



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer Sessions**

PSC 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Term: July 10-August 4, 2017

Instructor: Prof. Mark Kramer

Home Institution: Harvard University

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Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Email: TBD

Discussion session: TBD

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

This course offers an introductory survey of the field of comparative politics. We will be exploring the main concepts, key theoretical debates, and alternative methodological approaches in the field. The course will help students understand the evolution of comparative politics and grasp the key concepts and spheres of debate. Through the assigned readings and in-class sessions, students will come to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. Students are strongly encouraged to think critically and to bring their own ideas into classroom discussions. The course is intended for students who have not previously studied political science.

The topics to be explored, and the required readings, are listed here. The course will consist of lectures and structured in-class discussions. Students are expected to do all assigned reading before the appropriate class-time, and to participate actively in discussions. Grading for the course will be based on a writing assignment, in-class performance, and final group presentations. The writing assignment will be a short (5- to 6-page) essay covering one of three topics proposed in class. Students will receive the assignment in class and have one week to complete the essay. All students must turn in their essays on time. Except in extraordinary cases (e.g., a serious illness or a death in the immediate family), no late papers will be accepted. The final assignment will be prepared by each of four groups of students in response to one of two questions given out in class. The presentations will be given in the final sessions of the class by the four groups (the sequence of presentations will be determined by a coin toss).

Please note that plagiarism will be severely punished. Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's written work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. If you use anyone else's work or ideas, you **must** cite these and put quotation marks around all phrases and passages that are used verbatim. Any paper containing passages lifted from other sources without attribution will receive a failing grade. Students must

write their papers themselves. Papers purchased from Internet services are far easier to track down than most “customers” realize. Anyone caught turning in a plagiarized or purchased paper will receive a failing grade for the course.

Attendance

Summer school is intense, and to be successful a student must attend every class. Occasionally, because of illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be presented, or else an absence cannot be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

Grading Scale

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

- A 90-100
- A– 85-89
- B+ 82-84
- B 78-81
- B– 75-77
- C+ 72-74
- C 68-71
- C– 64-67
- D 60-63
- F below 60

Course Hours

The course has 20 class sessions. Each class session is 2 hours in length. One ten-minute break will be given. The course is held every day, five days a week for four weeks,, and **attendance is mandatory**. If you do not come to class, you will be penalized for it.

General expectations:

Students are expected to:

Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has missed more than 1/3 classes of a course will fail the course

- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class
- Participate in group discussions and project
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time

Course Schedule:

INTRODUCTION

Session 1: Introduction to the Class and Subject Session 2: What Are We Comparing?

Session 3: Rational Choice Approaches
Session 4: The Logic of Political Survival

Required Reading

David Collier, "The Comparative Method," in Ada W. Finifter, ed., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II* (Washington, DC: American Political Science Association, 1993), pp. 105-119.

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph, *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 6th ed. (Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2013), pp. 4-30.

Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is. . . and Is Not," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 2, Number 3, Summer 1991, pp. 75-88.

Mancur Olson, "Democracy, Dictatorship, and Development," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 87, No. 3 (September 1993), pp. 567-576.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita et al., *The Logic of Political Survival* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003), pp. 3-35.

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Session 5: What Are Political Institutions?
Session 6: Alternative Conceptions of Institutions
Session 7: Changes and Stasis in Political Institutions
Session 8: Historical Institutionalism and Constructivist Institutionalism

Required Reading

Paul A. David, "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 75, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings (May 1985), pp. 332-337.

Ira Katznelson and Barry R. Weingast, "Intersections between Historical and Rational Choice Institutionalism," in Ira Katznelson and Barry R. Weingast, eds., *Preferences and Situations: Points of Intersection between Historical and Rational Choice Institutionalism* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2005), pp. 1-24.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, "Rational Choice Institutionalism," in Sarah A. Binder, R. A. W. Rhodes, and Bert A. Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 23-38.

Lise Rakner, "Rational Choice and the Problem of Institutions," Working Paper 1996/6 (Bergen, Norway: Michelsen Institute for Development Studies and Human Rights, September 1996), 31 pp.

John M. Carey, "Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 67 (September 2000), pp. 735-761.

William H. Riker, "Implications from the Disequilibrium of Majority Rule for the Study of Institutions," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 74, No. 2 (June 1980), pp. 432-446.

COLLECTIVE ACTION, FREE RIDING, AND MOBILIZATION

Session 9: The Logic of Collective Action
Session 10: Social Mobilization in Different Polities
Session 11: Social Movements and Protest Actions
Session 12: Videos and Class Discussion

Required Reading

Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1965), chs. 5-65, 132-167.

Pamela Oliver, “‘If You Don’t Do it, Nobody Else Will’: Active and Token Contributors to Local Collective Action,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 49, No. 5 (October 1984), pp. 601-610.

Douglas D. Heckathorn, “The Dynamics and Dilemmas of Collective Action,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (April 1996), pp. 250-277.

Hanspieter Kriesi, “Charles Tilly: Contentious Performances, Campaigns and Social Movements,” *Swiss Political Science Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (2009), pp. 341-349.

CULTURE, DIVIDED SOCIETIES, AND HISTORICAL PATHWAYS

Session 13: Political Culture and Its Relevance to Politics
Session 14: Social Divisions, Social Cleavages, and Distributional Politics
Session 15: Political Development and Historical Pathways
Session 16: Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy

Required Reading

Donald L. Horowitz, “Democracy in Divided Societies,” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (October 1993), pp. 18-38.

Sean Aday et al., *New Media and Conflict after the Arab Spring* (Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2012), 28 pp.

Kate Baldwin and John Huber, “Cultural vs. Economic Differences: Forms of Ethnic Diversity and Public Goods Provision,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 4 (December 2010), pp. 644-662.

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *The Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. vi-viii, 1-44.

Kathleen Thelen and Sven Steinmo, “Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics,” in Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth, eds., *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 1-31.

Elizabeth Sanders, "Historical Institutionalism," in Binder, Rhodes, and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, pp. 39-55.

THE STATE

Session 17: Alternative Conceptions of the State **(Final assignment given out at end of class)**

Session 18: The Role of the State in Democracies and Autocracies

Session 19: Political Power and the State

Session 20: The State in an Age of Globalization

Required Reading

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968), pp. 1-92.

Robert H. Bates, "State Failure," in *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 11 (Palo Alto, CA: Annual Reviews, 2008), pp. 1-12.

Peter B. Evans, "Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State," *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (December 1989), pp. 561-587.

Brian D. Taylor and Roxana Botea, "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World," *International Studies Review*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (March 2008), pp. 27-56.

Bob Jessop, "The State and State-Building," in Binder, Rhodes, and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, pp. 111-130.