

**POSC 120 Democracy and Dictatorship**  
**Days T,TH 10:10-11:55 Willis 211**

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**Office Hours T, TH 12:00-1:30, W 10:00-11:30**  
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**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the Comparative Politics subfield, which examines the largely domestic dynamics of the competition over and the effects of the division of power within a country. The comparative component of this course is in analyzing varied experiences across time and space. We examine major questions in the field:

- How do we compare politics in different countries at different historical periods?
- Why do different societies have varied levels of bureaucratic efficacy?
- Why are some countries rich and others poor?
- How do we understand the origins of different regime types? When are they stable?
- Under what circumstances is a political system susceptible to revolution?
- What are the different ways in which constitutions are written, and how does it matter?

**Textbooks**

*Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by J. Tyler Dickovick, Jonathan Eastwood, Oxford University Press. (Hereafter referred to as **CP**).

*Comparative Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, ed. by J. Tyler Dickovick, Jonathan Eastwood, Oxford University Press. (Hereafter referred to as **CRR**).

**Grade Distribution:**

Methods Exercise	15%
Comparative Analysis part I	20%
Comparative Analysis part II	20%
Final Exam	35%
Participation	10%

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA MOODLE**

**Students with Disabilities**

Carleton College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Services office (Burton Hall 03) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, autism spectrum disorders, chronic health, traumatic brain injury and concussions, sensory, or physical), please contact Chris Dallager, Director of Disability Services, by calling 507-222-5250 or sending an email to [cdallager@carleton.edu](mailto:cdallager@carleton.edu) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is demanded in a college community. The life of the mind requires precision in attribution and authorship of work. "Dishonesty in academic work, particularly in the form of plagiarism, also defeats the process of self-discovery which is the heart of a liberal education." Students must familiarize themselves with the Web site "[Academic Integrity in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers](https://apps.carleton.edu/handbook/academics/?a=student&policy_id=21359)" (from which the above quotation is taken) which is maintained by the office of the dean of the college. Students are assumed to be familiar to rules and procedures of the college found in the Student Handbook, which is located here:

[https://apps.carleton.edu/handbook/academics/?a=student&policy\\_id=21359](https://apps.carleton.edu/handbook/academics/?a=student&policy_id=21359).

## **Lecture and Reading Schedule**

(Depending on progress of course, this schedule might be adjusted. Assignment and Exam dates will not change, but the subject coverage might. I will announce any changes in class and via Moodle.

### **Week 1 (Sep. 13, 15)**

**CP: Chapter 1. The Comparative Approach: An Introduction**

**Asking Why: Research Questions in Comparative Politics**

**CCR: Chapter 1**

Diamond, Jared. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail*. New York: Crown Business.

Collier, David, & Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics* 49(3): 430-451.

### **Week 2 (Sep. 20, 22)**

**CP: Chapter 2. Theories, Hypotheses, and Evidence**

**CCR: Chapter 2**

Popper, Karl. 1972. *Objective Knowledge: An Evolutionary Approach*. Oxford: Clarendon Press

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Mahoney, James and Celso Villegas. 2007. "Historical Enquiry and Comparative Politics," in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, pp. 73-89. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Methods Exercise Due 5PM Sep. 23**

### **Week 3 (Sept, 27, 29)**

**CP: Chapter 3. The State**

**CCR: Chapter 3**

Bates, Robert H. 2001. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Weber, Max. 1946. *Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## **Week 4 -Week 5 (Oct. 4, 6, 11, 13)**

### **CP: Chapter 4. Political Economy**

### **Comparative Analysis Part I Due Oct 13 5PM**

### **CP: Chapter 5. Development**

#### **READ FOR BOTH WEEKS CCR: Chapter 4. Development and Political Economy**

Friedman, Milton. 1989 "Using the Market for Social Development," *Cato Journal* 8(3): 567-579.

Fukuyama, Francis. 1995. *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*. New York: Free Press.

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **Week 6 (Oct 18, 20)**

### **CP: Chapter 6. Democracy and Democratization**

#### **CCR: Chapter 5.**

Schmitter, Philippe O., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not," *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88.

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy" *American Political Science Review* 53(1): 69-105.

## **Week 7 (Oct 25, 27)**

### **CP:Chapter 7. Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown**

#### **CCR:Chapter 6.**

Acemoglu, Daron, and James Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51-65.

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press.

## **Week 8 (Nov 1, 3)**

### **CP: Chapter 12. Revolutions and Contention**

#### **CCR: Chapter 11. Revolutions and Contention**

Gurr, Ted. 1970. *Why Men Rebel*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Kuran, Timur. 1991. Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. *World Politics* 44(1): 7-48.

## **Comparative Analysis Part II Due Nov 8**

### **Week 9 (Nov 8, 10)**

**CP: Chapter 13. Nationalism and National Identity**

**CCR: Chapter 12.**

Anderson, Benedict. 1991[1983]. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.

Greenfeld, Liah. 1992. *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Laitin, David. 2007. *Nations, States, and Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wimmer, Andreas. 2013. "States of War: How the Nation-State Made Modern Conflict," *Foreign Affairs*, Online Edition, November 7, 2013.

### **Week 10 (Nov 15)**

**CP: Chapter 8. Constitutions and Constitutional Design (Time Permitting).**