

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Political Science



Political Science 2012

# Introduction to Comparative Politics: World Politics Beyond Our Headlines

Spring 2002

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## Course Description

Last September, Islamic terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes and succeeded in dive-bombing three of them into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Thousands of Americans perished.

Why did Osama Bin Laden commit this atrocity? What motivates his followers? And how can we understand the American and global reactions to this tragedy?

To begin answering such questions, this course provides a comprehensive introduction to world politics. Comparative politics is the study of politics beyond our borders. This course should, however, reveal as much about ourselves as it does about the world. Why do we think and talk about the world in the ways that we do? The American media's coverage of world politics frequently tells us much more about who we are as a people – our identities and values – than about events abroad. Our assumptions about politics are derived from the American experience. Studying the world will help expose those assumptions, allowing us to move beyond our media headlines and explore world politics in its own terms.

The goal of this course is not to teach you *what* to think about world politics; it is, instead, to teach you *how* to think critically about it

## Classroom Policies

Respect is required. While the discreet consumption of coffee and other beverages is permitted, eating – which might disrupt your classmates – is not. Please turn off all cell

phones and other devices that might disrupt class. Disparaging comments or behaviors towards your classmates will not be permitted. Anyone disrupting the educational atmosphere of the lecture hall will be asked to leave.

Sexual harassment, in particular, will not be tolerated. Anyone experiencing harassment in the classroom should contact the instructor immediately. Harassment anywhere on the CU campus should be reported to the Office of Sexual Harassment Policy in the Regent Administrative Center or at 735-3979.

### Grading and Important Dates

Your final grade will be based upon two in-class midterms, a five page paper, a final exam, and class participation:

20%	Midterm I
20%	Midterm II
20%	Paper
25%	Final Exam
15%	Class participation

The first midterm will be held in class on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. The second midterm will be held in class on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Both will include all material covered up to those dates. A five page paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Late papers will not be accepted. You should submit an outline by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The final exam will be held from 7:30-10pm on Saturday May 4. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling problem should inform me in person no later than April 4. The class participation grade will be based upon the quality, not quantity, of your contributions to discussion section. Your TA will determine your class participation grade.

I will work closely with the TAs to standardize grading across the sections. If you have a problem with a grade you must go to your TA first. If the problem is still not resolved, you may then come to me and I will either grade it myself or ask another TA to grade it again. Your grade may go down as a result. Bottom line: I highly recommend that students focus their time and energies on getting an education and not on grade grubbing.

### Readings

You are expected to attend class having completed the readings assigned for that day. *Lectures will not cover the same ground as the readings, and are no substitute for them.*

You are required to purchase:

- A McGraw-Hill Custom Reader, *Introduction to Comparative Politics*. \$16.
- A Monday through Friday subscription to the *New York Times*. \$X.

The bookstores will also have copies of:

- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations?* Foreign Affairs Reader. \$9.95. It's a handsome little volume at a good price, but you are not required to buy it, as the articles are also available online.

Additional readings will be available at Norlin Library reserves (next to circulation), on the web, and from “Article Access” at the CU library webpage, Chinook:  
<http://libraries.colorado.edu/>.

If you don't already have a CU computing account, you can sign up online at:  
<https://plus.colorado.edu/sac/sac.cgi>.

To download some articles, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is pre-installed on most computers, but can also be downloaded for free at:  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

To access articles on Chinook from off-campus locations, you will need to follow the instructions at: <http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/chi/remote.html>.

*You must bring hard copies of the readings to discussion sections.*

I do not endorse all of the views presented in the readings. Many of the readings have been chosen because they raise issues central to comparative politics in interesting and provocative ways. You are therefore expected to read critically. What are the author's arguments? Are they persuasive? Why do you think that the authors take the positions that they do? Do you agree or not?

### Paper

In addition to reading the front page international coverage and all of the headlines in the international section, you will follow the *New York Times* coverage of one of the following ten areas:

1. Western Europe
2. Eastern Europe
3. Russia
4. Africa
5. The Middle East
6. South Asia
7. Southeast Asia
8. China
9. Northeast Asia
10. Latin America

As an “expert,” your TA will randomly call on you in discussion section to report on that week's coverage of your area. You will keep a record of all *New York Times* articles on your area, with four entries for each:

1. Topic
2. Argument
3. Assumptions
4. Tone

At the beginning of lecture on Monday, April 15 you will hand in a five page paper on the *New York Times* coverage of your area during the ten weeks from Jan. 21 to April 1, 2002. Please submit a paper outline to your TA at the beginning of lecture on April 3, and you will meet with him or her to discuss your paper no later than April 12.

### Registration

You must be enrolled in a discussion section. If you wish to switch from one discussion section to another, contact Britt. The last day to add a class this semester is X. The last day to drop a class is X. However, because we have a long wait list for this class, if you are contemplating dropping, *please drop early* to give others the opportunity to take your place. You can add and drop classes via CU Connect at 303/938-8110, or via the web at [www.colorado.edu/plus](http://www.colorado.edu/plus). *You are responsible for your registration status.*

### Honor System

CU defines cheating as “using unauthorized materials or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise.” *Anyone caught cheating will be given an F.* For a detailed description of what constitutes cheating, see [CU's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

CU defines plagiarism as “submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely one’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source.” For detailed guidelines on the proper attribution of sources, consult [CU's Academic Honesty website](#).

I ask that you handwrite on the first page of each exam or paper the line “*I have not given or received aid on this exam/paper*” and then sign it.

Bottom line: don’t cheat yourself out of an education

### Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability, please notify me during the first two weeks of class. Please also register with the Office of Services to Disabled Students at the University Learning Center in the basement of Norlin Library.

### Lecture and Reading Schedule

1 (1/14) What is Comparative Politics?

