

PLSC 116

Introduction to Comparative Politics

SYLLABUS

Fall 2022

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:35am-12:25pm

Weekly Discussion Section (various times)

Mason Laboratory 211

INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM & CONTACTS

Instructor:

Sarah Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

sarah.khan@yale.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00pm

Rosenkranz Hall, Rm 213

Sign up using Calendly: <https://calendly.com/sarah-khan>

Teaching Fellows:

- Sofia Elverdin, PhD Student, Department of Political Science
Email: sofia.elverdin@yale.edu
- Shahana Sheikh, PhD Student, Department of Political Science
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- Drew Stommes, PhD Student, Department of Political Science
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- Ekin Dursun, PhD Student, Department of Political Science
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of politics and political life around the world. How do different countries organize their systems of governments? Are certain types of institutions more likely to result in economic growth, social equality and political stability? Why and how do individuals and groups participate in political life? These are the types of questions we will engage with over the course of the semester. Throughout the semester, we will remain attentive to the central role of power in structuring the relationships between and across individuals, groups, institutions and states.

The course serves as a foundation for more advanced political science courses, and also provides students an understanding of political science methods and approaches as a tool for understanding and analyzing world politics.

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures: The instructor will teach two 50 minute lectures in-person twice a week. Regular attendance is integral to your success in this course.

Discussion Sections: Teaching Fellows will lead discussion sections for this course throughout the week. Regular attendance and participation in one discussion section is a requirement for this course and counts towards your grade.

GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted electronically via Canvas. We will provide guidelines for each assignment well in advance of the due date. Please check the Canvas Assignments section for directions on each assignment

The grading scheme is below:

Component	% of Grade	Due
Participation Attendance and active participation in section	20%	Throughout the semester
2 Short Papers		
• Paper I: Regime Classification	15%	Sun, Oct 9
• Paper II: Election Report	15%	Sun, Nov 20
3 Reflection Pieces		
• Reflection I	10%	Sun, Sept 18
• Reflection II	10%	Sun, Oct 30
• Reflection III	10%	Sun, Dec 4
Final Exam Take home, short essay responses	20%	Available 9am on Sun, Dec 18. Due within 24 hours.

Your TFs may create additional small assignments through the course of the semester that are adjusted in your participation grade

Grades will be allocated along the following scale; note that there is no A+ grade at Yale College.

A:	93-100	C:	73-76	D-:	60-62
A-:	90-92	C+:	77-79	F:	Below 60
B+:	87-89	C-:	70-72		
B:	83-86	D+:	67-69		
B-:	80-82	D:	63-66		

Late Work: Late work will be downgraded by 1/3rd of a letter grade (A to A-, A- to B+ etc.) for each day after the deadline. In case of illness, family emergency, conflict with a religious observance, or other issues with timely completion, please email your TF to arrange an appropriate accommodation.

Grade Changes: If you have a question or concern about your grade, please wait 24 hours after receiving it to contact your TF via email (cc-ing the professor on the email). If you feel your assignment should be re-graded, it will be re-graded in full by the professor who may increase or decrease your original grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance in discussion sections is mandatory. You will have 1 excused absence during the semester – no questions asked. In case of illness, other obligations, or conflict with a religious observance, please email your TF to arrange an appropriate accommodation.

Email: In general, email should be used for logistical and short queries and you can expect a reply within 24hrs during weekdays. Substantive questions and concerns should be brought to my or your TFs office hours.

Academic Integrity: It is your responsibility to be aware of the various forms of academic dishonesty and plagiarism, related university regulations, and to adhere to these regulations. Ignorance will not constitute an excuse for violation. Please refer to the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations (<http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/>) for more detail, and to these guidelines on the use of sources_ (<https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/using-sources>) for guidance on how to appropriately cite sources in your work

Disability: I will work to provide the appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact the [Yale University Resource Office on Disabilities](#) to discuss your needs and request accommodations.

Inclusivity and Classroom Climate: An inclusive and safe learning environment for all students is a priority for this course.

Please be aware that if you discuss an incident of potential sexual misconduct¹ with the professor or teaching fellows, we are obligated to inform the college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. The coordinators will not take action or plan response without the complainant's consent and can be asked to maintain confidentiality.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Writing: The Poorvu Center offers students the opportunity to receive written feedback and support on their writing.

