

POSC 130 (03): Introduction to Comparative Politics

Chapman University

Instructor: Lewis Luartz

Fall Term, 2022

E-mail: Luartz@chapman.edu

Office Hours: T/W, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PST)

Office: Beckman Hall Starbucks (On-Campus)

Web: canvas.chapman.edu/

Class Hours: W, 7:00 - 9:50 PM (PST)

Class Room: Doti Hall 002

Course Safety Protocols

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the course format may be subject to change with little to no notice, depending upon state, local, and University guidelines. Chapman University's mandatory safety measures may be stricter than local, state or federal guidelines and may be subject to change at any time. The COVID-19 pandemic requires all of us to accept the possibility that changes in how this course is taught may be required and that some changes may occur with little or no notice. If any changes occur, you will be given clear instructions as to how to proceed. The uncertainty of the pandemic situation is not ideal for any of us, but we must all try to approach this situation with good-will, flexibility, and mutual understanding.

University Pandemic Policies

Faculty, Staff, and Students are required to adhere to all University mandated policies. For your convenience, the following is an updated summary of policies as they relate to the class. These are subject to change as the pandemic situation changes. The most updated policies can be found at <https://custayinghealthy.chapman.edu/>.

Catalog Description

Prerequisites: None. An introduction to the political systems of major countries in a comparative perspective. Topics include comparisons of countries such as Britain, France, Japan, and Mexico, along with implications for economic planning, social welfare, and human rights. (Offered every year.)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of comparative political science. The course focuses on cross-national comparisons with the goal of explaining some of the systematic relationships that exist between social, economic, and political variables around the world. Rather than focus on the politics of individual countries or regions, we will be concerned with highlighting how an understanding of politics is generated by comparing all countries.

The word "introduction" in the title of the course *does not* imply that the course material is easy. "Introduction" means that the material covers the methods and concepts of comparative politics, which will allow you to better understand the subject matter examined in more advanced, upper-level courses.

This course is divided into three parts.

The first part of the course briefly examines what we mean by the scientific study of comparative politics. We will thus ask questions such as: (i) *What is comparative political science?* (ii) *What is science?* and (iii) *What is politics?*

The second part of the course compares democracies and dictatorships. We will ask questions such as: (i) *What is the state?* (ii) *Why are some states democratic but others authoritarian?* (iii) *What do we mean by democracy and how can we measure it?* (iv) *How can we explain transitions to democracy?* (v) *Why do some dictatorships have elections, parties, and parliaments?* and (vi) *Do democratic states systematically produce different outcomes such as higher economic growth, better health, and more education than dictatorships?*

The final part of the course focuses primarily on democracies and examines the different institutional forms that they can take. We will ask questions such as (i) *What are the differences between parliamentary and presidential democracies?* (ii) *What are the different types of governments and how do they form?* (iii) *What is a minority government and why do they exist?* (iv) *How do different countries elect their representatives and does it matter?* (v) *Why do some countries have many parties while others have few?* (vi) *Why is policy change difficult and incremental in some countries but not in others?* (vii) *How do institutions affect government accountability, representation, and stability?* and (viii) *Are some forms of democracy more stable than others?*

The course will provide you with an understanding of the basic methodological tools for analyzing questions such as the ones above (and many more!). For example, you will learn to solve logic problems, employ simple game theoretic models, and interpret regression results. No prior knowledge of political science is required; all that is required is an open mind and a willingness to learn.

Course Objectives

Substantively we will cover issues such as:

1. The stability of political outcomes
2. Electoral rules and strategic voting
3. Legislative decision making and bargaining
4. Committee systems and agenda setting
5. Executive veto bargaining
6. Cooperation and coordination
7. The public goods provision

The course assumes familiarity with (*very*) basic algebra. The emphasis will be on developing an intuition for analyzing strategic behavior rather than developing technical skills.

Student Learning Outcomes for Political Science

- Differentiate among political structures, institutions, and governing processes across several countries.
- Be able to use theoretical game theoretical perspectives to identify and explain domestic and global political problems and the linkages among them.
- Demonstrate the habit of accessing sources of political knowledge and the skill to critically interpret, assess and apply evidence.
- Demonstrates competence in reading and understanding carefully articulated empirical research papers on the study of politics.
- Demonstrates competence in comprehensively writing an essay on the study of politics.

Social Inquiry Learning Outcome

- Students identify, frame and analyze social and/or historical structures and institutions in the world today.

Textbooks

The textbook for the course is:

- Clark, W.R., Golder, M. and Golder, S.N., 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (Third Edition). CQ Press. ISBN: 9781506318127

This textbook is referred to throughout the **Weekly Schedule** section as CGG (referring to the authors: Clark, Golder, and Golder).

