




PS 302 Comparative Politics

Syllabus and calendar of classes (subject to revision as circumstances warrant).

Section 01 TuTh 12:30-13:50 HYBRID HSS 203 Moodle enrollment key: 	Professor Arun Swamy Office hours: TuWTh 2PM to 4 PM or by appointment (via Zoom) in HSS 219B, 735-2879, arswamy@triton.uog.edu Zoom Meeting ID:  Passcode: 
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Catalog Description: The course provides students with the tools to undertake a comparative study of political processes and government institutions, with particular attention to democracies. Prerequisite: PS 101, or consent of instructor.

Course Content: This course will introduce students to the ways in which political scientists explain differences in how countries face important political challenges and events. The primary objectives are to provide students with a working knowledge of major theoretical traditions and the ability to apply them in political analysis.

Student Learning Outcomes Alignment Matrix

Course SLOs	These course student learning objectives contribute to		Assignments related to this SLO and PLO	Method of Assessment
	<i>Program SLOs (PLOs)</i>	<i>University SLOs (ILOs)</i>		
<i>Students will learn to</i>				
<i>apply theoretical approaches to the study of political problems;</i>	Reinforce PS2: Apply theories to the study of domestic and international politics.	<u>ILO1:</u> Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving <u>ILO6:</u> An appreciation of the arts and sciences <u>ILO7:</u> An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	-Exam questions. -Case study analysis -Research project	Rubric applied to final research paper
<i>compare the political processes of different countries.</i>	Reinforce PS3: Compare political systems and processes in different periods, locations and contexts.	<u>ILO1:</u> Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving; <u>ILO4:</u> Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context	-Exam questions. -Case study analysis -Research project	Rubric applied to final research paper
	Reinforce PS4: Design a political research project that incorporates principles of social science inquiry	<u>ILO1:</u> Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving <u>ILO2:</u> Mastery of quantitative analysis <u>ILO3:</u> Effective oral and written communication <u>ILO6:</u> An appreciation of the arts and sciences <u>ILO7:</u> An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	-Exam questions. -Case study analysis -Research project	Rubric applied to final research paper

Moodle

All students are required to create a Moodle account and enroll in the Moodle version of this course before the first class. **The enrollment key is** .

Method of Instruction

About half the classes will consist of asynchronous video lectures accessed via a link on Moodle in the course shell. The other half will consist of face to face discussions during class time. Unless things change these will be to face in the assigned classroom. As much as possible, we will keep the live sessions on Thursday. However, some Tuesday meetings are unavoidable.

Readings

Required

Timothy C. Lim, *Doing Comparative Politics*, 3rd edition. Lynne Rienner Publishers
ISBN-13: 978-1626374508 (You MAY NOT use a previous edition as it has changed considerably.)

Recommended

Patrick H. O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics 7th edition*, WW Norton. ISBN 13: 978-0393422948.

In addition, there are many readings on Moodle in pdf format, many of which are required.

Grade Categories & Percentage Weights.

<i>Participation & quizzes/forums</i>	15%
<i>Case study summaries (posted and presented)</i>	15%
<i>Midterm exam</i>	15%
<i>Research proposal</i>	10%
<i>Research Presentation</i>	10%
<i>Research Paper</i>	20%
<i>Final Exam</i>	15%

Final Grades *Final letter grades will be awarded using the following cutoffs.*

A+ = 98-100	A = 93-97	A- = 90-92	
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	
C+ = 77-79	C = 70-76	D = 60-69	F=0-59.

UW: Unofficial withdrawal assigned by Registrar—Student stopped attending classes and did not submit/file required documents. Please note that a UW will be entered into your GPA as an F.

W: Withdrawal assigned by Registrar—Student stopped attending classes and submits/files required documents. *Please note that instructor approval is required for this after ...*

I: Incomplete. This is given at the discretion of the instructor students who have missing work but wish to try to complete the course. If the course is completed within the stipulated time then a grade will be awarded that notes there was an Incomplete removed e.g. I/A.

Withdrawal policy

University policy permits students to drop a class in the first week without have a notation in the transcript and withdraw voluntarily with a “W” grade entered in the transcript from the 2nd to the 8th week. After the 8th week students must receive permission from the instructor to withdraw with a W. Students who find themselves unable to attend the class or complete the work are encouraged to withdraw voluntarily before the 8th week. Instructor permission to withdraw will only be given to students who have been attending and doing the work through the first eight weeks.

