

# INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

## Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Shane P. Singh  
Office: 305 International Affairs Building  
Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:30-4:30PM  
Email: [singh@uga.edu](mailto:singh@uga.edu)  
Phone: (706) 542-6705

Teaching Assistant: Lou Vedel  
Email: [lou.vedel@uga.edu](mailto:lou.vedel@uga.edu)

Course Webpage: UGA eLearning Commons

**Class Meeting Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45PM-2:00PM

**Class Location:** 205 MLC

**Goal of the Course:** This course introduces the comparative study of politics and government. By the end of the course, students should understand why comparing regimes, political institutions, political processes, political actors, and public policy across countries is useful. In addition, students should understand how researchers study politics and government across countries using the tools of scientific inference. This course is also intended to provide an overview of domestic political structures around the world. Thus, students should become familiar with the basic varieties of political institutions and processes.

### Required Readings:

Dickovick, J. Tyler, Jonathan Eastwood, Robin M. LeBlanc, and Zoila Ponce de Leon. 2022. Fourth Edition. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Some journal articles, which are freely available to you online or in the library.

### Student Responsibilities:

**Readings:** Students are required to do the readings for each class period. I expect everyone to finish the readings for each class ahead of time.

**Comparative Election Report:** There will be a research report in which students will compare and contrast recent national elections in two countries. More details will be provided in a handout.

**Country Case Study (Honors Option Only):** Students who elect to take this course for Honors credit will produce a case study, which they will present at the end

of the semester. The presentations should be similar to the case studies that I present in class. More details will be provided in a handout.

**Exams:** There will be two required in-class exams (a midterm and a final). The format of each exam will be announced ahead of time. The final exam is non-cumulative.

**Participation/Quizzes:** I expect students to be attentive and to contribute when appropriate. There will also be a small number of short, unannounced quizzes that will cover recent readings and course material. Your completion of/performance on these will help me assess your participation grade. I also strongly encourage students to read articles from national and international news sources that are pertinent to class material. Though I will not take attendance, being present is important; you need to be in class to participate and to take the quizzes!

**Grades:**

Participation/Quizzes:	10%
Exams:	70% (35% each)
Comparative Election Report:	20%

There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

**Grade Scale:**

>=93%:	A
90-92.99%:	A-
87-89.99%:	B+
83-86.99%:	B
80-82.99%:	B-
77-79.99%:	C+
73-76.99%:	C
70-72.99%:	C-
60-69.99%:	D
<60%:	F

**Policy on Laptops and Phones:** The use of phones during class is prohibited, but students may use their laptops to take notes or to refer to the readings. Students may not, however, browse the web or use social media. Students caught doing so will lose participation points.

**Late/Missed Assignments:** Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Make-up exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

**Inclusiveness and Accessibility:** In this course, I will strive to create an inclusive and accessible online environment. Regarding disabilities, in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center, I will work with students who need special accommodations or academic

support. For more information, visit the Disability Resource Center's website at: <https://drc.uga.edu>.

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources:** If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for students seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

**Academic Integrity:** The academic honesty policy of the university is supplemented (not replaced) by an Honor Code which was adopted by the Student Government Association and approved by the University Council May 1, 1997, and provides: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." All students agree to abide by this code by signing the UGA Admissions Application.

**Readings and Course Schedule:** *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

## **WEEK 1**

### **8/17: Introduction and Overview of Comparative Politics**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 1, pages 1-15, and Chapter 2, pages 26-44

## **WEEK 2**

### **8/22: The State**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 3

### **8/24: Democracies**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 6, pages 134-145

## **WEEK 3**

### **8/29: Nondemocratic States**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 7

### **8/31: The Determinants and Promotion of Democracy**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 6, pages 145-163

## **WEEK 4**

### **9/5: Legislatures**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 9, pages 223-231 and 237-249

### **9/7: Governments in Parliamentary and Presidential Systems**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 10

## **WEEK 5**

### **9/12: Constitutions and Judicial Power**

*Handout on Comparative Election Report now on eLC*

Dickovick et al., Chapter 8, pages 195-204 and 215-222

### **9/14: Electoral Systems**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 9, pages 231-237

## **WEEK 6**

### **9/19: Federalism**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 8, pages 204-215

### **9/21: Nationalism**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 13

## **WEEK 7**

### **9/26: Case Study: Australia**

Bonotti, Matteo, and Narelle Miragliotta. 2022. "The 2022 Australian Federal Election: Themes, Challenges and Issues." <https://apo.org.au/node/317811>

### **9/28: Case Study: India**

Dickovick et al., pages 509-523

## **WEEK 8**

### **10/3: Midterm Review**

### **10/5: Midterm Exam**

## **WEEK 9**

### **10/10: Political Parties**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 11, pages 284-288

### **10/12: Party Systems**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 11, pages 288-295 and 298-303

## **WEEK 10**

### **10/17: Political Behavior 1 (Voter Turnout)**

Stockemer, Daniel. 2017. "What Affects Voter Turnout? A Review Article/Meta-Analysis of Aggregate Research." *Government and Opposition* 52 (4): 698-722.

### **10/19: Political Behavior 2 (Vote Choice)**

no reading

## **WEEK 11**

### **10/24: Social Movements and Revolutions**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 12

### **10/26: No Class**

## **WEEK 12**

### **10/31: Political Economy and the Welfare State**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 4, pages 79-85 and 92-107

### **11/2: Development**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 4, pages 85-92, Chapter 5, and Chapter 16, pages 420-424

### **WEEK 13**

#### **11/7: Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexual Orientation**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 14

#### **11/9: No Class**

### **WEEK 14**

#### **11/14: Political Culture**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 15

#### **11/16: Globalization**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 16, pages 424-438

### **WEEK 15**

#### **11/21: Case Study: The European Union**

Dickovick et al., Chapter 16, pages 417-419

#### **11/23: No Class, Thanksgiving**

### **WEEK 16**

#### **11/28: Honors Case Study Presentations**

*In today's class, students taking the course for Honors credit will present their country case studies.*

#### **11/30: Final Exam Review**

*Comparative Election Report Due*

### **FINALS WEEK**

#### **12/12: Final Exam, 12:00PM-3:00PM**