

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

WABASH COLLEGE
FALL 2015
MWF 8:00-8:50am in Detchon 209
<https://intro2cp.wordpress.com/>

Dr. Kayce Mobley
Office Hours: M 2-5pm; R 9am-12pm; and by appointment in Baxter 29
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the basic theories and issues in the field of Comparative Politics. After a short introduction that covers the essentials of comparative methodology, the first part of the course is devoted to the issues of economic development and regime type. We will explore the factors that lead to economic growth and the establishment of stable democratic systems. In the second part of the class, we will take a closer look at the institutions of government. We will investigate the reasons why different countries operate under different political institutions, and we will analyze the benefits and shortcomings of different institutional configurations. Finally, in the last part of the course, we will focus on a wide variety of important social issues and analyze them from a comparative perspective.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

Evaluation

10% Attendance & Participation	Attendance and engagement in daily discussion and activities.
10% Reading Quizzes and Short Assignments	Short unannounced reading quizzes and several in-class and take-home assignments. Lowest grade will be dropped.
40% Midterm Exams	Exam 1 in class on Friday, September 25. Exam 2 in class on Friday, October 23.
20% Two Group Projects	Brief descriptions below. Further instructions will be given in class.
20% Final Exam	Cumulative final exam on Tuesday, December 15 at 9am.

Required Texts

- Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood (2013). *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Available at the Wabash Bookstore or via online retailers such as [Amazon](#).
- Other readings will include journal articles, newspaper articles, and book chapters. These will either be available via the Wabash library website or will be provided by the professor via the course website.

COURSE POLICIES

Absences

Attendance, participation, and reading quizzes make up 20% of your grade. Yet, life can occasionally get in the way of attending every class. As such, you get **3 unexcused** absences for the duration of this course. In addition, absences will be excused for college-sanctioned events (sports/conferences), documented medical excuses, or family emergencies. Unexcused absences beyond the 3 freebies will automatically deduct points from your grade.

Do not make a habit of coming to class late or leaving class early. This behavior is rude to your fellow students and to your professor. Missing more than 5 minutes of any class will cause that

day to be counted as an absence. If you arrive to class less than 5 minutes late, you must ask the professor to note your attendance after class.

You may **not** make up quizzes if you are absent. If your absence is unexcused, you will receive a 0 for that quiz. (Even if you miss a quiz due to one of your 3 allotted “freebie” unexcused absences, you will receive a 0 for the missed quiz.) If your absence is excused, that grade will simply not factor into your quiz score.

Missing a test requires prior notice (at least 48 hours). Unless you are violently ill and can document this illness, you should be present for the test. Make-up exams will not be scheduled for unexcused absences (including family trips, weddings, etc.).

Participation

If you attend every class, but never say a word, you can expect to earn a poor participation grade. Participation entails **thoughtfully** asking questions, answering questions, providing feedback to classmates’ questions, etc.

Classroom Etiquette

Turn off or silence your cell phone when in class, and do not use it during class. If you use a laptop, use it for taking notes or viewing class material, not surfing YouTube or Facebook, however great the temptation might be. Distracting other students or your professor with your use of technology during class is rude.

One purpose of this course is to evaluate every side of each issue, a goal achieved through civil, informed debate and discussion. We will discuss relatively controversial subjects throughout the course. Despite trespassing on some “hot button topics,” you must remain respectful of your classmates’ thoughts and opinions.

Group Projects

Over the course of the term, you will work on two different group projects. Together, they will account for 20% of your final grade. These projects will give you the possibility to (1) apply the knowledge acquired in this course, (2) learn new aspects about a country of your choice, and (3) have fun interacting with your fellow classmates.

Project 1: 12-15 minute in-class presentation in which you and a partner present the most important aspects of your assigned country. Your presentation should cover the country's history (keep it brief!), political institutions, political culture, and the topic on the syllabus for each day. At the end of your presentation, you need to provide some kind of interactive component for the class!