Late/Missed Assignments

Except in cases of medical or family emergency *documented by an appropriate authority*, no make-ups will be given for missed tests or presentations. Late essays and papers will be penalized 3 points out of 100 for each 24 hr period beyond the due date and time up to a maximum penalty of 15%.

Class attendance and participation

Students *must* come to class on time and having completed *all* reading assignments. This means participation in zoom sessions and watching video lectures. **Excessive absence (in excess of 20% of the class) will be grounds for failing the class.**

Time commitment

University policy states: “At the University of Guam by definition one credit hour equals 15 hours of student-teacher contact in a face-to-face or on-line course” *and* that “Faculty members are contractually expected to... assign readings, homework, and other learning activities that require *at least two hours of preparation and study time for every contact hour each week...*” For this course that means you are expected to put in **nine hours a week on average including instructional time.**

Plagiarism Statement.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited, to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (UOG Student Handbook, p. 49). Cases of plagiarism are referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee. In this course this penalty for plagiarism can range from no credit for the assignment to failure in the course.

Turnitin Statement

Essays will be turned in first using Turnitin software to help students become aware of any plagiarism. You will be given the opportunity to correct the problem before submitting a final draft. Turnitin’s similarity score is an indication but is not used as the final determinant of whether plagiarism has occurred. A high score can be innocent. A low score can still mask plagiarism. I weigh all the evidence.

ADA Policy and Commitment to Student Learning

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community free of all forms of discrimination and harassment in all programs, activities and employment practices as required by Title VII and Title IX and other applicable statutes and policies. If you experience harassment or discrimination, report it immediately to the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office, at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, TOD 671-735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

ADA Accommodation Services

For individuals covered under the ADA {Americans with Disabilities Act}, if you are a student with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations Office to discuss your confidential request. Please provide an accommodation letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit the Student Center, Rotunda office #6, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/(TOD) 671-735-2460.

Communication policy

University policy states that official communications will be sent using university assigned (@gotriton or @triton) email addresses. University electronic mail and messaging is to be used to enhance and facilitate teaching, learning, scholarly research, support academic experiences, and to facilitate the effective business and administrative processes of the University. (OIT policy manual, 3.10, p. 36)

In keeping with this policy *all communications from me will come to your @ogriton account*. Check it regularly. You may contact me by email at arswamy@triton.uog.edu or via Moodle. If you are asking a general question that affects other students and that does not require an immediate response please do it through the appropriate Moodle Forum. If you need a timely response or the matter is personal sending me *a direct email is more likely to receive a prompt response than using the Moodle messages feature*.

Student Evaluation of Faculty Information.

The student course and faculty evaluations for courses will be administered at the completion of the semester within CollegeNet. Student participation is essential and appreciated. Student responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to individual students. You will need your WebAdvisor login credentials to complete the evaluation.

Course calendar

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><u>Week of 8/13-8/15 What is PS 302?</u></p> <p>Thu 8/15. VIA ZOOM. Overview of course and syllabus</p>	<p>1, 2</p>
<p><u>Week of 8/20-8/22 What is comparative politics</u></p> <p>Required Readings (for the week to complete before synchronous session) Lim pp 1- 13 Lukes, <u>Power: A Radical View</u>, 11-25 Anderson, “Demystifying the Arab Spring” and assigned case studies</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 8/20: Asynchronous Video Lecture: Foundations of Comparative Politics</p> <p><u>Key ideas</u> Describing politics: who gets what, when and why? Explaining Politics: Three Dimensions of Power Explaining Political Change: Structures and Agents.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 8/22: Synchronous session. Discussion of possible explanations of Arab Spring applying concepts introduced in video lecture.</p>	<p>1, 2</p>
<p><u>Week of 8/27-8/29 Comparative method</u></p> <p>Required Readings (for the week to complete before synchronous session) <i>Lim</i> 13-43 (Rest of Ch. 2 recommended. You will have to read it for your paper.) O’Neil, 7-12 (“The Comparative Method”) Holton or Stange on "lumpers v splitters" Shankman on Geertz Mill's Methods web page</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 8/27: Video lecture: How do we compare the politics of different countries?</p> <p><u>Key ideas</u> Interpretation v generalization; ISPATANO and “the dog that didn’t bark;” Why testing requires controlling for alternate explanations; Correlation and causation; “too many variables too few cases.” How do you control by comparing? Most different and most similar systems. Method of Agreement. How do you compare in a single case, and/or across time.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 8/29: Synchronous Session</p> <p>Case studies applying comparative method approaches to Arab Spring will be presented by different students and discussed by the whole class.</p>	<p>1, 2</p>

