

PS 50: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Summer 2015, Session C

Instructor: Kathryn Wainfan
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Lectures: T,R 10:45-12:50 PAB 2748
Office Hours: T,R: 1:30-2:30 Bunche 4250

The goal of this course is to introduce you to some of the basic concepts and areas of study within the field of comparative politics. The field encompasses a huge variety of topics and questions, so it will be impossible to cover everything. However, you should leave this class with a better understanding of how and why political processes and outcomes vary.

This is an introductory course and therefore assumes no previous knowledge of political science. That being said, given the breadth of the field and the shortened time span of the summer term, it will be a demanding class. It is very important that you keep on top of the readings and other assignments and bring up any questions or confusions you have about the material either in class or during my office hours.

Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be determined through four components: a midterm, a comprehensive final, attendance and course participation, and weekly article analyses.

The *midterm* and *final* will be held in class and cover both lectures and the readings. **If you need special accommodations, it is your responsibility to coordinate this with OSD as soon as possible.** You can contact OSD through their website, <http://www.osd.ucla.edu/>.

To gain full points for *attendance and participation* you will need to show up to class on time, stay attentive throughout the entire class period, and participate with constructive contributions during activities or discussions. Simply showing up to class will not gain you full points. *Excused absences* are those due to illness, family emergency, or religious holidays. Absences due to illness will not be excused without a doctor's note, and I must be informed of absences due to religious holidays in advance.

Weekly article analyses are due **at the beginning of class** each Tuesday. The assignment is to find a newspaper or magazine article about any country or countries *other than America* that relates to the topics of the previous week's lectures. In *absolutely no more than two double-spaced pages* you should briefly summarize the article and explain how it relates to the lecture and reading topics. Include both your write up and a copy of the article in your submission. The assignment will be graded on a 10 point scale. Late assignments will automatically lose 1 point. If an assignment is more than 24 hours late, an additional point will be deducted for each day the

assignment has not been turned in. For example, if you turned in the assignment on Wednesday afternoon, you will be penalized two points.

Grade appeals must include a typed note, no longer than a single page, as to why you believe you deserve more points. They must be submitted within 1 week of me handing the assignment or exam back. If you request a re-grade on the assignment, I reserve the right to re-grade the entire assignment, so it is possible your score will go down.

Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please review in the link below to review what constitutes academic dishonesty.

<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/assets/documents/StudentGuide.pdf>

Your overall grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Weekly Article Analyses	15%
Midterm.....	25%
Comprehensive Final.....	45%

Course Materials

We will be using David Samuels’s *Comparative Politics* as the main text for the course. It is an ebook and can be acquired via the link on the course webpage. Additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Course Schedule:

All readings should be completed before the corresponding lecture.

Date	Topic and Readings
T 8/4	<p>Introduction—What do we want out of Government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 1 (all) • Samuels, Ch 2 (29-38) • Samuels, Ch 3 (58-67)
Th 8/6	<p>Government Type and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 11 (286-304) • “Development and Democracy”, Bueno de Mesquita and Downs 2005, <i>Foreign Affairs</i>

<p>T 8/11</p> <p>Th 8/13</p>	<p>The Role of Geography and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 11 (304-312) • “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?”, Michael Ross 2001, <i>World Politics</i> • Article Analysis Due <p>Comparative Authoritarianism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 4 (all) • Samuels, Ch 5 (139-142)
<p>T 8/18</p> <p>Th 8/20</p>	<p>MIDTERM IN CLASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Analysis Due <p>Parties and Interest Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 9 (all) • CGG 611-619 • Article Analysis Due
<p>T 8/25</p> <p>Th 8/27</p>	<p>Parties and Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 3 (79-89) • “Make it Better” <i>The Economist</i> April 2, 2009 • “Five Million Votes, Two Seats” <i>The Guardian</i>, May 9, 2015 • Article Analysis Due <p>Executive Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, Ch 3 (69-79) • CGG 805-823
<p>T 9/1</p> <p>Th 9/3</p>	<p>Government Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGG 465-490 • “Why is it so hard to form a government in Italy?” <i>The Economist</i> April 24, 2013 • Article Analysis Due <p>Legislatures and Decentralization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGG 674-705 • “Let England Shake” <i>The Economist</i> September 27, 2014
<p>T 9/8</p> <p>T 9/8 (con)</p> <p>Th 9/10</p>	<p>Democracy in Plural Societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels Ch 6 (all) • CGG 788-805 • Article Analysis Due <p>FINAL IN CLASS</p>

Resources Available

First, there is me. Please feel free to email me (kwainfan@ucla.edu), ask questions in class, and visit me in office hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30). The odds are that if you have a question, there is at least one other student that has it as well, so please don't be shy!

I'll be posting links to videos, articles, and websites that relate to the concepts we are discussing on the course website. Though the content of these links will not directly be on the exam, they should help you understand the concepts more, so make sure to check the course website regularly.

If you have any concerns about or difficulty with academic writing, you can visit the writing center. More information is available at:

<http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/counseling/contact-us.html>

If you are an enrolled UCLA student, you can contact the college academic counseling office for help with any academic concerns you have via the link below. If you are a non-UCLA student (only enrolled for the summer term), you can contact the Student Affairs Officer for summer sessions, Lola Green, at lgreen@summer.ucla.edu

<http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/counseling/contact-us.html>

If you are having other difficulties and need to speak with a therapist or counselor, you can contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) here:

<http://www.counseling.ucla.edu/>