

Political Science 0300  
**Comparative Politics**  
Fall 2004 (05-1)

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Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 2:30 to 4:00 pm, and by appointment.

Course web site: <http://courseweb.pitt.edu/> (access with your Pitt username and password)  
Class time and location: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 to 9:50, LAWRN 105  
Credit hours: 3.0 (CRN 03569; Blackboard system number 051-03569)

### **1. Description**

This course is an introduction to Comparative Politics, a field of political science that involves cross-national analysis of political institutions and processes. The course is designed around the issues of democracy and dictatorship and it emphasizes theoretical and conceptual topics rather than a description of different political systems on a country-by-country basis. We will illustrate those concepts using examples from Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the United States.

This course is also part of the Certificate on Latin American Studies, so we will devote important attention to the Latin American cases. In the first part of the course we will use Latin American countries to illustrate several aspects of modern democracies: proportional electoral systems, multi-party systems, presidentialism, etc. In the second part, we will use Latin American cases to illustrate some forms of dictatorship (e.g., Trujillo's Dominican Republic as an example of a neo-patrimonial regime, Argentina in the 1970s as a case of bureaucratic authoritarianism).

### **2. Objectives**

By the end of this semester, you will:

1. Understand, and be able to compare, how different democracies in the world operate.
2. Understand, and be able to compare, different forms of non-democratic rule that emerged throughout the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Gain familiarity with the language of political science and improve your reading skills to deal with materials in the humanities and social sciences.
4. Be able to apply general political science concepts to analyze Latin American countries.

### **3. Course Materials**

Lijphart, Arend. 1999 *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 0300078935

Linz, Juan J. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. ISBN: 1-55587-890-3

Vargas Llosa, Mario. 2001. *The Feast of the Goat*. (Translated by Edith Grossman). New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. ISBN: 0-374-15476-7

*Journal Articles.* We will read some academic journal articles and magazine stories. You will be able to access them through the course website (under **External Links**). Note that all of these materials are copyright protected, and therefore some may be posted for limited periods of time. You can print a copy of each article for yourself, but do not circulate the material.

#### 4. Evaluation

Your grade will be based on: 1) an evaluation of how carefully you read the required books and articles in a timely fashion, 2) two exams, and 3) your participation in class. All of these elements are relevant for our course goals, so your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Reading	20%
First exam (October 25)	30%
Second exam (December 6)	30%
Participation	20%

#### Readings

I will post two short questions (e.g., multiple choice) related to the required readings before each class. Look for them in the course website in the “Assignments” section. The questions will be posted between Friday and Monday at 10 a.m. (for the readings due on Monday), between Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. (for the readings due on Wednesday), and between Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. (for the readings due on Friday). The sum of all quizzes will account for 20% of your total grade. Feel free to use your book when answering the questions, but remember that you will only have five minutes to answer. This means that you must read the materials before you log-in.

If you fail to answer the questions by Wednesday or Friday (because you cannot connect to *courseweb*, you have not been able to do the readings on time, or for any other reason) I will not be able to post “make-up” questions. However, every student in the class will be allowed to skip four quizzes (i.e., the equivalent of two weeks) so that unexpected problems with the server or any other complications will not hurt his or her grades. Servers occasionally go down and network problems may eventually prevent your answers from being recorded, so take advantage of this policy in a wise manner.

Quizzes are graded in the following way: each question is worth 1 point, so you may collect 2 points for every quiz posted. At the end of the term I will add up all the points you have collected—this will be the numerator to determine the percentage of the answers correct. The denominator will be equivalent to the total number of points possible minus 8 points (four sessions) that you are allowed to miss. Let us say that you collected 60 points over the course of the term and that the maximum possible is 78. You would have a score of 86%, or  $60/(78-8)$ .

#### Exams

Exams will typically consist of four essay questions. They may be given in class or as 48-hour take-homes. I will post a study guide on the course web site before each exam.

#### Participation

I expect that we will have an engaging discussion in class, and I will reward students who actively participate in class with extra grade. Sometimes I will anticipate the questions or issues that we will discuss in class so that you can prepare in advance. I will expect you to think about

those questions seriously because we will address them during our meeting. Other times, I will give you small tasks that will lay the ground for the discussion in our next session. During that session, I may collect the output of the exercise as proof that you prepared for our meeting.

## 5. Policies

**Class attendance.** This is a university course. You are allowed to be absent from class according to your needs, but be aware that repeated absences will be reflected in your participation grade. If for any reason you are unable to attend a session you are responsible for covering the material.

**Assignments.** Late assignments or exams will not be accepted unless previously authorized. Students in this course will be expected to comply with University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity (<http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/ai1.html>).

**E-mail policy.** Students can contact me by e-mail. Any student *not* using his or her Pitt address (e.g., regularly using a hotmail address) must forward all Blackboard messages to the active address. To protect privacy, I do not post grades on-line or report grades to students via e-mail. You must be in class to receive your exams and assignments when I return them, or stop by during office hours to discuss your grades.

**Students with disabilities.** If there are any students with disabilities who need accommodations for this course, please do not hesitate to contact me early in the term. Also, make sure that you contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, at 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) ([www.pitt.edu/~osaweb/drs/drs.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~osaweb/drs/drs.html)). DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

## 6. Class Schedule

### I. Introduction: Democracy and Dictatorship

Monday, August 30 - What is Comparative Politics?

No readings.