All other texts referenced in the **Weekly Schedule** section of the syllabus are available online via Canvas. It is highly recommended that students complete the readings prior to course sessions each week.

Course Structure

Assignment Overview

Grading is facilitated through in-person session attendance, discussion assignments, three exams, and a term paper. All assignments in this course will be submitted digitally via Canvas.

Assignment Weights

The weights associated with each of the course assignments are as follows:

- Attendance (Throughout term: 5%)
- Discussion Assignments (Throughout term: 5%)
- Writing Workshop Meeting (One required during the term: 5%)
- Exam 1 (Week 5: 15%)
- Exam 2 (Week 8: 20%)
- Exam 3 (Finals Week: 25%)
- Term Paper (Assigned Week 1, Due Week 15: 25%)

In-person Meeting Attendance, and Discussion Assignments

As we are starting the semester with in-person learning, attendance is required at all session meetings unless otherwise stated. *Attendance cannot be made up except as described in the "Emergencies and Exceptional Circumstances" section of this syllabus, found under "Course Policies."* The weekly schedule can be found at the end of the syllabus in the Weekly Schedule section. Students who do not attend the first two weeks of the course will be dropped from the course roster.

Any media provided will be available throughout the course on YouTube for streaming. This means only those with access to the links in the course will have the capacity to access these

video, as they will be unlisted and private otherwise. At the end of the term, these videos will be removed from the online media repository.

Weekly session meetings will include a Discussion Assignment to be completed with fellow classmates during the session, and which will inform the subsequent discussion conversation. These assignments will be posted on Canvas and will only be available during the allotted time during the session. *Discussion Assignments cannot be made up except as described in the "Emergencies and Exceptional Circumstances" section of this syllabus, found under "Course Policies."*

Writing Workshop Meetings

Students are required to sign-up for and attend at least one writing workshop meeting during the semester. After signing up for the meeting, students will receive an email one week before their scheduled time with an assignment that must be completed and submitted to the instructor by 11:59 PM (PST) three days before the scheduled meeting. This assignment is worth half of the meeting credit and will focus on the group project. Meetings will last approximately 15 minutes. Students may sign up to meet more than once during writing workshop meeting weeks, but reservation priority will be given to students who have not completed the writing workshop meeting requirement. Students who wish to meet more than once are encouraged to visit office hours for additional assistance. Students are responsible for ensuring they complete this requirement in a timely manner as no additional workshop time slots beyond those under the Weekly Schedule will be made available.

Grading Policy

A standard grading scale will be used. I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall course grades at the end of the semester (not before it). Any curve will only ever make it easier to obtain a certain letter grade.

The grade grading scale is as follows:

A	=	94 - 100+%	B	=	84 - 86.99%	C	=	74 - 76.99%	D	=	64 - 66.99%
A-	=	90 - 93.99%	B-	=	80 - 83.99%	C-	=	70 - 73.99%	D-	=	60 - 63.99%
B+	=	87 - 89.99%	C+	=	77 - 79.99%	D+	=	67 - 69.99%	F	=	59.99% - 0%

Course Policies

The Syllabus

The syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the students enrolled in this course. If you decide to remain in the class, you accept the course requirements and thereby agree to abide by them. It is important that you know what this class entails, that you acknowledge its requirements and evaluation criteria, and that you make a commitment to finishing the work in a timely and responsible fashion. If necessary, the syllabus and its contents are subject to revision; students are responsible for any changes or modifications posted on Chapman University's course management system, Canvas.

Audio and Video Capabilities

You must have access to a computer with audio and video capabilities in case of remote instruction, as well as to review any recorded (if applicable) or supplementary material. While you are not required to turn on your video camera during any potential digital meetings, you should at the least be able to ask questions verbally should the need arise. If you have a disability that prevents you from expressing yourself verbally, you are welcome to participate using text via the Chat feature on Zoom instead. In all cases, please mute your microphone on Zoom unless you have a question or wish to comment on the material. In fact, you are welcome to interject at any point during a remote class meeting should you have a question or wish to comment on the material. Otherwise, please mute your microphone until you are ready to speak so as to not unnecessarily disturb others. Be courteous of others.

Attendance Policy

The material for the course can at times seem complex if students do not attend lecture regularly. It is therefore suggested you attend as many (if not all) of the class meetings as you can. Attendance will be taken in each course session and will count towards your final grade. If there is an issue preventing you from attending, do reach out and/or come see the Instructor sooner rather than later.

