

Washington University in St. Louis
Department of Political Science

Comparative Politics (L32 Pol Sci 102B)
Spring 2012
M,W 1-2:30PM
Seigle Hall L006

Professor	Teaching assistants	
Margit Tavits Seigle Hall 231 935-3463 tavits@wustl.edu Office hours: Tu 3-5PM	Santiago Olivella Seigle Hall 258 olivella@wustl.edu Office hours: M 3-5PM	Joshua Potter Seigle Hall 257 jdpotter@wustl.edu Office hours: By Appt.

Course Website: <https://telesis.wustl.edu/>
(use your Wustl Key to log in)

This course provides an introduction to the comparative study of domestic politics in countries around the world. You will be introduced to some of the most important concepts, theories, and issues in this subfield of political science. Comparative politics can be seen as simply the study of domestic politics in countries outside the United States. But it is also about comparing political systems in order to generate general statements about politics. In this course, you will be exposed to both of these ideas about comparative politics. You will learn about the domestic politics of several foreign countries. But, you will also be expected to compare them to each other and to use the concepts and theories covered in the course to understand better the politics of these states and domestic politics in general.

The first half of the semester is spent on concepts and theories and the second half on specific countries. The different central topics to comparative politics considered include democracy, state and institutions, people and politics, political culture, ideology and political economy. The countries chosen for closer study are representative of different types of political systems around the world: The United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa.

Required texts

- 1) Sodardo, Michael J. Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction. Third Edition. McGrawHill. ISBN 978-0-07-352631-7. Paperback.
- 2) Yap, Fiona (Ed.) Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 11/12. 29th Edition. McGrawHill. ISBN 978-0-07-805083-1. Paperback. (Referred to as AE below.)

Course readings

I expect you to finish the assigned weekly readings by Monday of the given week unless I note otherwise in class.

Grading

The course grade will be based on pop-up quizzes on readings, three exams, and an essay report.

1) Quizzes 10%

Quizzes may take place either day of the week and will be based on the readings for that week. There will be 12 quizzes total. Each quiz will be graded as “pass” or “fail.” In order to pass, at least 60% of answers must be correct. Your two worst quiz results will be dropped from calculating the final grade.

2) Exam I 20% (Wednesday, February 22, regular class time)

3) Exam II 20% (Wednesday, March 28, regular class time)

4) Final exam 30% (Wednesday, May 9, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, regular classroom)

Exams I and II are not cumulative and will be based on all material covered in class and in the readings by the date of the exam since the previous exam. The final exam is cumulative and is based on all materials covered throughout the semester.

5) Essay report 20% (Due on Wednesday, April 18, in class)

The detailed instructions for these reports are presented at the end of the syllabus.

Grading scale

97-100 %	A+	87-89%	B+	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D+
93-96%	A	83-86%	B	73-76%	C	63-66%	D
90-92%	A-	80-82%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-
						59% and below	F

All grades are final

The TAs and I will spend a lot of time carefully evaluating all your work. Because of this, no “re-grades” are available, i.e., your grade will not be changed unless there has been a mathematical error in adding up the points. That said, the TAs and I are always happy to discuss your answers to questions on the exam.

Exam Dates and Make-Ups

No exam make-ups will be given except in unusual circumstances including personal illness or death in family. In cases of illness I require a doctor’s note, that is signed and on the doctor’s letterhead, explaining why you were too sick to take the exam. In cases of death or severe illness of a family member I require proof (e.g., obituary). I will, if necessary, make phone calls to doctors, parents, or whomever to verify the excuse. Given that you know the exam dates so far ahead of time, I will not make allowances for airplane flights, job interviews, etc. If you are eligible to receive a make-up you must contact me as soon as possible. In addition, I often require a research paper in lieu of a make-up exam.