Project 2: At the end of the term, we will conduct a small in-class simulation of a Constitutional Convention. Every student will act as representative of a societal group in an assigned country. The goal is to forge a constitution for this newly (re-)created state. As part of your preparation, you each will be required to compose a 5-page (double-spaced) strategy paper that outlines the positions that you will take during the in-class simulation. After the simulation, you will evaluate your own performance as well as the performance of your classmates. Towards the end of the term, I will announce more details about this simulation.

Exams

This course has 3 exams – two midterms (20% each) and a final exam (20%). Exam material will be drawn from the following: lecture notes, required readings, class discussion, movies/videos shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. **All exams are cumulative.** One piece of advice: if you read the required chapters and articles, attend class, and participate, then you will be well prepared for all exams.

Academic Honesty

By matriculating to Wabash College, you agreed to abide by the Gentleman's Code. Among other things, this means that you have agreed not to cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise submit dishonest work. As a professor at the school, I have agreed to enforce this standard. If you are caught cheating in any way, I will report the offense to the college administration. Furthermore, even if you break the Code unintentionally, I will still hold you accountable for the violation. Thus, if you ever have any questions or concerns about academic honesty, you should contact me.

Writing Center

The Wabash Writing Center is dedicated to coaching Wabash men to become the best writers that they can be. When a Wabash man comes into the Wabash Writing Center, he will meet one-on-one with a trained peer consultant, or the director. Writing Center sessions are scheduled to last 45 minutes, which is enough time to review 6-7 pages of writing.

The consultants can work with writers at any stage of their writing process. A writer can come to the Wabash Writing Center with a couple of notes on a napkin, and our consultants can help him turn it into the best paper the writer can produce. Writers have to do their own work, but our consultants will make suggestions and offer advice to make a paper better. Consultants are also well versed in grammar concerns, MLA, and APA, and they are happy to answer questions or make minor corrections. However, we leave the line editing and final revisions to the writer.

Located on the second floor of the Lilly Library, the Wabash Writing Center is open to all students, faculty and staff.

To make an appointment, follow one of the links to the Writing Center website—either from MyBash under Departments or under the Academic tab at the top of Wabash College websites—select the button labeled “Click HERE to make an appointment,” and register in the scheduling system.

If you have any questions, please email the director, Dr. Koppelman, at koppelmz@wabash.edu.

The Office of Student Enrichment

The Office of Student Enrichment (OSE) provides Wabash Men with one-on-one counseling regarding time management skills, study skills, reading skills, and Academic Honesty. The OSE also offers one-on-one support for English Language Learners.

Contact Dr. Koppelman at koppelmz@wabash.edu to arrange for a meeting if would like assistance regarding time management, study skills, reading skills, understanding Academic Honesty, or if would like support for learning American English.

Disability Resource Center

Students with disabilities (apparent or invisible) are invited to confidentially discuss their situation with the disability coordinator, Heather Thrush, Director of Student Engagement and Success. If a student wishes to receive an academic accommodation, it is required that his documentation of the disability be on file with Heather Thrush, who can, in confidence, provide information and guidance. Early notification helps us all work together in the most effective ways. Heather Thrush can be reached at her office (Center Hall 112A), by phone (x6347), or by email (thrushh@wabash.edu).

Communicating with the Professor

The best way to contact your professor is via email at moblek@wabash.edu. Additionally, my office phone number is x6117, and I will hold regular office hours in Baxter 29. Feel free to stop by with any questions or concerns you have. If those times do not work for you, we can schedule an appointment for another time.

The Fine Print

This syllabus is a general plan; some deviations will occur. As such, attending class, checking your Wabash email, and keeping updated via the class web site are all crucial.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Friday, August 28: Course Introduction

Monday, August 31: The Comparative Method

Required:

- Read this syllabus in full.
- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 1. 1-22.

Wednesday, September 2: No Class

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 2. 23-38.

Friday, September 4: No Class

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 2. 38-45.

Monday, September 7: The State

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 3. 46-60.

Wednesday, September 9: The State

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 3. 60-79.

