

Comparative Politics 220-002

Instructor: Juan Pablo Micozzi

Spring 2012

Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 2046

TR 9:30-10:45

Office Hours: R 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

Dane Smith Hall 326

E-mail: jmicozzi@unm.edu

Goals of the Course:

The main goal of the course is to make students familiar with the most relevant concepts for political analysis from a comparative perspective. Rather than focusing solely on varying country-level cases, the course is centered on scientific concepts that will let students analyze almost every single modern national, subnational or supranational unit. It is also expected that students get a snapshot of the existing variation (and complexity!) of contemporary political regimes, and develop skills to critically evaluate similarities and differences from the American (contemporary and historical) experience.

Requirements

Class attendance is **mandatory** and active participation is required. Students with more than 4 (four) absences without justification will be dropped from the course. The final grade will reflect the performance in the following instances:

Class participation: 15%

Two Midterm Exams: 25% each one

Final Exam: 35%

The final exam will have a take-home open book format, and will have to be completed in a 24 hours period. No exams will be admitted after the last minute of the deadline.

All requirements need to be fulfilled. Failure to comply with any of the requirements will result in a failing grade for the class.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

“Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.” If you need more information on ADA, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 277-5251.

Required Book:

Caramani, Daniele. 2011. **Comparative Politics**, *Second Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **(DC)**. ISBN 978-0-19-957497-1

All the additional readings specified in the syllabus are available through UNM’s Library webpage (papers published in academic Journals) or eReserves (POLS220-02, pass cp220).

Schedule:**Week 1 (1/19): Syllabus and Presentation****Week 2 (1/24-26): Comparative Method**

DC 2-18

DC 51-62

Week 3 (1/31-2/2): State(s)

DC 68-82

DC 452-466

Week 4 (2/7-9): Political Regimes: Democracy

Diamond, Larry. 2003. “Defining and Developing Democracy.” In Robert Dahl, Ian Shapiro and Jose Cheibub, *The Democracy Sourcebook*. MIT Press: 29-39. *(Available in NetLibrary)*

DC 85-100

Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices”. *Comparative Political Studies* 35(1): 5-34.

Recommended: Lijphart, Arend. 1999. **Patterns of Democracy**. Yale University Press, Ch. 17.

Week 5 (2/14-16): Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Survival

DC 103-116

Przeworski, Adam, Michael Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 1996. "What Makes Democracies Endure?" *Journal of Democracy* 7(1): 39-55

Geddes, Barbara. 2007. "What causes democratization?" In Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, pp. 317-339.

Recommended: Peceny, Mark, Caroline C. Beer and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. "Dictatorial Peace?" *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 15-26.

Week 6 (2/21-23): Systems of Government

DC 142-160

Linz, Juan J. 1994. "Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does it make a difference?" In Juan J. Linz and Arturo Valenzuela, *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: The Case of Latin America*, Johns Hopkins University Press: 3-87.

Recommended: Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1996. "Juan Linz, presidentialism, and democracy: a critical appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29(4): 449-471.

Week 7 (2/28-3/1): Electoral Rules

DC 182-195

Blais, Andre and Louis Massicotte. 2002. "Electoral Systems." In Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi and Pippa Norris, *Comparing Democracies 2*. Sage Publications, pp. 40-69.

Week 8 (3/6-8): Review and Exam

3/8: Review

3/10: 1st Exam

Week 9 (3/13-15): Spring Break

Week 10 (3/20-22): Legislatures and Political Parties

DC 122-139

DC 220-235

Week 11 (3/27-29): Party Systems and Political Participation

DC 238-257

DC 322-349

Week 12 (4/3-5): Federalism and Local Government/ Social Movements

DC 199-214

DC 293-308

Week 13 (4/10-12): Interest Groups

DC 260-272

No class on Thursday 4/12 (Midwest Political Science Association Conference)

Week 14 (4/17-19): Political Culture/Gender and Politics

DC 312-329

Htun, Mala. 2004. "Is Gender Like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups," *Perspectives on Politics* 2: 439-58

Week 15 (4/24-26): Review and Exam

4/24: Review

4/26: 2nd Exam

Week 16 (5/1-3): General Review

Take Home 24 hours Final Exam: Monday, May 7th