

**Case Western Reserve University**  
**POSC 160**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Professor Pete W. Moore

216-368-5265

pete.moore@case.edu

Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 and 2:00-3:00 MW (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, Asia, 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 five components:

1.	Exam	20%
2.	Weekly Reviews (8)	10%
3.	Analytical Book Review	20%
4.	Final exam	40%
5.	Participation/Attendance	10%

In addition to two exams during the semester, eight weekly 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.

**Required Text, available in book store:**

Peter Van Buren, *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People*, Metropolitan Books, 2011

Also please follow national and international news sources, *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Economist* for example.

**\*\*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: Comparative Politics and Political Order**

1/11-13      Thomas Hobbes, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery" in *Leviathan*, Collier Books, 1962

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The Impossibility of Representation" in *The Social Contract*, Oxford University Press, 1960

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

1/18      **Martin Luther King Day**

1-20      Hanna Arendt, "On Violence" in *On Violence*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1970

James Scott, "Behind the Official Story" in *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*, Yale University Press, 1992

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

1/25-27      Samuel Huntington, "Political Order and Political Decay" *World Politics*, April 1965, focus on pp. 386-417

Samuel Huntington, "Revolution and Political Order," in *Political Order and Changing Societies*, Yale University Press, 1968

Charles Tilly, "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" *Comparative Politics*, April 1973 (selection)

### Week 4:      **The State Debate: How is the state defined, what are its boundaries, and what does it do?**

2/1-3      Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Timothy Mitchell, "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and their Critics," *American Political Science Review* 85;1, March 1991

### Week 5      **States: Origins and Importance in Europe**

2/8-10      Charles Tilly, "How war made states and vice versa," in *Coercion, Capital, and European States AD 900-1990*, Basil Blackwell, 1990.

Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective" in

*Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, Belknap Press, 1962.

**Week 6**      **Exam Week**

**2/15**      **No Class**

**2/17**      **EXAM I**

**Week 7**      **States and Late Development in Africa and the Middle East**

**2/22-24**      Ian Lustick, "The Absence of a Middle Eastern Great Power: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective" *International Organization* 51:4, Autumn 1997

Robert Jackson and Carl Roseberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist," *World Politics* October 1982

Mouin Rabbani, "The Un-Islamic State," Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, September 2014

**FILM NIGHT: *The Ambassador***

**Week 8**      **Regime Types: Debating Democracy**

**2/29-3/2**      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 9**      **SPRING BREAK**

**3/7-9**      **NO CLASS**

**Week 10**      **Comparative Political Economy**

**3/14-16**      Robert Gilpin, "Three Ideologies of Political Economy" in *The Political Economy of International Relations*, 1987

Lant Pritchett, "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11:3, Summer 1997, pp. 3-17.

Charles E. Lindblom, "The Market as Prison," *Journal of Politics* 44:2, May 1982, pp. 324-336

**Week 11**      **Comparative Outcomes and Processes: England and East Asia**

**3/21-23**      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

Richard Doner, Bryan Ritchie, and Dan Slater "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of the Developmental State: North and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective," *International Organization* 59, Spring 2005

**Week 12**      **The Resource Curse Debates: Middle East and Latin America**

**3/28-30**      Michael Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 no.3, 2001

Marcus Kurtz, "The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the 'Resource Curse' in Third World State Building," *Politics and Society* 37;4, 2009.

**Week 13**      **Cases Study: Iraq**

**4/4-6**      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

Peter Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 1-87

**Week 14**      **Intervention and Nation-State Building**

**4/11-13**      Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 88-164

James Dobbins, "Who lost Iraq?" *Foreign Affairs* 86: 5 (Sep/Oct2007)

Jason Brownlee, "Can America Nation Build?" *World Politics* 59 (January 2007)

**Week 15**      **The Aftermath**

**4/18-20**      Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 165-261

Nir Rosen, "What America Left Behind in Iraq," *Foreign Policy*, September 7, 2010. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2010/09/07/what-america-left-behind-in-iraq-2/>

Paul Bremmer interview on Al Jazeera, <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/headtohead/2015/12/occupation-create-isil->

151201105427673.html

“ISIS” *Middle East Report*, Winter 2015

**Book Analysis Due, 4/22 noon**

**Week 16**

**4/25**

TBA