Please see here for resources:

<https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/undergraduates/writing-center>

Mental Health: Yale Health Mental Health & Counseling provides free, confidential mental health treatment to members of the Yale student community. All Yale students enrolled at least half time in a Yale degree program are eligible for counseling at Mental Health & Counseling completely free of charge regardless of whether they have waived Yale Health Hospitalization/Specialty Care coverage. Please see here for more details: <https://yalehealth.yale.edu/directory/departments/mental-health-counseling>

Required Materials and Access:

There is one required textbook for this course:

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. Principles of Comparative Politics. CQ Press, 2017. (3rd Edition)

Print copies of the book will be available for purchase at the Yale Bookstore; new and used copies are also available through various online vendors.

Electronic versions of the book are available for purchase online via the publisher website: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/principles-of-comparative-politics/book243842>

A cost effective option is to rent an electronic version of the textbook. If you choose this option, please make sure that the rental is through the end of the semester.

All other materials will be made available as PDFs or links in Canvas in the **modules section** under the relevant week

¹ See here for a definition and information on policies: <https://smr.yale.edu/find-policies-information/yale-sexual-misconduct-policies-and-related-definitions>

WEEK- BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

Note: The required textbook is referred to as "Principles" in this schedule

Week 1: Introduction (Thu., Sep. 1)

What is comparative politics? What can comparative politics teach us about countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemics?

- PLSC 116 Course Syllabus (this document)
- Principles, Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

Recommended:

- Stasavage, David. "Democracy, Autocracy, and Emergency Threats: Lessons for COVID-19 From the Last Thousand Years." *International Organization*: 1-17.
- Piscoppo, Jennifer and Kendall Funk. "Are Women Leaders better at fighting the coronavirus?" *Washington Post*. August 26, 2020

Week 2: States (Tue., Sep. 6; Thu., Sep. 8)

Origins of the modern state and state capacity

Discussion sections begin meeting this week

- Principles, Chapter 4
- Herbst, Jeffrey. "War and the State in Africa." *International Security* 14.4 (1990): 117-139.
- Berwick, Elissa, and Fotini Christia. "State capacity redux: Integrating classical and experimental contributions to an enduring debate." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21 (2018): 71-91.

Week 3: Nations (Tue., Sep. 13 & Thu., Sep. 15)

Nation-states, state-nations and nationalism

- Stepan, Alfred, Juan J. Linz, and Yogendra Yadav. *Crafting state-nations: India and other multinational democracies*. JHU Press, 2011. Chapters 1 & 2
- Enloe, Cynthia. *Bananas, beaches and bases: Making feminist sense of international politics*. Univ of California Press, 2014. Chapter 3
- Singh, Prerna. "In India, protesters are singing the national anthem and waving the flag. Here's why that matters." *Washington Post*. January 20, 2020

Recommended:

- **Listen:** Nassim Nicholas Taleb on the Nations, States, and Scale
<https://www.econtalk.org/nassim-nicholas-taleb-on-the-nations-states-and-scale/>

Assignment: Reflection Piece 1 due on Sun., Sept 18 by 11:59pm

Week 4: Regimes I: Types & Categories (Tue., Sep. 20; Thu., Sep. 22)

Classifying regime types; Varieties of authoritarianism

- Principles, Chapter 5 & Chapter 10
- Diamond, Larry. "Elections without democracy: Thinking about hybrid regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13.2 (2002): 21-35.
- Weaver, Vesla M., and Gwen Prowse. "Racial authoritarianism in US democracy." *Science* 369.6508 (2020): 1176-1178.

Recommended:

- Scheppele, Kim Lane. "The Rule of Law and the Frankenstate: Why Governance Checklists do not Work." *Governance* 26.4 (2013): 559-562.

Week 5: Regimes II: Determinants (Tue., Sep. 27; Thu., Sep. 29)

The economic and cultural determinants of regime type

- Principles, Chapter 6 and 7 (*skip section on Experiments and Culture*)
- **Watch:** The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations, Lecture by Edward Said
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPS-pONiEG8>

Week 6: Regimes III: Change and Transition (Tue., Oct. 4; Thu., Oct. 6)

- Principles, Chapter 8
- Waylen, Georgina. "Women and democratization: Conceptualizing gender relations in transition politics." *World Politics* (1994): 327-354.
- **Watch:** Otpor! Bringing Down a Dictator
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F7PxCVQ5Nk>

Recommended:

- Bermeo, Nancy. "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27.1 (2016): 5-19.
- Brancati, Dawn. "Democratic authoritarianism: Origins and effects." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17 (2014): 313-326.

Assignment: Paper 1 due on Sun., October 9 by 11:59pm EST

Week 7: Regimes IV: Consequences (Tue., Oct. 11; Thu., Oct. 13)

Development and Human Rights

- Principles, Chapter 9
- Donno, Daniela, and Anne-Kathrin Kreft. "Authoritarian institutions and women's rights." *Comparative Political Studies* 52.5 (2019): 720-753.