Please be aware that university policy prohibits a passing grade for students missing 20 percent of course sessions, or in our case more than 5 class meetings. I will require verification for all excused absences

Late Assignment Policy

Except when otherwise indicated, late assignments will be deducted one and one-half (1 1/2) letter grade for every twenty-four (24) hours it is late, up to a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours. After forty-eight (48) hours, the student will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment.

Emergencies and Exceptional Circumstances

Should an emergency arise, the student must contact the Instructor as soon as possible, and preferably before a course session. Any emergencies must be accompanied by evidence (i.e., note from a Doctor as evidence of having been in a hospital). Routine checkups are not considered medical emergencies and should thus be discussed with the Instructor as soon as possible *before* they occur. Any accidents must be accompanied by photographic evidence by email. Failure to contact the Instructor in a timely manner will result in a judgment call on the Instructor's part and is completely dependent on the gravity of the situation. In all cases, the Instructor's decision on the matter is final.

Exams

All exam information will be distributed at least one week before each exam is due.

Challenging a Grade

Students who wish to challenge a grade are required to submit a written grievance, which includes: the reasons for their dissatisfaction, the grade received, and what grade they believe is merited. Reasons why the requested grade is merited should be supported by evidence from the assignment or exam in question to justify this appeal. The written grievance should be submitted at least two business days before meeting with the Instructor to discuss the assignment. If you choose to appeal your grade, the Instructor reserves the right to issue a grade that is lower than the existing grade. This second, post-appeal decision is final. *The deadline to challenge and possibly change a grade is within forty-eight (48) hours after the posting of the grade on Canvas.*

Statement on Academic Integrity and Honesty

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor and referral to the University's Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's Policy on Academic Integrity Policy online.

Chapman University's Students with Disabilities Policy

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the **Office of Disability Services**. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Equity and Diversity Statement

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in **Chapman's Harassment and Discrimination Policy**. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the **Dean of Students** and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Religious Accommodation at Chapman University

Religious Accommodation at Chapman University Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to fulfill their obligations to the university without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their sincerely held religious obligations. Please review the syllabus early in the semester and consult with your faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with major religious holidays, being as specific as possible regarding when those holidays are scheduled in advance and where those holidays constitute the fulfillment of your sincerely held religious beliefs.

Respect for Others

Discriminatory/hateful/pejorative and/or demeaning language will not be tolerated. All participants must feel comfortable asking questions and speaking, as voicing one's ideas is essential to the learning experience. Please be respectful of all questions, ideas and views. You will be asked to leave the classroom or Zoom meeting if you disrespect anyone and/or exhibit any form of the above, and you will automatically receive a zero (0) for any attendance or graded assignments due that day. This zero (0) grade cannot be made up under any circumstances.

DISCLAIMER: This Course Contains Mature Content

Like most university-level courses, this course deals with material that may be controversial and sensitive for some people. Often, these topics may invoke strong responses based on political affiliation, religious beliefs, personal identity, and experiences. While we will need to engage with such details at times, they will not be the focus of our inquiry. You should nevertheless be prepared to encounter these references. If you have any concerns about any of the material we will be covering in this course at any time, please see do not hesitate to come see me.

Weekly Schedule

The schedule for the course is below. This schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion or based on the needs of the university. *Be aware that all deadlines posted are in Pacific Standard Time (PST).*

Part I:

Week 01, 08/29 - 09/02: Introduction | Ch. 1-2: What is Comparative Politics? What is science? | Logical Fallacies

- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Introduction
 - Syllabus
 - Policies
 - Term Paper
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CGG, Ch. 1.
 - CGG, Ch. 2.
- Optional Supplementary Material:
 - Lijphart (1971) (Online via Canvas)
 - An Array of Errors (**The Economist**)
 - Logical Fallacies (**Owl Purdue**)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Term Paper Available This Week*

Week 02, 09/05 - 09/09: Discussion Ch. 1-2 | Ch. 3: What is Politics? Exit, Voice, and Loyalty Game

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 1-2
 - Discussion Ch. 1-2
- Required Readings for Week 4:
 - CGG, Ch. 3.
- Optional Supplementary Readings:
 - Indridason (In Progress), Ch. 3 (Online via Canvas)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 1 In-Class (Ch. 1-2).*

Week 03, 09/12 - 09/16: No Class This Week to Due American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14:
- Agenda This Week:
 - No Class This Week to Due American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
 - Reminder: Review Ch. 3 for Next Week
 - Bring Questions Next Week for Exam 1

