

PLS 1003
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2013

Dr. Roper
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Office Hours: TR 9:00-9:30, 10:45-11:00 and 12:15-2:00
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Course Description:

This is an introductory course in comparative politics with an emphasis on democratic institution-building. We examine the theoretical and the practical dimensions of comparative politics. The first two sections of the course examine institutional and behavioral issues currently debated in newly established democracies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. We explore competing theories of comparative politics as well as core issues in the field such as party and parliamentary development, influence of electoral systems and voting behavior. The final section applies these theories and concepts to case studies of Russia and Mexico. Our course is available on D2L. On our D2L site, you can access the course home page, readings and your grades.

Classroom Requirements:

- It is not appropriate to come to class late; however if you come to class late, please find a seat near the door.
- If you need to leave early, please discuss this with me prior to the start of class.
- Any personal issues should be dealt with before class begins so that you do not leave and re-enter the room. It is disruptive and interferes with the classroom experience.
- I require that cell phones be turned-off, including no text messaging. I consider texting during class to be inappropriate and disrespectful.
- I do not allow notebook computers to be used in the classroom without proper documentation indicating that this need is due to a University-approved disability.
- I will respond quickly to emails. However as a courtesy, I ask that you address me politely in the message. It is inappropriate not to have a salutation. Proper salutations include “Dr. Roper” or “Professor Roper.” I will not respond to emails that do not address me respectfully.

Graded Components:

There are three examinations during the semester. The final examination is not cumulative. At the end of the semester, I will double a student's best examination. The examinations consist of multiple-choice questions. Material for the examinations is drawn from both the lectures and the assigned readings. Once examinations have been distributed, no one may leave the room and return. I give make-up examinations only with a University-approved excuse. If you miss an examination due to a University-approved activity, please provide documentation prior to the examination. If you miss an examination due to illness or a family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible (either by phone or email). I require proper documentation in order to take a make-up examination which should be scheduled as soon as possible. The make-up examination consists only of essay questions. A student who misses an examination without proper documentation or fails to schedule the examination within a timely manner receives a zero. Grades for the examinations and the course are not curved or adjusted. The deadline to withdraw from the course with a "W" is Friday, 1 November.

Points:

Examination 1	100 points
Examination 2	100 points
Examination 3	100 points
(One examination will be doubled)	
<u>Total</u>	<u>400 points</u>

Grades:

Final grades for the course will be based on the following:

A	90-100%	(360-400 points)
B	80-89%	(320-359 points)
C	70-79%	(280-319 points)
D	60-69%	(240-279 points)
F	0-59%	(0-239 points)

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: Cheating, or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty. Plagiarism includes, but is not necessarily limited to, submitting material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action and results in an "F" for this course.

Student Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify me as soon as possible.

Readings:

All readings are available online through Booth Library holdings found at our D2L page. Please bring the readings with you to class as we will be addressing specific arguments made by the authors.

Course Reading and Examination Outline:

Introduction: How to Study Comparative Politics

John S. Dryzek. 2006. "Revolutions without Enemies: Key Transformations in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100:4 (Nov):487-492.

State and Society

Charles H. Fairbanks. 2007. "Revolution Reconsidered." *Journal of Democracy* 18:1 (Jan):42-57.

Jack A. Goldstone. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011." *Foreign Affairs* 90:3 (May/June):8-16.

Unitary and Federal Arrangements

Jan Erk, and Lawrence Anderson. 2009. "The Paradox of Federalism: Does Self-Rule Accommodate or Exacerbate Ethnic Divisions?" *Regional and Federal Studies* 19:2 (May):191-202.

Democratization and Political Culture

Thomas Carothers. 2007. "The 'Sequencing' Fallacy." *Journal of Democracy* 18:1 (Jan):12-27.

Fareed Zakaria. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 76:6 (Nov/Dec):22-43.

Examination 1 (Thursday, 26 September)

Variations of Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Alfred Stepan, and Cindy Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism." *World Politics* 46:1 (Oct):1-22.

Elections and Electoral Systems

Pippa Norris. 1997. "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems." *International Political Science Review* 18:3 (July):297-312.

Parties, Party Systems and Voting Behavior

Joseph LaPalombara. 2007. "Reflections on Political Parties and Political Development, Four Decades Later." *Party Politics* 13:2 (March):141-154.

Examination 2 (Thursday, 31 October)

Case Study of Russia

Andrei Illarionov. 2009. "The *Siloviki* in Charge." *Journal of Democracy* 20:2 (April):69-72.

Sharon L. Wolchik. 2012. "Can There Be a Color Revolution?" *Journal of Democracy* 23:3 (July):63-70.

Case Study of Mexico

Gustavo Flores-Macías. 2013. "Mexico's 2012 Elections: The Return of the PRI." *Journal of Democracy* 24:1 (January):128-141.

Examination 3 (Monday, 9 December 2:45-4:45)