Friday, September 11: The State

Required:

- [Staff. 2012. "Rethinking the Welfare State: Asia's Next Revolution." *The Economist*. September 8.](#)
- O'Neill, Shannon. 2013. "Mexico Makes It: A Transformed Society, Economy, and Government." *Foreign Affairs*. March/April.
- Bowler, Natasha. 2015. "When Bahrain Says You're Not Bahraini Any More." *Foreign Policy*. August 18.

II. DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY

Monday, September 14: Economic Development

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 4. 80-91.

Wednesday, September 16: Economic Development

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 4. 91-110.

Friday, September 18: Economic Development

Required:

- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2012. "Uncultured: Mitt Romney Doesn't Know Much About Economic History." *Foreign Policy*. August 1.
- [Diamond, Jared. 2012. "Romney Hasn't Done His Homework." *The New York Times*. August 1.](#)
- [Kenny, Charles. 2012. "Culture Matters – Just Not as Much as Romney Thinks." *Bloomberg Business Week*. August 1.](#)
- [Whitehead, Nadia. 2015. "Why You Shouldn't Take Your Milk's 3-Week Shelf Life for Granted." NPR. August 5.](#)

Recommended:

- Fukuyama, Francis. 1995. "A Loose Tray of Sand" In *Trust: Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*. New York: Free Press. 69-82.
- [J. Diamond \(2005\). "The Shape of Africa." *National Geographic* 208 \(3\), pp. 25-30.](#)
- [Joffe-Walt, Chana. 2010. "How Fake Money Saved Brazil." *NPR*. October 4.](#)
- Acemoglu, D. and J.A. Robinson. 2012. "Why Nations Fail." New York: Crown Publishers. Chapter 3.
- Spar, Debora L. 2015. "Why Cuba Needs to Follow the Singapore Model." *Foreign Policy*. July 22.

Monday, September 21: Democracy and Democratization

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 5. 111-122.

Wednesday, September 23: Democracy and Democratization

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 5. 122-139.

Recommended:

- Inglehart, R. and C. Welzel. 2009. "Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy." In: *Contending Perspectives in Comparative Politics*. Eds. L. Mayer, D. Patterson, and F. Thames. Washington: CQ Press. 485-514.

Friday, September 25: Exam 1

Monday, September 28: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 6. 140-153.

Wednesday, September 30: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 6. 153-167.

Friday, October 2: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown

Required:

- Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs*. March/April.
- [Munoz, Boris. 2013. "In the Shadow of Chavez." *The New Yorker.com*. April 13.](#)
- Bandurski, David. 2015. "How China's Government Controls the News: A Primer." *Foreign Policy*. July 21.

Recommended:

- Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 76(6): 22-43.

III. INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT

Monday, October 5: Constitutions and Constitutional Design

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 7. 168-181.

Wednesday, October 7: Constitutions and Constitutional Design

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 7. 181-195.

Friday, October 9: Constitutions and Constitutional Design

Required:

- [Gewirtz, Paul and Chad Golder. 2005. "So Who Are the Activists?" *The New York Times*. July 6.](#)
- Kane, Sean, Joost R. Hiltermann, and Raad Alkadiri. 2012. "Iraq's Federalism Quandary." *The National Interest*. March/April.
- Sharma, Ruchir. 2013. "The Rise of the Rest of India." *Foreign Affairs*. September/October.

Recommended:

- Stepan, A. 1999. "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model." *Journal of Democracy* 10(4): 19-34.

Monday, October 12: Legislatures and Legislative Elections

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 8. 196-211.

Wednesday, October 14: Legislatures and Legislative Elections

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 8. 211-223.

Friday, October 16: Mid-Semester Break – No Class

Monday, October 19: Executives

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 9. 224-238.

Wednesday, October 21: Executives

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 9. 238-249.

Recommended:

- Linz, J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69.
- Horowitz, D. 1990. "Comparing Democratic Systems." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 73-79.

Friday, October 23: Exam II

IV. POLITICS, SOCIETIES, AND CULTURE

Monday, October 26: Revolutions and Contention

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 11. 277-290.