Late papers will not be accepted

Because you know the paper deadline so far in advance, late submissions will result in 0 points. Extensions will only be granted if you approach me at least one day before the deadline (for example, before 1:00 PM on April 17) and only in case of personal illness or death in family. In each case, I require proof. See “Exam Dates and Make-Ups” for details.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. **In this class, such a breach results in failing the course.** Any violation will also be reported to the Academic Integrity Office of the College of Arts and Sciences. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. *Course Listings* and *Bearings* both contain full statements of Washington University's policy on academic integrity. The policy is also summarized on the College of the Arts and Sciences website.

Special Accommodations

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office (Seigle Hall 231). To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must contact Cornerstone (<http://disability.wustl.edu>). It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements.

If you have questions about these policies, please feel free to talk with me. It is possible that changes have to be made to this syllabus. Any such changes will be posted on the course website, emailed to your university email account, and announced in class.

Course Outline

Week 1 1/18	<u>Comparative politics, what is it?</u> <u>Topics in comparative politics</u> Sodaro, Ch 1-2
Week 2 1/23, 25	<u>Analytical thinking</u> Sodaro, Ch 3 AE #9 Schmitter, p. 35 AE #10 O'Donnell, p. 42
Week 3 1/30, 2/1	<u>Power</u> <u>State and Institutions</u> Sodaro, Ch 4-5 AE #33 Hendley, p. 174 AE #35 Hochman, p. 180
Week 4 2/6,8	<u>Democracy: what is it?</u> Sodaro, Ch 7 AE #8 Schmitter and Karl, p. 28 AE #15 Dahl, p. 68

Week 5 2/13,15	<u>Determinants of democracy</u> Sodaro, Ch 9 AE #32 Benvenisti, p. 167 AE #40 Levitsky and Way, p. 207
Week 6 2/20, 22	<u>Types of democracy</u> Sodaro, Ch 8 AE #13 Ottaway, p. 55 AE #24 Dimitrov, p. 122 EXAM I (Wednesday, February 22)
Week 7 2/27, 29	<u>People and politics</u> Sodaro, Ch 11 AE #16 Kuzio, p. 74 AE #25 Boroumand, p. 127
Week 8 3/5, 7	<u>Political culture</u> <u>Ideology</u> Sodaro, Ch 12, 13 AE #19 Eickelman, p. 95 AE #38 Inglehart and Norris, p. 195
Week 9 3/19, 21	<u>Political economy</u> Sodaro, Ch 14 AE #4 Fisman, p. 12 AE #37 Guthrie, p. 190
Week 10 3/26, 28	<u>Politics of development</u> Sodaro, Ch 15 AE #14 Almond, p. 59 AE #21 Roett, p. 107 EXAM II (Wednesday, March 28)
Week 11 4/2, 4	<u>European Union and United Kingdom</u> Sodaro, Ch 6 (pp. 148-153, 166-169), Ch 16 (entire) AE #18 Briggs, p. 88 AE #41 Sbragia, p. 213
Week 12 4/9, 11	<u>Mexico and Brazil</u> Sodaro, Ch 22 AE #7 New York Times, p. 24 AE #22 Maxwell, p. 112
Week 13 4/16, 18	<u>Nigeria and China</u> Sodaro, Ch 21 (entire), 23 (pp. 762-783) AE #11 Childress, p. 44 ESSAY REPORT DUE (Wednesday, April 18, in class)

Week 14 4/23, 25	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Russia</u></p> <p>Sodaro, Ch 20 AE #23 Stoner-Weiss, p. 116 AE #34 Economist, p. 176</p>
	FINAL EXAM (Wednesday, May 9, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESSAY REPORTS

IMPORTANT DATES

February 1 – deadline for submitting your choice of country and news source

February 8 – deadline for having an approved news source

April 18 – deadline for submitting the paper

1. News source

Each student is required to monitor **at least one newspaper or news magazine** in one country other than the U.S. on a regular basis from the start of the semester until the assignment is due. When archives are available, you may use those to go back in time and gather more information. Depending on your language skills, you may choose news sources in a language other than English. Newspapers set up by Americans living abroad are not acceptable, **only news sources issued by the natives for the natives**. You may use online newspapers and magazines as well as hard copies.

