**Course description.** Comparative politics is about comparing political behavior across a large or a small number of countries, or even in one country. Therefore, the method of comparative political research includes large N cross-country studies, comparative case studies and cause inference from individual country studies. The goal of this course is introduce students to these tools of political inquiry, and to cover the main aspects of political behavior such as voting, legislative and interest group politics, bureaucratic and judicial politics. Finally, we will discuss a number of topics covered in the contemporary comparative politics literature.

**Teaching Assistants:** Defne Ezgi, Julio Rios-Figueroa, Yunus Sozen, and Vicentas Vobolevicius

**Requirements:** In addition to regular attendance and class participation, which accounts for 10% of the grade, there will be three assignments that will account for 20%, a midterm exam that counts for 30% and a final exam that will count for 40%. The assignments are due October 5th, November 9th and December 7th and the Midterm will take place on November 2nd.

**Required Texts:**


Course Packet

**Recommended Text:**


**Introduction**

1.  What is Political Science?

Shively Ch. 1
Almond et al. Ch. 1

2. **What is Comparative Politics?**
   
   Shepsle & Bonchek Chs. 1 & 2


**Scope and Methods**

3. **Causal Inference in the Social Sciences** (9-16 and 9-21),
   

4. **Strategies for Comparative Case Studies** (9-23)
   


5. **Strategies for Large N Studies** (9-28)


**Theories of Political Behavior**

6. **Voting Behavior** (9-30; 10-5)
   
   Shepsle and Bonchek: Chs. 3, 4 and 5

   Shively Ch. 8

7. **Legislative and Interest Group Politics** (10-7; 10-12))
   
   Shively: Chs 10, 11

   Shepsle and Bonchek: Chs 11, 12

*Recommended*: Almond Ch. 5
8. **Bureaucratic and Judicial Politics** (10-14)

Shepsle and Bonchek: Ch. 13

Shively Ch. 14

9. **Non-Democratic Government** (10-19)

Shively Ch. 13


**Micro Analysis**

10. **Political Institutions** (10-21, 10-26)


11. **Political Identities** (10-28; 11-4)


12. **Political Violence** (11-9, 11-11)


**Macro-Analysis**

13. **Democratization** (11-16; 11-18)
Macro-Analysis (continued)

14. Constitutional Engineering and Design (11-23, 11-30))

Shively: Ch. 10

Liphart Arendt, Constitutional Choices in New Democracies, Ch 13 in Global Resurgence of Democracy (pp. 162-174)

15. Governance (12-2, 12-4))


16. Conclusion and Recapitulation (12-9, 12-11)