PURPOSE
This course introduces the student to the comparative approach to the study of politics, as well as to some of the descriptive and explanatory generalizations about politics that have been developed through this kind of analysis. The first portion of the course will explore the major contending approaches to comparative political analysis, and the assumptions and methodologies implied by these approaches. This is followed by an exploration of selected themes or analytic constructs in comparative politics: development and democracy with a focus on Third World politics. Finally, each student will be expected to utilize one or more of the above-discussed theoretical and analytical frameworks to a country case study selected in consultation with the instructor. Both oral and written research results of these country case studies will be reported in class.

READINGS (All available for purchase at the NYU Book Center)


RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR STUDENTS INTENDING TO PURSUE A PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE


ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
As a graduate course, students are expected to attend class regularly and participate actively in classroom discussions. Absences must be approved in advance by the instructor via email (preferable), phone, or in person. Value: 15%

EXAMINATIONS/ORAL/PAPER
There will be one take-home essay-type examination (50%) and one brief country-specific research paper (12-15pp) that will be defended in an in-class oral presentation and submitted as hard copy at end of semester (35%).

READING SCHEDULE (preliminary & subject to change)
1. JANUARY 19  
Topic: Approaches  
Readings: Geddes  

2. JANUARY 26  
Topic: Theories  
Readings: Lichbach/Zuckerman  

3. FEBRUARY 2  
Topic: Methods  
Readings: Landman  

4. FEBRUARY 9  
Topic: Development  
Readings: Inglehart  

5. FEBRUARY 16  
Topic: Development  
Readings: Inglehart/Norris  

6. FEBRUARY 23  
Topic: Democracy  
Readings: Dahl  

7. MARCH 2  
Topic: Democracy  
Readings: Przeworski  

8. MARCH 9  
Topic: Democracy  
Readings: Putnam  

[EXAMINATION QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED]  

MARCH 16 – NO CLASS – SPRING VACATION  

9. MARCH 23  
Topic: ALL TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION PAPERS DUE  
Readings: Oral Presentations  

10. March 30  
Topic: Country Cases  
Readings: Oral Presentations  

11. APRIL 6  
Topic: Country Cases  
Readings: Oral Presentations  

12. APRIL 13  
Topic: Country Cases  
Readings: Oral Presentations  

13. APRIL 20  
Topic: Country Cases  
Readings: Oral Presentations  

14. APRIL 27  
Topic: Country Cases  
Readings: Oral Presentations