online 15-minutes tutorials to test your knowledge of academic citation policy. The tutorials are anonymous open-learning tools.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

August 31: INTRODUCTION: Why Study Comparative Politics? The Comparative Method

PD&S Chs. 1-2 (1-43)

“Confucius Says: Go East Young Man” *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, Nov 27, 1995-Dec 3, 1995 (21-23)

“The Man in the Baghdad Café” *The Economist*, Nov 9, 1996 (23-26)

September 7: Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 14: What is Democracy?

Lijphart Ch. 1-4

"Democracy? Freedom? Justice? Law? What's all this?" *The Economist*, Dec 31, 1999

"A Question of Freedom" *The Economist* Mar 8, 2003

Sept. 21: Where Does Democracy Come from?

Adam Przeworski, Michael E. Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950—1990*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: introduction, chs. 1 (pp. 18-28 only), and 2.

Geddes, Barbara. 2007. "What Causes Democratization?" In Charles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press: ch. 14.

Ellen Lust, "Why Now? Micro Transitions and the Arab Uprisings." *Comparative Democratization* 9(3): October 2011.

PD&S Ch. 13, Politics of China, pp. 381-387.

Sept. 28: Democratization in South Korea and Taiwan

James Morley ed. 1999. *Driven By Growth*. Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 1999., (pp. 197-251)

Stephan Haggard and Robert Kaufman 1997, "Political Economy of Democratic Transitions" *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 29, No. 3, Transitions to Democracy: A Special Issue in Memory of Dankwart A. Rustow. (263-283).

Hung-mao Tien 1997, "Taiwan's Transformation" in Diamond, Plattner, Chu and Tien eds., *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies: Regional Challenges*. (123-161)

October 5: Democracy in Plural Societies

Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies* (Yale 1977), Ch. 1 (1-20) and Ch. 5 (142-176)

"Asking for More" *The Economist*, Mar 29, 2003

"The Fear of Majority Rule" *The Economist*, May 31, 2003

***Paper Assignment handed out**

October 12: Columbus Day Holiday

Oct. 19: Problems of Development and Democratization

Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 (September): 567-76.

PD&S Ch. 15, Politics in Brazil, pp. 471-479.

PD&S Ch. 12, Politics in Russia, pp. 367-374.

"The Road to Riches," *The Economist*, Dec 31, 1999

Collier and Gunning. 1999. "Why has Africa Grown Slowly?" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*. (pp. 3-22)

"The Road to Hell is Unpaved," *The Economist*, 21 December 2002

Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (ch 12: 241-252)

"Poverty and Property Rights: No Title." *The Economist*, Mar 31, 2001

***Papers Due at the beginning of class**

October 26: Electoral Institutions and Political Parties – What Determines the Number of Parties? Does the Number of Parties Matter?

Lijphart Chs. 5 and 8

PD&S Ch. 5, pp. 79-99, Ch. 11, Politics in Japan, pp. 309-318 and Ch. 8, Politics in Britain, pp. 151-156, 181-185

November 2: IN CLASS MIDTERM

November 9: Do Institutions Matter? Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

Matthew Soberg Shugart and Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America: Rethinking the Terms of the Debate," *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*, edited by Scott Mainwaring and Mathew Soberg Shugart, Cambridge University Press 1997, pp. 12-54.

Shugart, Matthew S. and John M. Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. New York: Cambridge University Press: Chs. 2 and 3.

"Three Months of Waiting" *The Economist*, Apr 26, 2003

November 16: Bureaucracies and the Sources of Corruption and Inefficiency

PD&S Ch. 6, pp. 100-123 and Ch. 11, Politics in Japan, pp. 320-329.

Mathew McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz, "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols and Fire Alarms" *American Journal of Political Science*, Feb. 1984, pp. 165-179.

Susan Rose-Ackerman. *Corruption and Government*, chps. 7-8.

November 23: Legislatures, Courts, Constitutions, Federalism

Lijphart, Chs. 11-12, pp. 187-225.

"Lords save us" *The Economist*, May 18, 2002

"Silvio Berlusconi's constitutional exercise" *The Economist*, Oct 16, 2004

November 30: Public Policy – Economic Policy Making, Welfare Policy

PD&S Ch. 7, pp. 124-149, PD&S Ch. 9, Politics of France, pp. 235-238, Ch. 10, Politics of Germany, pp. 283-288.

"It has to happen – but will it?" *The Economist* Apr 26, 2003

"We know what's best for your old age..." *The Economist* Aug 3, 2002

December 7: Globalization and the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis

Samuel Kim, ed. 2000 *East Asia and Globalization*. Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield, pp. 28-51

Haggard and Mo, "The Political Economy of the Korean Financial Crisis," *Review of International Political Economy* 7, 2 (Summer):197-218.

Chu 1999, "Surviving the East Asian Financial Storm: The Political Foundation of Taiwan's Economic Resilience," in Pempel ed.

* Watch Globalization Video at home – Episode 3, "The New Rules of the Game" online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/story/ch_menu_03.html

December 14: Ethnic Conflict and Persistence of Ethnicity

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict" in C. Boix and S. Stokes, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics (Oxford Handbook hereafter, Oxford 2007)*. 274-294.

Jeffrey Gettleman, "Born in Unity, South Sudan is Torn Again." *The New York Times*, January 12, 2012.

December 21: Civil Wars

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. 1998. "On Economic Causes of Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 50: 563-573.

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97, 1: 75-90.

TBD – FINAL EXAMINATION