

State, Society and Power in Comparative Perspective

Fall 2022
Political Science 218H1F
Thursdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
PB 150

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This course is organized around key themes and concepts in comparative politics. It consists of three main parts. The first examines the variety of political regimes under which people live. The second focuses on the political economy of development. The third zooms in on conflicts and collective action in modern states.

Course requirements

35% of your course grade will be based on short weekly quizzes starting week 3 (approximately 5 questions or 10 minutes each). The quizzes are meant to test if you understand the main argument of the readings and not their details. These should be very straightforward if you've done the readings. Your 2 lowest scores will be dropped. We will have 6 quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes are administered on Quercus. Quizzes will begin on September 28.

25% of your course grade will come from your midterm examination. The midterm will cover materials from week 2 to week 5. The final exam (25%) is not cumulative and will cover materials from week 7 to week 11.

The final 15% of your grade will be based on your tutorial attendance and participation.

Readings

Required readings will be made available on Quercus or through the University Library.

Inclusion and special accommodation

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach Accessibility Services (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) and/or

me as soon as possible. Developed jointly by you and your accessibility advisor, a letter of accommodation maintains confidentiality about the nature of your disability but informs me about relevant accommodations needed to help you be successful in the course.

Religious observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during the academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please contact me and your TA to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Academic integrity

The University treats cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to the University's plagiarism detection tool website for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the University's plagiarism detection tool reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the University's plagiarism detection tool service are described on the company web site.

Late penalty and re-marking policy

If you think you have been graded unfairly, you will have 72 hours to provide a written note to explain why a grade adjustment is warranted. A re-marking might result in a higher, the same, or a lower grade than what you have been initially awarded.

While late quiz submissions will not be accepted, your two lowest scores will be dropped.

Copyright and privacy in instructional settings

If students wish to audio record, video record, photograph, or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, they must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. In the case of private use by students with accommodation needs, they must have registered for the accommodation through AccServ.

Reading list

INTRODUCTION

Week 1: What is comparative politics and the origins of the modern state (Sep 14)

*No tutorial & quiz

- Kopstein, Jeffrey, Mark Lichbach, and Stephen E. Hanson, eds. *Comparative politics: interests, identities, and institutions in a changing global order (4th ed)*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. Chapter 1.

I. POLITICAL REGIMES

Week 2: Democracies and major institutions (Sep 21)

*No quiz; tutorials begin

- Coppedè, Michael, John Gerring, David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Steven Fish, Allen Hicken, Matthew Kroenig et al. "Conceptualizing and measuring democracy: A new approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 9, no. 2 (2011): 247-267.
- Samuels, David. "Presidentialism and accountability for the economy in comparative perspective." *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 3 (2004): 425-436.

Week 3: Electoral systems and party systems (Sep 28)

*Quizzes begin

- Farrell, David M. *Electoral systems: A comparative introduction*. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2011. Chapters 2 and 4.

Week 4: Closed regimes: Dictatorships and totalitarian states (Oct 5)

- Geddes, Barbara. "What do we know about democratization after twenty years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2, no. 1 (1999): 115-144.
- Malesky, Edmund, Paul Schuler, and Anh Tran. "The adverse effects of sunshine: a field experiment on legislative transparency in an authoritarian assembly." *American political science Review* 106, no. 4 (2012): 762-786.
- Dickson, Bruce. *The dictator's dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's strategy for survival*. Oxford University Press, 2016. Chapter 3.

Week 5: Determinants of regime transition (Oct 12)

- Fish, M. Steven. *Democracy derailed in Russia: The failure of open politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2005. Chapter 4.
- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. *Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the Cold War*. Cambridge University Press, 2010. Chapter 1.
- Slater, Dan, and Joseph Wong. "The strength to concede: Ruling parties and democratization in developmental Asia." *Perspectives on Politics* 11, no. 3 (2013): 717-733.

Week 6: Mid-term exam (Oct 19)

III. POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 7: Political economy of development (Oct 26)

- Geddes, Barbara. "Challenging the conventional wisdom." *Journal of Democracy* 5, no. 4 (1994): 104-118.
- Radelet, Steven. "The Rise of the World's Poorest Countries." *Journal of Democracy* 26, no. 4 (2015): 5–19.
- Acemoglu, Daron., Robinson, James A.. Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty. United Kingdom: Crown Publishers, 2012. Chapter TBA.

Week 8: Corruption and development (Nov 2)

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. *China's gilded age: The paradox of economic boom and vast corruption*. Cambridge University Press, 2020. Chapters 1-2.
- News articles to be posted under modules

Reading week: Nov 7-11

Week 9: Clientelism (Nov 16)

- Hicken, Allen. "Clientelism." *Annual review of political science* 14 (2011): 289-310.
- Ravanilla, Nico, Michael Davidson Jr, and Allen Hicken. "Voting in Clientelistic Social Networks: Evidence From the Philippines." *Comparative Political Studies* (2022).

II. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CONFLICTS

Week 10: Political identity and conflicts (Nov 23) [Tentative reading list; acquiring relevant textbook chapters from publisher]

- *Backup:* Huddy, Leonie. "From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.
- *Backup:* Mousa, Salma. "Building social cohesion between Christians and Muslims through soccer in post-ISIS Iraq." *Science* 369, no. 6505 (2020): 866-870.

Week 11: Collective action (Nov 30) * No quiz per UofT rules

- Kuran, Timur. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* vol. 44, no. 1, 1991, pp. 7–48.
- Gallagher, Mary, and Blake Miller. "Who Not What: The Logic of China's Information Control Strategy." *The China Quarterly* (2019): 1-26.

Week 12 (Dec 7): Final exam