

POLSCI 140: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Monday and Wednesday 12-1 PM

Angell Hall Auditorium D

(SYLLABUS version 2.0: 8 February 2015)

Professor Robert (Rob) J. Franzese, Jr

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00 to 12:00 Haven 6658

Graduate Student Instructors:

Peter Carroll (peterpc@umich.edu)

Joe Ornstein (ornstein@umich.edu)

Sections: Carroll: 004: TTh 4-5 2449 MH 005: TTh 11-12 3330 MH

Ornstein: 002: MW 2-3 W0770 BUS 003: MW 1-2 2330 MH

GSI Office Hours: Carroll (7740 Haven): M 4:30-5:30, W 2-3, F 10-11; Ornstein (7726 Haven): TBD

This class offers an introduction to the social-scientific study of Comparative Politics. It will introduce students to both the central empirical findings of comparative politics and the distinctive method of comparative political analysis: cross-national comparison. We will accomplish both of these tasks by examining several questions crucial to the study of comparative politics. First, we will explore why some countries become and stay democracies, and others do not. Second, we will ask whether democracies produce systematically different socio-economic outcomes than non-democracies. For examples: Does democracy increase economic growth? Does it encourage better health and education outcomes? Third, we will examine variation in outcomes *within* the set of democratic countries and ask whether the *type* of democracy matters. For instance: Are some sets of institutional arrangements better at holding politicians accountable to voters? Are some forms of representative government more representative? Are some democratic institutions associated with better economic performance? Finally, do some sets of institutional arrangements mitigate ethnic conflict and/or encourage the survival of democracies?

Requirements: Every student in the class is required to enroll in, attend, and participate in a twice-weekly discussion section. Your section grade will depend on discussion-section attendance and participation as well as performance on the homework assignments. Your attendance at, attention to, and engagement with lecture is also extremely strongly encouraged. For one thing, lecture & section attendance and effort are very good predictors of performance on exams. Not showing for section tends to be a “double whammy” on grades, directly through the participation grade and indirectly through its expected effect on your exam performance. There are three exams, two in-term exams and a final exam, and periodic (approximately bi-weekly) homework assignments.

Grading:

First in-term exam: 20%

Second in-term exam: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Section: Attendance: 7.5%

Participation: 7.5%

Homework 15%

Ground Rules: (extremely important for you to read!!!!)

1. You will need a blue book for all exams. Bring a blank blue book to section prior to each exam. Your GSI will then give you a *different* blue book on the day of the exam.
2. Your GSI has primary responsibility for all grading. If you have questions about any of your grades, you should see your GSI first. If you have unresolved issues after this pursuit, I will handle secondary appeals, which you initiate with a written explanation requesting review by me. Please note that, if I agree to review the work, I will consider its entirety, which means you could receive a lower grade overall upon review.
3. We take academic dishonesty seriously and will pursue all apparent instances thereof strenuously. As a general guide: if you take an action that you would not be comfortable revealing to your peers, GSI's, or Professor, you are likely crossing the line between acceptable and unacceptable academic contact. If you have questions about where that line is you can consult your GSI or Professor and/or consult the following webpage: (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/saa/publications/bulletin/archive/00-01/chapter4/conduct.html>)
4. All exams and assignments are mandatory. If you have a documented emergency that we judge to be beyond your control, we will make efforts to schedule a make-up exam. Otherwise, be there and be prepared. (Times and dates listed below, all exams take place in the same room as our lectures).

Required Text: Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (Washington, D.C. CQ Press). 2nd Edition.

Class Schedule

0. Introduction (Wednesday, January 7)
Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*
(Congressional Quarterly Press, Washington, D.C.) (hereafter: CGG) Chapter 1

What is Comparative Politics?

1. What is Science? (Monday, January 12 and Wednesday, January 14): CGG Chapter 2
Monday, January 19: MLK Day, no classes.
2. What is Politics? (Wednesday, January 21): CGG Chapter 3
3. What is Politics? (cont.) - What is the State? (Monday, January 26): CGG Chapter 3 - Chapter 4
4. What is the State? (cont.) - What is Democracy? (Wednesday, January 28): CGG Chapter 4 - Chapter 5

Democracy: Cause and Effect

5. Why are some countries democracies and some countries not?
a. Wealth (Monday, February 2): SNOWPACOLYPSE!
b. Wealth (Wednesday, February 4): CGG Chapter 6, pp. 171-184
c. Production Profile (Monday, February 9): CGG Chapter 6, pp. 184-208.
d. Culture and Religion (Wednesday, February 11): CGG Chapter 7

Monday, February 16: First In-term Exam!

6. Democratic Transitions (Wednesday, February 18): CGG Chapter 8
Non-Democracy
7. Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it Make a Difference? (Mon., February 23): CGG Chapter 9
8. Varieties of Dictatorship (Wednesday, February 25)
a. Classifying Dictatorship: CGG Chapter 10 pp. 349-384;
b. Does it make a difference? CGG Chapter 10 pp. 384-403.

Monday, March 2 - Wednesday, March 4: Winter Break – no classes!

Varieties of Democracy

9. The Problems with Majority Rule
a. Voting Paradoxes and Agenda Power (Monday, March 9): CGG Chapter 11 pp. 413-427
b. Theorem Day: Median Voter, Chaos, & Arrow (Wed., March 11): CGG Chapter 11 pp. 427-446.
10. Institutional Variants
a. Parliamentary v. Presidential Systems (Mon., March 16 and Wed., March 18): CGG Chapter 12

Monday, March 23: Second In-term Exam!

- b. Electoral Laws (Wednesday, March 25; Monday, March 30; Wed., April 1): CGG Chapter 13
c. Parties and Party Systems (Monday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 8): CGG Chapter 14
d. Veto Players (Monday, April 13): CGG Chapter 15
11. Consequences of the Varieties of Democracy (Wed., April 15 and Mon., April 20): CGG Ch. 16

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, April 28: 10:30am–12:30pm !!!