

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2016/2017

Term: Fall

Course	Course code	Course title	
		Comparative Governments and Politics	
Name of Instructor	Vida Macikenaite		Credit Number: 2 credit
Instructor's contact Information	Office	Office Hours	E-mail:
	#208	by appointment	vida@iuj.ac.jp
Class Schedule Day / Time	TBA		

Course Description:

This course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield. It focuses on relevant theoretical concepts and their application to empirical issues. The course addresses a wide range of questions, such as: How can regimes in Latin America, South Africa or Iran be classified? Is Russia a democracy? What are the functions of the President of Germany and how do they differ from those in other countries? Why has Northern Italy developed faster than the South? Has Myanmar become a democracy after the last elections in 2015? Is there a single best set of institutions? What electoral systems are best suited for multiethnic divided societies? We will address these and many other questions throughout the course.

Learning Objectives:

This course is designed with two objectives in mind. First, it provides the students with tools to understand how politics works across countries by helping them acquire basic terminology of political science. Second, the course offers practical knowledge through empirical literature and case study analysis, which not only enables the students to understand and independently analyze politics of countries worldwide but also deepens their understanding of their own country.

Career Relevance:

General understanding of political systems and cross-national knowledge are essential for a wide range of careers, may it be at national governments, international organizations, NGOs, or international corporations.

Course Context or Rationalization:

This course prepares the students for more specific courses in several ways. First, it teaches to make and evaluate arguments about politics in different countries. Second, it provides knowledge on a wide range of countries, which serves as a foundation for further studies of international relations in different regions.

Delivery Methods:

The course is based on interactive lectures, which include short case study presentations by the students and class discussions of selected case studies.

Assessment:

Class participation: 20%

In-class quizzes: 25%

Class presentation: 25%

Final exam: 30%

Prerequisite:

The class is designed to be accessible to students with no prior study of comparative politics or specific knowledge of particular countries.

Textbook(s)

Required:
N/A

Reference books/Journal Articles:

[See weekly schedule below]

1. Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." *World Politics* 48: 297-323.
3. Bellin, Eva. 2012. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring." *Comparative Politics* 44(2):127-149.
4. Berman, Sheri. 1997. "Civil Society and Collapse of Weimar Republic." *World Politics* 49 (3): 401-429.
5. Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is Ethnic Identity and does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 397-424.
6. Chu, Yun-han, Michael Bratton, Marta Lagos, Sandeep Shastri, and Mark Tessler. 2008. "Public Opinion and Democratic Legitimacy." *Journal of Democracy* 19 (2): 74-87.
7. Clark, William R., Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2nd ed. Los Angeles: CQ Press (ISBN-10: 1608716791).
8. Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press.
9. Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner (eds.). 1996. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, 2nd ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press (most of the articles can be downloaded through academic journal databases).
10. Fish, Steven M. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism." *World Politics* 55(1): 4-37.
11. Hauss, Charles. 2015. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 9th ed. Cengage Learning (ISBN: 1285465504).
12. Hellman, Joel. 1998. "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Post-communist Transitions." *World Politics* 50: 203-234.
13. Horowitz, Donald. 1993. "Democracy in Divided Societies" *Journal of Democracy* 4 (4): 18-38.
14. Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy*. 13 (2): 51-65.
15. Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, 2nd ed. Yale University Press.
16. Linz, Juan and Alfred Stepan. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Johns Hopkins University Press (978-0801851582).
17. Murrell, Peter. 1993. "What is Shock Therapy? What did it do in Poland and Russia?" *Post-Soviet Affairs* 9 (2): 111-140.
18. Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton University Press.
19. Ross, Michael L. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53(3): 325-361.
20. Samuels, David (ed.) 2013. *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*. Upper Saddle River, NJ Pearson (ISBN-13: 978-0205740093).
21. Siaroff, Alan. 2003. "Comparative Presidencies: The Inadequacy of the Presidential, Semi-Presidential and Parliamentary Distinction." *European Journal of Political Research*. 42:285-312.
22. Smith, Rogers. 2002. "Should We Make Political Science More of a Science or More about Politics?" *Political Science and Politics* 35(2): 199-201.
23. Stepan, Alfred and Juan J Linz. 2013. "Democratization Theory and the Arab Spring." *Journal of Democracy* 24(2):15-30.