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><i>Week of 9/3-9/5 Classical theoretical approaches</i></p> <p>Required Reading (for the week to complete before synchronous session) <i>Lim</i>, pp. 61-71, 78-86; Randall & Theobald Ch 2 (pdf) Marx, Weber, on Class in Giddens & Held 1982 (pdf)</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 9/3: Video-Lecture: Early theoretical approaches <u>Key ideas</u> The earliest theoretical approaches in political science include formal-legalism, functionalism, group theory, modernization theory and class structural theory. Many of these, especially the last two, have corollaries in other social science disciplines.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 9/5: Synchronous session. Case studies on how modernization theory and class structural theory explain the Arab Spring.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><i>Week of 9/10-9/12: Current theoretical approaches</i></p> <p>Required Reading (for the week to complete before synchronous session) <i>Lim</i> 71-78, 86-99; Buthe 1988 Munck 165-169 Steinmo 123-129 Ross 1997, 42-60</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 9/10: Video lecture: Current theoretical traditions Assumptions of ‘rational choice’ theory (preferences, preference ordering, transitivity, utility, expected utility, equilibrium); two types (game theory and expected utility theory) What is “culture” What does culture explain? (Ends, means, forms, identities) Types of cultural explanation What are institutions? How are institutional explanations different? Where do institutions come from? What is the role of history in shaping institutions? (Path dependency, critical junctures)</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 9/12: Synchronous session Case studies of current theoretical traditions applied to Arab Spring</p>	

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><i>Week of 9/17 – 9/19: EXAM and start of state-formation. NO SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS.</i></p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 9/17: FIRST MID-TERM ESSAY EXAM must be posted by 11:59 PM.</p> <p>FOR THURSDAY 9/19: Video lecture - The making and breaking of states What is the state? How the modern state is different from pre-modern states; How different theories explain the modern state. How different theories explain the existence of weak states. Why do some countries have strong states while others have weak ones?</p> <p>Required reading O’Neil, pp. 34-46 Herbst; Huntington 1-8. Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” 77-79</p>	<p>SLO</p>
<p><i>Week of 9/24-9/26 State-building and state-failure. TWO SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS THIS WEEK.</i></p> <p>Required reading</p> <p><i>For 9/24</i> Spruyt O’Neil 46-51</p> <p><i>For 9/26</i> Rotberg Ch 1. O’Neil 51-59.</p> <p>At least one case study for 9/28 or 9/30</p> <p>ON TUESDAY 9/24: Synchronous Session: Case studies of state formation.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 9/26: Synchronous session: Case studies of state collapse.</p> <p><u>Key Ideas:</u> Collapse of central state authority in recent years has called forth many explanations that draw on all of the above topics, from corruption and ethnic conflict to failure of economic development.</p> <p>Research paper prompt with outline of topics will be given out on Tuesday and discussed on Thursday. Students can start preparing for the topic of their choice.</p>	<p>1, 2</p>

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><i>Week of 10/1-10/3: Corruption</i></p> <p>Required reading <i>For video lecture:</i> Theobald, <i>Corruption...</i> 1-16; Leys, “What is the problem with corruption,” 31-37; Huntington, <i>Political Order</i>, 59-71</p> <p><i>For synchronous session:</i> Theobald Ch. 6 AND selected case study.</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 10/1: Video lecture - Why is there corruption and what can be done about it?</p> <p><u>Key Ideas:</u> Corruption can be defined in terms of values, public opinion or social norms; the motives (selfishness, profiteering) on the part of the individual; or consequences for institution, mainly government. A common source of corruption is the prevalence of patron-client relations; frequently tied to neo-patrimonial state; Different theories have different explanations and this influences solutions</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 10/3: Synchronous Session: Case studies of corruption and reform (Face to face)</p> <p><u>Key Ideas</u> Legal-rational norms are the product of historical struggles and changes (H-I); the introduction of reforms like hiring on merit often requires a political stalemate (RC-1); Changing incentives facing officials can be a crucial factor in altering corruption (RC-2)</p>	<p>1, 2 1, 2</p>
10/8-10/10 FALL BREAK	
<p><i>Week of 10/15-10/17 Nations and Nationalism</i></p> <p>Required reading (for the week to complete before synchronous session)</p> <p><i>O’Neill 63-77</i> <i>Smith, A. “Theories of Nationalism”</i> <i>Emerson, “What is a Nation?”</i> excerpts from Joseph Stalin, Max Weber and Karl Deutsch in “Nationalism excerpts;”</p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 10/15: Video lecture - Nationalism and ethnic conflicts Pt 1 and 2: Why do some countries have a common national identity while others experience ethnic and cultural conflict?</p> <p><u>Key Ideas.</u> Theories need to explain two questions – where identities come from and why conflict emerges. Theories of nationalism offer some answers. Other options include rational choice theory and modernization theory. Primordialism as cultural explanation; Constructivism as a historical institutionalist explanation; Modernism as a structural explanation</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 10/17: Synchronous Session - Case studies of nationalism and ethnic conflict</p>	<p>1, 2</p>

