**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**


**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 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" (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


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

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

**CCR:** Chapter 2


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

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

**CP:** Chapter 3. The State

**CCR:** Chapter 3


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


Week 6 (Oct 18, 20)

CP: Chapter 6. Democracy and Democratization
CCR: Chapter 5.


Week 7 (Oct 25, 27)

CP: Chapter 7. Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown
CCR: Chapter 6.


Week 8 (Nov 1, 3)

CP: Chapter 12. Revolutions and Contention
CCR: Chapter 11. Revolutions and Contention


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

Comparative Analysis Part II Due Nov 8

Week 9 (Nov 8, 10)
CP: Chapter 13. Nationalism and National Identity
CCR: Chapter 12.


Week 10 (Nov 15)