Wednesday, October 28: Revolutions and Contention

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 11. 290-305.

Friday, October 30: Revolutions and Contention

Required:

- [Fallows, James. 2011. "Arab Spring, Chinese Winter." *The Atlantic*. July 24.](#)
- [Leeds, Elizabeth. 2013. "Protests in Brazil: Digging Beneath the Surface." *Washington Office on Latin America*. August 1.](#)
- [Momani, Bessma. 2013. "App-Powered Protests Put Democracy in Peril." *Toronto Star*. August 12.](#)

Recommended:

- Rees, W. and R. Aldrich. 2005. "Contending Cultures of Counterterrorism: Transatlantic Divergence or Convergence?" *International Affairs* 85(5): 905-923.

Monday, November 2: Nationalism and National Identity

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 12. 306-313.

Wednesday, November 4: Nationalism and National Identity

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 12. 313-331.

Friday, November 6: Nationalism and National Identity

Required:

- Walt, Stephen M. 2012. "What the Olympics Can Teach Us about Nationalism." *Foreign Policy*. July 31.
- [Staff. 2012. "Language and Nationalism: Catalanian Confusion." *The Economist*. November 27.](#)
- [Doak, Kevein. 2013. "Shinzo Abe's Civic Nationalism." *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. May 15.](#)

Recommended:

- Huntington, Samuel. 2004. *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's Identity*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1.

Monday, November 9: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 13. 332-343.

Wednesday, November 11: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 13. 343-356.

Friday, November 13: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Required:

- Tuttle, Gray. 2015. "China's Race Problem: How Beijing Represses Minorities." *Foreign Affairs*. May/June: 39-47.
- [Callimachi, Rukmini. 2015. "ISIS Enshrines a Theology of Rape." *The New York Times*. August 13.](#)
- [Bush, Sarah. 2013. "Promoting Women's Political Representation Overseas." *Scholars Strategy Network*. January.](#)

Recommended:

- Bush, Sarah S. 2011. "International Politics and the Spread of Quotas for Women in Legislatures." *International Organization* 65(1): 103-137.

Monday, November 16: Ideology and Religion

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 14. 357-368.

Wednesday, November 18: Ideology and Religion

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 14. 368-380.

Friday, November 20: Ideology and Religion

Required:

- Friedberg, Aaron. 2011. "In U.S.-China Relations, Ideology Matters." *Foreign Policy*. July 1.
- Owen, John M. 2015. "From Calvin to the Caliphate." *Foreign Affairs*. May/June. 77-89.
- Morone, James. 2015. "Holier Than Thou: Politics and the Pulpit in America." *Foreign Affairs*. July/August. 156-162.

Monday, November 23 - Friday, November 27: Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 30: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 15. 381-399.
- Background material for in-class simulation.

Wednesday, December 2: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Required:

- Dickovick and Eastwood. Chapter 15. 399-409.

Friday, December 4: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Required:

- [Staff. 2011. "Migration and Business: Weaving the World Together." *The Economist*. November 19.](#)
- Russett, Bruce. 2010. "Peace in the Twenty-First Century?" *Current History*. January.
- [Johnson, Keith. 2015. "The Meltdown of the Global Order." *Foreign Policy*. July 23.](#)

Recommended:

- J. Diamond (2005). "Chapter 2: Twilight at Easter." In *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Penguin, New York.
- J. Kurtzman (2009). "The Low Carbon Diet." In: *Foreign Affairs* 88(5) pp. 114-122.
- J. Diamond (2005). "Chapter 12: China, Lurching Giant." In *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Penguin, New York.

Monday, December 7: In-Class Simulation

Required:

- **Strategy paper due in hard copy at the start of class. Late papers will lose points.**
- No readings. Prepare for in-class simulation.

Wednesday, December 9: In-Class Simulation

Required:

- No readings. Prepare for in-class simulation.

Friday, December 11: In-Class Simulation and Debriefing

Required:

- No readings. Prepare for in-class simulation.

Tuesday, December 15: Final Exam – 9:00am