2 (1/16) “A Clash of Civilizations?” I

Huntington, “A Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993).

Elaine Sciolino, “Is the Devil in the Demographics?” *New York Times*, December 9, 2001

MLK BREAK

3 (1/23) “A Clash of Civilizations?” II

Ajami, Bartley, Kirkpatrick, and Mahubani. Responses to Huntington. *Foreign Affairs* (Fall 1993).

Sodaro 3: “Critical Thinking about Politics: Analytical Techniques of Political Science”

4 (1/28) Tradition and Modernity

Ron Suskind, “For One Distant Island, a Plunge into the Present,” *NYT Magazine*, 2 December 2001.

Sodaro 2: “Comparative Politics”

5 (1/30) Ideology

Sodaro 13 "Ideology"

6 (2/4) Liberalism I: Freedom and the Individual

"The Declaration of Independence" (Pp. 140-41 from *The Libertarian Reader*, David Boaz ed. The Free Press 1998)

John D. Donahue, "Is Government the Good Guy?" *NYT*, 13 December 2001.

Sodaro 4: "Critical Thinking about Politics: The Logic of Hypothesis Testing"

7 (2/6) Liberalism II: Capitalism

Max Weber, "Author's Introduction" Pp. 13-31 of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Parsons, trans. (e.g. Charles Schribner, 1930)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (short selections. Eg. pp. 253-264 from *The Libertarian Reader*, David Boaz ed. Free Press 1998 ISBN 0-684-84767-1)

8 (2/11) Liberalism III: Democracy

Sodaro 8: "Democracy: What Is It?"

9 (2/13) Liberalism IV: Who are we? A Conservative Backlash

Robert Bork, "Modern Liberalism and Cultural Decline," Pp. 174-181 in *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* (Longman, 1999 ISBN 0-321-00539-2)

David Brooks, "One Nation, Slightly Divisible," *The Atlantic Monthly* December 2001 pp. 53-65.

10 (2/18) MIDTERM I

11 (2/20) Marx and Marxism

Isaiah Berlin, "Introduction." Pp. 1-22 of *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment* (Oxford U Press, 1963).

"Manifesto of the Communist Party"

12 (2/25) The Russian Revolution I: Lenin and the Revolution

Robert Tucker, "Lenin as Revolutionary Hero," pp. 18-63 of *Stalin as Revolutionary* (Norton 1974)

13 (2/27) The Russian Revolution II: Stalin and Stalinism

Khrushchev's "Secret Speech," pp. 559-618 in *Khrushchev Remembers* (Little Brown, 1970).

14 (3/4) The Chinese Revolution I: Mao

Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China*, pp. 112-177 (Bantam, 1938 #0-553-24481-7).

15 (3/6) The Chinese Revolution II: Maoism

Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" (1957) in *Selected Reading From the Works of Mao Tsetung*

16 (3/11) Fascism I: Fascism and Modernity

Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism" *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* (Longman, 1999 ISBN 0-321-00539-2)

Henry Turner, "Fascism and Modernization," *World Politics* 24: 4 (1972).

17 (3/13) Fascism II: National Socialism and Racism in Germany

Daniel Goldhagen, "Epilogue: The Nazi German Revolution" in *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (Knopf 1996 #0-679-44695-8)

Fritz Stern, "The Goldhagen Controversy," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1996.

Daniel Goldhagen, "Germans Vs. The Critics," *Foreign Affairs*, January/ February 1997

18 (3/18) Totalitarianism and Liberalism  
review for exam: Shively 2: "Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy"

19 (3/20) MIDTERM II

#### SPRING BREAK

20 (4/1) Economic and Political Development I: The Role of the State  
Alexander Gershenkron "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," pp. 5-30 in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Harvard, 1962).

21 (4/3) Economic and Political Development II: Dependency Theory  
Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," pp. 3-17 in *Dependence and Underdevelopment*, Cockcroft, Gunder Frank, and Johnson, eds (NY: Anchor Books, 1972).  
Shively, "Appendix: Principles of Political Analysis"

22 (4/8) Economic and Political Development III: Globalization  
Thomas L. Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (Farrer, Straus, and Giroux, 1999): "Opening Scene" and Chapter 6, "The Golden Straitjacket," pp. xi-xxii, 101-111.

23 (4/10) Economic and Political Development IV: Democratization  
Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," pp. 3-25 in *Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins, 1993).  
Mark Landler, "Money Might Not Be Able to Buy Political Ties, Either," *New York Times*, Dec. 9, 2001

24 (4/15) Colonialism and its Legacies I: Western Imperialism  
E. J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire* (Pantheon 1987), Chapter 3 (pp. 56-83).

25 (4/16) Colonialism and its Legacies II: Postcolonial nationalisms  
Jean-Paul Sartre, "Preface" and Franz Fanon, "Concerning Violence," pp. 7-31 and 35-53 in Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

26 (4/22) Colonialism and its Legacies III: Blowback?  
Chalmers Johnson, *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire* (NYC: Henry Holt, 2000), pp. ix-xix, 3-33.

27 (4/24) Religious Fundamentalisms I: Bad Islam  
Bernard Lewis, "The Revolt of Islam," *The New Yorker* November 19, 2001, pp. 50-62.

28 (4/29) Religious Fundamentalisms II: Good Islam  
Ray Takeyh, "Faith Based Initiatives," *Foreign Policy* Nov./Dec. 2001. pp. 68-70.  
Edward W. Said, "The Clash of Ignorance" *The Nation*, October 22, 2001.

29 (5/1) Religious Fundamentalisms III: A Fundamentalist Challenge to Modernity?  
Ellen Willis, "Bringing the Holy War Home," *The Nation*, December 17, 2001.

FINAL EXAM Saturday May 4, 7:30-10PM