- Evans, Tony. "If democracy, then human rights?" *Third World Quarterly* 22.4 (2001): 623-642.

Recommended:

- Davenport, Christian. *State repression and the domestic democratic peace*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. Introduction

Week 8: Democratic Institutions I: Organizing Government (Tue., Oct. 18)
Presidential and parliamentary systems; Electoral systems and representation

Class meets online via Zoom on Tue., Oct 18:
<https://yale.zoom.us/j/96517168541>

Class does not meet on Thu., Oct. 20 (Fall Break)
Sections do not meet during this week

- Principles, Chapter 12 & 13

Recommended:

- Gerring, John, Strom C. Thacker, and Carola Moreno. "Are parliamentary systems better?" *Comparative political studies* 42.3 (2009): 327-359.

Week 9: Democratic Institutions II: Parties (Tue., Oct. 25; Thu., Oct. 27)
Political party systems; Party-voter linkages

Assignment: Reflection Piece 2 due by Sun., Oct. 30 by 11:59pm EST

- Principles, Chapter 14
- Kitschelt, Herbert. "Linkages between citizens and politicians in democratic polities." *Comparative political studies* 33.6-7 (2000): 845-879.

Week 10: Political Participation I: Voting (Tue., Nov. 1; Thu., Nov. 3)
Voter turnout; inequalities in turnout

- **Reread:** Principles, Chapter 8 (section on Collective Action Theory)
- Blais, André. *To vote or not to vote?: The merits and limits of rational choice theory*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000. Chapter 1 and 2
- Kasara, Kimuli, and Pavithra Suryanarayan. "When do the rich vote less than the poor and why? Explaining turnout inequality across the world." *American Journal of Political Science* 59.3 (2015): 613-627.

Recommended:

- Cheema, Ali, et al. "Canvassing the Gatekeepers: A Field Experiment to Increase Women Voters' Turnout in Pakistan." *American Political Science Review* (2021): 1-21.

Week 11: Political Participation II: Contentious Politics (Tue., Nov. 8; Thu., Nov. 10)

Who resists and how?

- Tarrow, Sidney and Charles Tilly. *Contentious Politics*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press. 2015. Chapters 1 and 3
- Chenoweth, Erica, et al. "The global pandemic has spawned new forms of activism—and they're flourishing." *The Guardian* 20 (2020).
- **Watch:** The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo:
<https://yale.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=4c9cf29e-0727-4e66-bed7-ab2701398013>

Recommended:

- Baldez, Lisa. *Why women protest: Women's movements in Chile*. Cambridge University Press, 2002. Chapter 1
- James Scott, "Everyday forms of peasant resistance." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 13.2 (1986): 5-35

Week 12: Identity and Representation (Tue., Nov. 15; Thu., Nov. 17)

How states construct and reinforce identity categories; Identity-based representation

- Lieberman, Evan S., and Prerna Singh. "Census Enumeration and Group Conflict: A global Analysis of the Consequences of Counting." *World Politics* 69 (2017): 1.
- Htun, Mala. "Is gender like ethnicity? The political representation of identity groups." *Perspectives on Politics* (2004): 439-458.
- **Listen:** <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/20/752866675/brazil-in-black-and-white-update>

Recommended:

- Jensenius, Francesca R. *Social justice through inclusion: The consequences of electoral quotas in India*. Oxford University Press, 2017. Chapter 2

Assignment: Paper II due Sun., Nov 20 by 11:59pm

NOVEMBER BREAK: Class does meet on Tue., Nov. 22 & Thu., Nov. 24

Week 13: Political Violence (Tue., Nov. 29; Thu., Dec. 1)

- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war." *American Political Science Review* (2003): 75-90.

- Wilkinson, Steven I. *Votes and violence: Electoral competition and ethnic riots in India*. Cambridge University Press, 2006. Chapter 1
- Nordås, Ragnhild and Elisabeth Jean Wood. *Why the Nobel Peace Prize went to 2 people fighting sexual violence in war*. Washington Post. October 8, 2018

Assignment: Reflection Piece 3 due by Sun., Dec 4 by 11:59pm EST

**Week 14: Politics of Climate Change & Final Review
(Tue., Dec. 6; Thu., Dec. 8)**

- Aclin, Michaël, and Matto Mildemberger. "Prisoners of the wrong dilemma: why distributive conflict, not collective action, characterizes the politics of climate change." *Global Environmental Politics* 20.4 (2020): 4-27.
- Bush, Sarah Sunn, and Amanda Clayton. "Facing Change: Gender and Climate Change Attitudes Worldwide." *American Political Science Review* (2022): 1-18.