

Case Western Reserve University
POSC 160
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Pete W. Moore

216-368-5265

pete.moore@case.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 230-330, Wednesday 12-130pm (Mather House 219)

Comparative politics is a very broad and inter-disciplinary field which explores politics and societies across the world and historically. It is concerned with methods of study, empirical accuracy, and learning through comparing. The goals of this course are to introduce students to the tools, debates, and subjects of modern comparative politics. It also aims to expose students to political change and important issues on the global stage. While we will not focus on individual countries, we will cover themes relevant to modern to Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Grades and responsibilities

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings.

Grading is comprised of three components:

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| 1. | Exams (2x) | 30% |
| 2. | Analytical Reviews (5x) | 20% |
| 3. | Final exam | 40% |
| 4. | Participation/Attendance | 10% |

In addition to two exams during the semester, four analytical reviews of course readings are required. The participation and attendance grade is based on an objective presence in class and on a subjective assessment of being prepared (i.e. having done assigned readings and prepared to discuss). You are allowed three excused absences (with documentation); any absences beyond three will affect the grade as well as possible failure. A key to doing well in the class is keeping pace with the readings and actively participating in class discussion.

****Please turn off mobile phones**

****More than three unexcused absences from class will result in failure.**

****Lap tops may only be used in class for note taking. Please see me for permission**

****Due dates and times for all assignments are strictly enforced.**

LECTURES and READINGS

All readings are available in the documents section of our class blackboard site.

Week 1 **Introduction**

1/13-15 Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, "Relations Among Sovereigns"

Week 2 **Concepts: Power, Legitimacy, Community, Violence**

1/20-22 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The Social Contract"
Hanna Arendt, "On Violence"
*James Scott, "Behind the Official Story"

Week 3 **What is Political Development? What are states? Why should we care?**

2/3-5 Max Weber, "Politics as Vocation"
*Samuel Huntington, "Political Order and Political Decay" *World Politics* (April 1965),
focus on pp. 386-417
Mouin Rabbani, "The Un-Islamic State" September 2014

Week 4: **States: Origins and Importance in Europe**

2/10-12 *Charles Tilly, "How war made states and vice versa," in *Coercion, Capital, and European States AD 900-1990*, Basil Blackwell, 1990, pp.67-91
Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective" (1952), pp 5-30.

Week 5 **States and Late Development (outside Europe)**

2/17-19 Robert H. Bates 1988, "Governments and Agricultural Markets in Africa," in *Toward a Political Economy of Development*, edited by Robert H. Bates (Berkeley: University of California Press), pp., 331-358
*Ian Lustick, "The Absence of a Middle Eastern Great Power: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective" *International Organization* 51:4 (Autumn 1997), pp.653-683
Robert Jackson and Carl Roseberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist," *World Politics* (October 1982)

Week 6 **Contentious Politics**

2/24 *Doug McAdam, "Recruitment to High-Risk Activism: The Case of Freedom Summer," *The American Journal of Sociology* (July 1986)
2/26 **EXAM I**

Week 7 **Revolution, Revolt, and Protest**

3/2 *Professor Joel Beinin, "High Risk Activism in the West Bank" 4:30pm*

3/3-5 *Jack Goldstone, "The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolution," in *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies*, edited by Jack Goldstone (Wadsworth, 2003)
Mona Al-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution,"
Film: *The Square*

Week 8 **FALL BREAK**

Week 9 **Regime Types: Debating Democracy**

- 3/17-19 Phillipe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy is...and is Not," *Journal of Democracy* (Summer 1991)
Lisa Wedeen, *Peripheral Visions: Publics, Power, and Performance in Yemen*, pp. 105-113.
*Larry Diamond, "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy* (2002)

Week 10 **Regime Types and Transitions**

- 3/24-26 Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, pp. 1-55 (skim chapter on France but focus on comparative differences)
*Evelyne Huber, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens, "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Summer 1993)

Week 11 **Political Economies**

- 3/31-4/2 *Robert Gilpin, "Three Ideologies of Political Economy"
Lant Pritchett 1997, "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11:3 (Summer), pp. 3-17.
Dani Rodrik, "Has Globalization Gone too Far?"

Week 12 **The Resource Curse Debates**

- 4/7 Michael Ross, 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 no.3, pp.325-361
*Marcus Kurtz, 2009. "The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the 'Resource Curse' in Third World State Building," *Politics and Society* 37 (4), pp. 479-520.
4/9 **Exam II**

Week 13 **Political Violence and Social Order**

- 4/14-16 *Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era*, Stanford University Press, 2007, pp. 1-32.
Michel Hechter and Nika Kabiri, "Attaining social order in Iraq," in *Order, Conflict, and Violence*, edited by Stathis N. Kalyvas, Ian Shapiro, and Tarek Masoud Cambridge University Press, 2008

Week 14 **External Intervention and Effects**

- 4/21-23 James Dobbins, "Who lost Iraq?" *Foreign Affairs* 86: 5 (Sep/Oct2007)
*Jason Brownlee, "Can America Nation Build?" *World Politics* 59 (January 2007)
Ann Marie Slaughter, "How to Halt the Slaughter in Syria," *New York Times*
Paul Staniland, "Should We intervene in Syria, Monkey Cage