INSTRUCTOR
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CLASS MEETING: Thursday 4:00-6:00PM
OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays: 10-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the methodology and to some of the main themes in Comparative Politics. We first study strategies for comparative case studies, cross country large-N studies, and causal inference. We then survey the literature on state-building, political regimes and transitions. Finally, we cover the literature on political institutions, political agency, ethnic divisions, decentralization and clientelism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
In addition to regular attendance and class participation, which will account for 20% of the grade, there will be (1) a take home exam on October 5, (2) two 2 pages review papers due on October 19 and November 2 and (3) a 10-12 pages final paper due on December 14. The take home exam will count for 10% of the grade, the review papers 20% and the final paper 50%.

Week 1 (September 7): Introduction

Week 2 (September 14): What is Comparative Politics?


Methods of Comparative Political Analysis

Week 3: (September 21) Causal Inference


Week 4 (September 28): Case Studies versus Large N Studies


Week 5: (October 5) States


Recommended:


Week 6 (October 12) Political Regimes and Transitions


Recommended

Week 7 (October 19): Political Institutions


Week 8: (October 26) Resource Curse


Week 9 (November 2). Political Agency and Corruption


Recommended:


Week 10. (November 9) Ethnic Conflict


Recommended.


Week 11. (November 16) Ethnic Cooperation


Recommended:


Week 12. (November 30) Clientelism


**Week 13 (December 7) Decentralization**


**Recommended**