You need to submit the following information in class or by email to jdpotter@wustl.edu by the end of (i.e., by 11:59PM) **February 1, 2012**:

- 1) Your country of choice
- 2) Your newspapers/magazines of choice
- 3) The exact source for accessing your news sources (exact url; name of library, etc.)

We will distribute sign-up sheets in class on February 1, but you can also email your choice. If you fail to submit this information by the end of February 1, you will receive 0 points for this assignment.

Your choice of new sources needs to be approved. If your first choice is not acceptable, the TAs and I will help you find an alternative source or you may submit an alternative source yourself. You need to have an approved source by the end of **February 8**. If you fail to have an approved source by then, you will receive 0 points for this assignment.

2. Report

Your task is to focus especially on the content and tone of news coverage regarding the role of the United States in the world. You need to gather a minimum of 10 relevant news articles, editorials, and opinion pieces (the more the better) – all originating from newspapers chosen by you. **News articles from wire services or newspaper syndicates are not acceptable**, only articles generated in-house. Please approach me or the TAs whenever you are unsure about whether an article you have retrieved is acceptable for the project. You are required to submit exact url-s or hard copies of each news article along with your report, so please make sure that you save all articles you read.

Based on the materials gathered, you need to write a report addressing questions (1) and (2), and **either** question (3) **or** (4) listed below.

1. How is the United States regarded elsewhere by journalists, government officials, other political and business elites, and the general public?

2. How do perceptions of the United States that seem prevalent in the news coverage compare with what you consider as common American perceptions of themselves?
3. What are the main agendas that the newspapers and governments in the respective countries seem to promote with regard to global policy toward the United States? Where do you identify support for America? Where do you encounter criticism or skepticism? Where do you find caution? Where do you observe resentment?
4. What sort of interdependence is evident between the country you have studied and the United States? In what ways does this country seem dependent on the United States? How does the United States seem dependent upon the country you have studied?

3. Logistics

Due date:	April 18, 2012, in class
Length:	5 pages (1200 words) of text, do not include a cover page, the list of references does not count toward the page limit.
Format:	Double spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.
Citations:	Chicago Manual of Style for in-text citation style and list of references.
News sources used:	List all newspaper or magazine articles used for this report in the list of references by including the following information: author, year, title of the article, name of the newspaper or magazine, date published, exact url, date accessed. If you are using hard copies of newspapers or magazines, you do not need to list the url and date accessed, but you must include photocopies of the articles together with your report.
Notes:	Please use footnotes rather than endnotes for any additional information.
Section headings:	Section headings throughout the paper are recommended.

4. Grading

1) Newspaper articles (10%)

Evaluation points:

- (a) The writer uses at least 10 appropriate articles, editorials, and/or opinion pieces as sources of evidence.

2) Responses to three questions (25% each)

Evaluation points:

- (a) The writer provides a clear, focused, original, arguable, and concise answer to the posed question.
- (b) The writer offers the best possible evidence and reasoning to convince the reader. No important pieces of available evidence or relevant points or reasons are omitted. Evidence presented is always relevant to the point being made. Quotations are analyzed thoroughly. The writer demonstrates original thought, appropriate sense of complexity of the topic, and appropriate awareness of opposing views.

3) Organization and development (5%)

Evaluation points:

- (a) The first paragraph introduces the topic in an interesting and concise way.

(b) Paragraphs contain topic sentences and good transitions. Paragraphs are organized in a logical and readable fashion.

(c) The last paragraph summarizes the main arguments of the paper in a concise way.

4) Clarity and style (10%)

Evaluation points:

(a) The essay is written in grammatically correct English with proper sentence structure and spelling.

(b) Quotations and paraphrases are incorporated in stylistically and grammatically correct ways.

(c) The guidelines for length, formatting, citations, references, news sources, notes, and section headings are followed.