

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2023

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Course Webpage: UGA eLearning Commons

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:35AM-10:50AM

Class Location: 123 Jackson Street Building

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, 8:00AM-11:00AM