	<p>24. Tavits, Margit. 2008. <i>Presidents with Prime Ministers: Do Direct Elections Matter?</i> Oxford University Press.</p> <p>25. Tucker, Joshua A. 2006. <i>Regional Economic Voting: Russia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, 1990-99.</i> New York: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>26. Valenzuela, Sebastian, Namsu Park, and Kerk F. Kee. 2009. "Is There Social Capital in a Social Network Site?: Facebook Use and College Students' Life Satisfaction, Trust, and Participation." <i>Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication</i> 14: 875-901.</p> <p>Other Instructor assigned articles from <i>The Economist</i>, <i>New York Times</i>, <i>Foreign Policy</i>, <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, and others as appropriate.</p>
Class Outline	<p>PART I. INTRODUCTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Course introduction: what do we compare and why? Course requirements. 2. Comparative methods: case studies and large-N analysis. 3. Origins of modern state. Nation state. Definition of the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark, William R., Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2013. <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, 2nd ed. Los Angeles: CQ Press. Ch.4, pp.87-119. 4. State sovereignty, authority, and power. Failed state. Causes of state failure. Resource wealth and political stability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bates, Robert H. <i>When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa.</i> Cambridge University Press, 2008 (skim the text to get the main argument). <p>PART II. POLITICAL REGIMES: DEMOCRACIES AND DICTATORSHIPS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5-6. Political regimes. Varieties of democracies. Presidential vs. parliamentary systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark et al., Ch.12, pp. 457-534. • Siaroff, Alan. 2003. "Comparative Presidencies: The Inadequacy of the Presidential, Semi-Presidential and Parliamentary Distinction." <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>. 42:285-312. • [optional] Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." <i>World Politics</i> 48: 297-323. • [optional] Clark et al. <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, 2013, Ch.5, pp.140-170. • [optional] Lijphart, Arend. 2012. <i>Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries</i>, 2nd ed. Yale University Press. Ch. 2-4, pp.9-60. 7. Varieties of autocracies. Stability of authoritarian regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark et al., Ch. 10, pp. 349-412. • Corrales, Javier. 2015. "Autocratic Legalism in Venezuela." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 26(2): 37-51 (in the class folder) 8. Case studies of different regimes: China, Iran, Nigeria, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wright, Teresa. 2010. <i>Accepting Authoritarianism: State-Society Relations in China's Reform Era.</i> Stanford: Stanford University Press. Introduction, pp. 1-36 9. Regime change: democratic transition and consolidation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan J. Brown. 2013. "Egypt's Failed Transition." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 24 (4): 45-58. 10. Regime change: selected Latin American countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Incomplete Transition/Near Consolidation? Chile." In Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, <i>Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation.</i> Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, pp. 205-218. • [optional] Linz, Juan and Alfred Stepan, <i>Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation</i>, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, other chapters 11-12. Post-communist transition. Eastern Europe and Russia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Brien, Thomas. 2010. "Problems of Political Transition in Ukraine: Leadership Failure and Democratic Consolidation" <i>Contemporary Politics</i> 16 (4): 355-367. • Sachs, Jeffrey. "Shock Therapy in Poland: Perspectives of Five Years." The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, delivered at University of Utah April 6 and 7, 1994.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bolivia’s High Altitude Hyperinflation.” In Jeffrey Sachs, <i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time</i>, New York: Penguin Press, 2005. <p>13. Economic determinants of political regimes. Problems with group decision-making. Does economic growth lead to democracy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark et al., Ch. 6. • Ross, Michael. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” <i>World Politics</i> 53(3): 325-361 <p>14. Cultural determinants of political regimes: religion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark et al., Ch.7. <p>15-16. The effect of political regimes: Does it make a difference?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it Make a Difference?” in Clark et al, <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, Ch.9, pp. 325-348. • (optional) “Varieties of Democracy and Political Outcomes,” n Clark et al, <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, Ch. 16, pp. 741-826. <p>PART III. INSTITUTIONS, ACTORS AND PROCESSES</p> <p>17. Political parties and party systems. Selected case studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Social Cleavages and Party Systems,” in Clark et al, <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, Ch. 14. <p>18-19. Elections and electoral systems. Approaches to voting and elections (sociological and rational approaches to voting, economic and strategic voting). Best suited electoral systems for multiethnic divided societies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Elections and Electoral Systems,” in Clark et al, <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, Ch. 13. <p>20. Political culture. Social capital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welzel, Christian and Ronald Inglehart, “Political Culture.” In Daniele Caramani (ed.) <i>Comparative Politics</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, Ch. 17, pp. 311-331. • Putnam, Robert. 1995. “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 6 (1): 65-78. • Takashi, Inoguchi, Satoru Mikami, and Seiji Fujii. 2007. “Social Capital in East Asia: Comparative Political Culture in Confucian Societies.” <i>Japanese Journal of Political Science</i> 8 (3): 409 – 426.
Others (if any)	