Comparative Politics And Government
比較政治與政府

Instructor: Dr. Chin-fu Hung (洪敬富), Department of Political Science & Graduate Institute of Political Economy
Office: 27601
Course Hours: 09:10~12 noon, Wednesday
Classroom: 27203
Office Hours: 1:10~3PM, Tuesday (additional appointments may be arranged through email).
Level: Undergraduate, Second Year
Semester: Autumn 2009
Email: bcfhung@mail.ncku.edu.tw
Phone: ext. 50219

Course Description / Objectives

This course is to introduce undergraduate students key methodological and theoretical discussions that underpin comparative politics research. After completing this course, students should be better familiarized with academic debates about some of the principal issues in comparative politics, such as how to compare countries, what are concepts of political development, political culture, civil society, causes for democracy/democratization, political violence and terrorism, and so forth. This course will also explore some of the major variations in domestic politics across the world, reviewing chief explanations for these differences.

■ Students should be able to apply the comparative analysis framework presented in the lectures and textbooks to any country in the world;
■ Students should be able to judge the relative merit of specific policy initiatives based on the experiences of other countries;
■ Student should develop analytical skills to compare any two or more countries with regard to their political culture, political institutions, political developments, democratic and non-democratic systems, and civil societies in an increasingly globalized context;
■ Students should appreciate the nature and direction of change(s) in the contemporary world within and between states.

Grades  Your grades in this course will be allocated in the following ways:

-- Class Attendance, Participation, and Oral Presentation(s)  25%
-- Mid-term Exam  35%
-- Final Exam  40%
Textbooks


Syllabus

Week 1 (9/16)  Course Introduction

Week 2 (9/23)  Introduction, Ch.1
               New Directions in Comparative Politics, Ch.2

Week 3 (9/30)  Introduction: On Comparing Nations
               Ch. 1. The Search for Focus
               Ch. 2. Area Studies and the Discipline
               Ch. 3. Interests and Ideas
               Ch. 4. The Public Role of Political Science

Week 4 (10/7)  Political Development, Ch.3
               Political Development Revisited—and Its Alternatives, Ch.7

Week 5 (10/14) Political Culture and Comparative Politics, Ch.4
               Ch. 6. The Dynamics of Modernization
               Ch. 7. Modernization and Postmodernization
               Ch. 8. What is New About Globalization

Week 6 (10/21) Invited Speech

Week 7 (10/28) Corporatism and Comparative Politics, Ch.5
               Ch. 9. What Is a State?
               Ch. 10. Bringing the State Back In
               Ch. 11. Varieties of Nationalism

Week 8 (11/4)  Indigenous Theories of Change, Ch.6
               Ch. 14. Nation-State or Global State?
               Ch. 15. Everyday Global Governance
               Ch. 16. Sovereignty and Democracy
Week 9 (11/11)  University Anniversary Day; Class Does Not Meet

Week 10 (11/18)  Mid-term Exam

Week 11 (11/25)  Comparative Democracy and Democratization, Ch.8
Ch. 21. Trouble in the Advanced Democracy?
Ch. 22. The New Politics in Advanced Democracies

Week 12 (12/2)  Film Time

Week 13 (12/9)  Ch. 24. Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies
Ch. 25. The End of the Transition Paradigm
Ch. 26. Universal Democracy?

Week 14 (12/16)  Ch. 27. On Democracy and Tyranny
Ch. 28. What was Communism?
Ch. 29. The Limits of Bureaucratic Authoritarianism
Ch. 30. Authoritarian Resilience

Week 15 (12/23)  Ch. 17. Frameworks of the Great Revolutions
Ch. 18. On Revolutions
Ch. 19. Nonviolent Action
Ch. 20. Revolution and Anomie

Week 16 (12/30)  The End of the Great Systems Debate? Implications for
Comparative Politics, Ch. 12
Conclusion, Ch. 13

Week 17 (1/06)  Final Exam

Week 18 (1/13)  Conclusion