Week 04, 09/19 - 09/23: Discussion Ch. 3 | Exam 1 Questions | Writing Workshop Sign-Up Due This Week

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 3
 - Exam 1 Questions
 - Sign-Up for Writing Workshop Meetings
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - None
 - Review CCG Ch. 1-3 (No New Material Presented This Week)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 2 In-Class (Ch. 3).*

Week 05, 09/26 - 09/30: Exam 1 This Week | Ch. 4: What is the State? Contractarian and Predatory views of the State | Ch. 5: Democracy and Dictatorship: Conceptualization and Measurement

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Exam 1 Today!
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CCG, Ch. 4.
 - CCG, Ch. 5.
- Optional Supplementary Readings:
 - Indridason (In Progress), Ch. 2 (Online via Canvas)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Exam 1 This Week*
 - *No In-Class Assignment This Week*

Part II:**Week 06, 10/03 - 10/07: Discussion Ch. 4-5 | Ch. 6: Measuring Democracy. Economic Explanations for Democracy? | Ch. 7: Cultural Explanations for Democracy. Transitions to Democracy**

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Exam 1 Review and Questions
 - Review Ch. 4-5
 - Discussion Ch. 4-5
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CGG, Ch. 6.
 - CGG, Ch. 7.
- Optional Supplementary Readings:
 - The New Middle Classes Rise Up (**The Economist**)
 - Ross (2001) (Online via Canvas)
 - Fish (2002) (Online via Canvas)
 - Kalyvas (2000) (Online via Canvas)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 3 In-Class (Ch. 4-5).*

Week 07, 10/10 - 10/14: Discussion Ch. 6-7 | Exam 2 Questions

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 6-7
 - Discussion Ch. 6-7
 - Exam 2 Questions
 - Sign-Up for Writing Workshop Meetings
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - None
 - *Review CCG Ch. 4-7 (No new material presented this week)*
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 4 In-Class (Ch. 6-7).*

Week 08, 10/17 - 10/21: Exam 2 This Week

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Exam 2 Today!
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Exam 2 This Week*
 - *No In-Class Assignment This Week*

Week 09, 10/24 - 10/28: Writing Workshop Appointments | Ch. 9-10: Does Democracy Make a Difference? Varieties of Dictatorship

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Writing Workshop Meetings Today **By Appointment Only (11 slots will be made available)**
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CGG, Ch. 9.
 - CGG, Ch. 10.
- Optional Supplementary Readings:
 - Smith (2005) (Online via Canvas)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *No In-Class Assignment This Week*

Part III:

Week 10, 10/31 - 11/04: Discussion Ch. 9-10 | Ch. 12: Parliamentary and Presidential Regimes. Government Types and the Government Formation Process | Ch. 13: Elections and Electoral Systems

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 9-10
 - Discussion Ch. 9-10
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CGG, Ch. 12.
 - CGG, Ch. 13.
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 5 In-Class (Ch. 9-10).*

Week 11, 11/07 - 11/11: Discussion Ch. 12-13 | Ch. 15: Institutional Veto Players | Ch. 16: Consequences of Democratic Institutions

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 12-13
 - Discussion Ch. 12-13
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - CCG Ch. 15.
 - CCG Ch. 16.
- Supplementary Readings:
 - Posner (2004) (Online via Canvas)
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 6 In-Class (Ch. 12-13).*

Week 12, 11/14 - 11/18: Discussion Ch. 15-16 | Writing Workshop Sign-Up Due This Week

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Review Ch. 15-16
 - Discussion Ch. 15-16
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - None.
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Discussion Assignment 7 In-Class (Ch. 15-16).*

Week 13, 11/21 - 11/25: Thanksgiving Break!

- *Week Off:* Happy Holidays!
- IMPORTANT:
 - *Campus is closed! No Classes This Week.*

Week 14, 11/28 - 12/02: Writing Workshop Appointments

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30:
- Agenda This Week:
 - Writing Workshop Meetings Today **By Appointment Only (11 slots will be made available)**
- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - None
- IMPORTANT:
 - *No In-Class Assignment This Week*
 - *Term Paper Due Next Week*

Week 15, 12/05 - 12/09: Exam 3 Study Session

- *WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7:*

- Agenda This Week:
 - Final Term Paper Questions
 - Exam 3 Study Session and Practice Problems

- Required Readings for Next Week:
 - None
 - *Review CCG Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 (No New Material Presented This Week)*

- IMPORTANT:
 - *Term Paper Due by 9:50 PM (PST) on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 via Canvas*

Week 16, 12/12 - 12/16: Finals Week

- IMPORTANT:
 - *Exam 3 (Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM)*