Wednesday, September 1 – **No class, APSA Meeting**

No readings.

Friday, September 3 – **No class, APSA Meeting** [First electronic quiz posted on-line]

Monday, September 6 – **No class, Labor Day**

Wednesday, September 8 – Democracy and Dictatorship. [First electronic quiz due at 10 a.m.]

Read: Lijphart, chapters 1 and 4; Linz, pages 58-61

### II. Democracy

#### A. Two Models of Democracy

Friday, September 10 – Great Britain: The Majoritarian Model

Read: Lijphart, chapter 2

Monday, September 13 – Switzerland: The Consensus Model

Read: Lijphart, chapter 3

## **B. Political Parties**

Wednesday, September 15 – Political Parties

Read: Lijphart, chapter 5

Friday, September 17 – Coalitions

Read: Lijphart, chapter 6

## **C. Presidential and Parliamentary Democracies**

Monday, September 20 – Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Read: Lijphart, chapter 7

Wednesday, September 22 – Against Presidentialism

Read: Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1):51-69 (access through "External Links" in the course website)

Friday, September 24 – The Debate

Read: Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew S. Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy - A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29 (4):449-471 (access through "External Links").

## **D. Elections and Electoral Laws**

Monday, September 27 – The Organization of Elections

No Readings

Wednesday, September 29 – Electoral Systems

Read: Lijphart, chapter 8

Friday, October 1 – The Effects of Electoral Systems

Read: Lijphart, chapter 8 (cont.)

## **E. Other Institutions**

Monday, October 4 – Interest Groups

Read: Lijphart, chapter 9

Wednesday, October 6 – Local Government

Read: Lijphart, chapter 10

Friday, October 8 – Unicameral and Bi-Cameral Systems

Read: Lijphart, chapter 11

Monday, October 11 – Constitutional Reform and Judicial Review

Read: Lijphart, chapter 12

## **F. Do Institutional Differences Matter?**

Wednesday, October 13 – Creating a "Map" of Democracy

Read: Lijphart, chapter 14

Friday, October 15 – Testing Hypotheses in Comparative Politics

Read: Lijphart, chapters 15 and 17

## **III. Dictatorship**

Monday, October 18 – Introduction to the study of dictatorships

Read: Linz, pages 49-63

Wednesday, October 20 – What is Totalitarian Rule?

Read: Linz, pages 65-76

Friday, October 22 – **Review Session**

No readings. Download review sheet from Courseweb (Course Documents)

## **A. Totalitarianism**

Monday, October 25 – **First Exam**

Wednesday, October 27 – Lenin and the Totalitarian Party

Biography - Vladimir Lenin. *Download guided notes from course website.*

Read: Linz, pages 76-94.

Friday, October 29 – Ideology and Totalitarian Rule

Read: Linz, pages 100-114

Monday, November 1 – The Soviet Union, 1930-1953

Read: Linz, pages 116-128

Wednesday, November 3 – Stalinism

Biography – Joseph Stalin. *Download guided notes from course website.*

Read: Linz, pages 129-136

Friday, November 5 – Terror and Memory

Read: Conant, Eve. 2001. "Building 'Stalinworld'." *Newsweek International*, April 2, 2001, page 20. (access through External Links – Expanded Academic ASAP)

## **B. Neo-Patrimonialism (Sultanism)**

Monday, November 8 – What is Sultanism?

Read: Linz, pages 143-157

Wednesday, November 10 – The Emergence of Neo-Patrimonial Rule

Read: Vargas Llosa, chapters 1-5

Friday, November 12 – Case Study: The Dominican Republic, 1930-1961

Read: Vargas Llosa, chapters 6-10

If you want to learn more, I recommend: Hartlyn, Jonathan. 1998. "The Trujillo Regime in the Dominican Republic." In *Sultanistic Regimes*, edited by H. E. Chehabi and J. J. Linz. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.\*

Monday, November 15 – The Trujillo Era as a Case of "Sultanism"

Read: Vargas Llosa, chapters 11-15

McIntosh, Charles D. 1997. "Life with the Generalissimo." *American Heritage* 48(7):32-36 (download from course web site – *Expanded Academic ASAP*).

Wednesday, November 17 – The End of the Trujillo Era

Read: Vargas Llosa, chapters 16-20

*Warning:* pages 328-331 contain very crude descriptions of torture. You may skip those pages if you prefer to.

Friday, November 19 – Trujillo's Popularity and the U.S. Support

Read: Vargas Llosa, chapters 21-24

*Warning:* pages 394-398 depict a scene of rape; you may skip those pages if you want to.

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\* Recommended readings are not mandatory and will not be included in the on-line quizzes.

### **C. Authoritarianism**

Monday, November 22 – What is Authoritarian Rule?

Read: Linz, pages 159-174

Wednesday, November 24 – **Thanksgiving break**

Friday, November 26 – **Thanksgiving break**

Monday, November 29 – Mobilizational Regimes: Argentina, 1946-1955

Read: Linz, pages 217-227

Wednesday, December 1 – Bureaucratic Authoritarianism: Argentina, 1966-1972

Read: Linz, pages 184-208

Friday, December 3 – **Review Session**

No readings. Download review sheet from Courseweb (Course Documents)

Monday, December 6 – **Second Exam**

Wednesday, December 8 – Bureaucratic Authoritarianism: Argentina, 1976-1983

No readings.

Friday, December 10 – Transitions between Democracy and Dictatorship

No readings.