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><i>Week of 10/22-10/24 Ethnic conflict and how to solve it.</i></p> <p>Required readings <i>Varshney, Ethnic Conflict</i> <i>Sisk, Ch 1, 3.</i></p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 10/22: Video lecture - Nationalism and ethnic conflicts Pt 3: How theories of ethnic conflict influence how it is solved</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 10/24: Synchronous Session - Case studies of Solving Ethnic Conflict.</p> <p><u>Key Ideas</u> Power-sharing v integration; Federalism, Consociationalism, Regional Autonomy, electoral systems and special rights as alternate methods.</p> <p><i>Recommended reading</i> <i>Sisk Ch 4</i> <i>Reilly "Electoral Systems for Divided Societies."</i></p>	<p>1, 2</p>
<p><i>Week of 10/29-10/31 Why do people rise up?</i></p> <p><u>Key ideas:</u> Social movements vs revolutions: similarities and differences. Social movements as collective action problem. Why are social movements rare? What brings them into being? Anomie (Modernization theory), Resource mobilization (Rational Choice); Change in Opportunity structure (structuralism, institutionalism), Movement culture and frame (Culturalism).</p> <p>Required reading (for the week to complete before synchronous session) <i>Lim Ch. 8</i> <i>Goldstone 2013</i></p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 10/29: Video lectures on Social Movements (50 MIN.) and Revolutions (30 min.)</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 10/31: Synchronous session: Case studies of social movements and revolutions.</p>	
<p><i>Week of 11/5-11/7 How Democracies are born ...</i></p> <p>Required reading (for the week to complete before synchronous session) <i>Lim Ch. 6</i> <i>O'Neil, 138-150</i></p> <p>FOR TUESDAY 11/5: Video lecture - Theories of Democracy: Where does it come from?</p> <p><i>Key ideas :</i> Competing ideas about why democracy comes about; different definitions of democracy underlying them; Modernization, structuralist, culturalist, historical institutionalist and rational choice approaches.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 11/7: Synchronous session: Case studies of democratic transitions</p>	<p>1, 2</p>

Assignments and Sessions	SLO
<p><i>Week of 11/12-11/14 ... and how Democracies die</i></p> <p>Required Readings (For Thursday)</p> <p>Levitsky and Ziblatt, Ch. 1.</p> <p>TUESDAY 11/12: Video lecture: Why democracies die?</p> <p>FOR THURSDAY 11/14: Synchronous session: Discussion of Levitsky’s analysis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Research paper proposal due Sunday 11/17.</p>	<p>1, 2</p>
<p><i>Week of 11/19-11/21 Designing Democracies and Pacific Island Democracies</i></p> <p><u>Key Ideas</u> Democracy may involve tradeoffs between stability or effectiveness and participation; Different constitutional designs emphasize different goals. Debates over electoral systems.</p> <p>Required Readings (to read by synchronous session) Diamond, “Three Paradoxes of Democracy” Lijphart, “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies”</p> <p>ON TUESDAY 11/19: Synchronous session – Individual consultation on papers. Paper proposals due Monday.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 11/21 Video lecture on designing democracies</p>	
<p><i>Week of 11/26-11/28 Paper consultations</i></p> <p>Required Readings (to read by synchronous session) Veenendaal, W.P. and Corbett, J., “Why Small States Offer Important Answers to Large Questions.” Swamy, “Electoral Representation in Palau and CNMI: A Research Note.”</p> <p>ON TUESDAY 11/26: Synchronous session: Democracies in the Pacific Islands. Selected case studies presented.</p> <p>ON THURSDAY 11/28: Thanksgiving. No class or office hours</p>	
<p><i>12/3-12/5 CONCLUDING</i></p> <p>ON TUESDAY 12/3: SYNCHRONOUS. Paper presentations.</p> <p>THURSDAY 12/5: Last Class. SYNCHRONOUS. and review for final exam.</p>	
<p>EXAM WEEK 12/10-12/12</p> <p>12/10 11:59 PM. Due date for research paper.</p> <p>12/11 12:00-13:50. Online final exam will include multiple choice and essay questions.</p>	