

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Introduction to Government

Lecturer:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
132	Lecture	3	4

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Exam	191013201	English

Prerequisites

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Introduction to Government (132):

848 - Introduction To Comparative Politics
8055 - Introduction to Government for Psychologists

Course Description

Fall 2018/2019

Wednesday 14:45-17:15

Class location: TBD

Course Goals

This course introduces the students to several of the central topics in Government and Comparative Politics. We will begin with core concepts, theories and ideas central to our understanding of politics. We will then cover topics such as the definition and measurement of democracy, the differences between democracies and other types of regimes, the process of state formation, mobilization and collective action, the role of ethnicity and identity in creating conflict and civil wars, civil-military relations, the role of media and social mobilization in politics, political parties and party systems and economic development of state institutions. In each of these topics we will discuss central theories and compare and contrast their utility in various parts of the world. Each topic is centered around a set of questions that should guide the student in their preparation to class and around which discussion will be held during each session.

Grading

Attendance and Participation

For this class to be successful, it is necessary for everybody to come to class prepared, and to be ready to engage in meaningful discussions and intellectual debates with one another. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. This includes not only discussing the readings, but also the active participation during in-class assignments. Meaningful participation requires that you treat everybody with respect, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with their views. We will discuss some controversial issues, and disagreement is bound to emerge. It is never appropriate for critiques to degenerate into personal attacks, and it is crucial that debates are civil, respectful and grounded in intellectual arguments. Rude and inappropriate comments or disruptive behavior can result in students being asked to leave the classroom or in a reduced grade.

Readings

We will be using one main text book in this class: Hague & Harrop (2013), *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction* (9th edition), NY: Palgrave Macmillan. It will be supported by other relevant materials when appropriate. All required readings for this course will be uploaded to the class website, so you do not have to purchase any textbooks. Students are expected to do all the required readings before class, and come ready to engage the material. On occasion, additional short readings or newspaper clippings might be distributed in class. There is also a strong expectation that in addition to the class readings, students will follow international news and keep up with current events. I encourage students to bring the attention of myself and of the class to interesting and relevant pieces of information that can contribute to our class discussion. In addition, students that are particularly interested in any of the topics covered in class or that are related to the class topics, are welcome to propose such topics for debate, and prepare short presentations. Such extra effort will be rewarded appropriately.

Assignments and Grades:

Grading

The grades for this class will be based on a total of 100 possible points, broken down as follows:

Assignment #1:	pass/fail
Assignment #2:	15 points
Assignment #3:	15 points
Debate:	Extra credit
Final exam	70 points

Eligibility for taking the exam:

Submission of **all** three assignments.

Assignment #1:

This first assignment, due on the week #2 is aimed at familiarizing the students with critical thinking and academic analysis. Since it is the first assignment, it will not count towards your final grade, but is mandatory nonetheless. Further details will be provided in the first class.

Assignment #2:

The second assignment is due on week #5, when we talk about autocracies. In this assignment, each of you will write a short paper (3 pages double-spaced) on democracy vs. autocracy. The paper has several goals. First, it will show me whether you understood the central debates around each regime type. Second, it will show me that you are able to construct an academic argument and support it with proper information. Third, it will show me that you are able to critically assess various academic arguments and make the connection between several sources. Specific guidelines will be provided on week #3.

Assignment #3:

The third assignment is due on the last class. The goal in this third assignment is to show me that you can now not only understand concepts and readings but that you are able to use them in analysis. For this purpose, we will watch a movie in class. The assignment will be a short paper (2-3 pages) in which you will apply the theories and concepts we discussed in the course to the movie we watch. Specific guidelines will be provided on week #10.

Debate

We will hold a debate in the last class we hold – it will be a nice way to wrap up the semester. 8-10 students will participate in debating one topic of their choice (we can have 2 debates in total). The remaining members of the class will be the audience and will challenge the participating students with questions. They will then vote on the winning team. Both debaters and audience have a chance to gain extra credit for this exercise.

Final exam:

Will be held on February 8th 2019 (Moed B will be held on March 22nd).

Learning Outcomes

Getting a solid baseline for political discussions.

Understanding political institutions and rules of the game

Acquiring critical analysis skills.

Getting some practice in academic writing.

Lecturer Office Hours

Office Hours: Wednesday @ 14:00 and by appointment via email

Tutor Office Hours

TA's Office hours: TBD

Teaching Assistant

Wendy Wagner, wendy.wagner@post.idc.ac.il

Additional Notes

Academic Honesty:

Please note that in this course, no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Serious infractions can result in failing the course or greater university consequences. This policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities.

Reading List

1. *Introduction to comparative politics*

Overview:

Introduction to the course and its requirements

Overview of the Syllabus

Introduction to central concepts of the course

Discussion of academic writing and expectations

Explanation of assignment #1

Required readings: /

Recommended readings:

- Hague & Harrop (2013), *Comparative Government and Politics: an Introduction* (9th edition), NY: Palgrave Macmillan, pp 1 – 20.
- Jean-Germain Gross (2012), "Comparative Politics Made simple", *AP Centra*

2. State theory and state formation

Overview:

How are states formed? Why are states formed? Are all states formed in the same process? What is the relationship between the way a state was formed and how it is performing in modern times?

Assignment #1 is due.

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "The state", pp. 21-40
- Tilly, Charles. (1985) "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 169-191

Recommended Readings:

- Poggi, Gianfranco (2008), "The Nation State" in Daniele Caramani, Eds. *Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University press, pp. 85-107
- Dahl, Robert (2000), *On Democracy*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Ch. 1-7.
- Herbst, Jeffery, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and control* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 12-31
- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Ch. 3 and pp.107-123
- Centeno, Miguella. (1997), "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth Century Latin America" *American Journal of Sociology* 102 (6), pp. 1565-1605
- Taylor, Brian, and Roxana Botea, (2008). "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World." *International Studies Review*, 10:1

3. Theoretical Approaches

Overview:

What are some of the central theoretical approaches with which one should study comparative politics? How do the various approaches help us better understand the world around us? What is institutionalism and how do we use it to explain politics? Do institutions really matter?

Discussing Assignment #2.

Required readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "Theoretical Approaches", pp. 76-92.
- Przeworski, Adam (2004), "Institutions matter?" *Government and Opposition* 39:4, pp.527-40.

Recommended readings:

- Guy B. Peters, "approaches in comparative politics", in Caramani (2008), pp. 45-60
- James March and Johan Olsen (2006), "Elaborating the 'New Institutionalism'" in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Rhodes, Binder & Rockman (eds), London: Oxford University Press
- Gretchen Helmke and Steve Levitsky, "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda," *Perspectives On Politics*, 2 (2004).
- Terry Moe, "Power and Political Institutions," *Perspectives On Politics*, 3 (2005)

4. Democracy and Democratization

Overview:

What is democracy? How do we measure it? Are all democracies the same? How are democracies formed? What is the connection between democracy and development? Is democracy the best system around?

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "Democracy", pp. 41 – 57.
- Terry Lynn Karl and Philippe Schmitter (1991), "What democracy is and is not", *Journal of Democracy*: 2(3): pp. 75-86

Recommended Readings:

- Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971), ch 1.
- Peter Mair, "Democracies", in Caramani (2008), p. 108-132.
- Huntington, Samuel (1993), *The third wave: Democratization in the late Twentieth century*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, pp. 3-25
- Cappacio, Giovanni, and Daniel Ziblatt. "The Historical Turn in Democratization

Studies: A New Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond" *Comparative Political Studies* 43(8/9) 931-968.

- Juan Linz and Alfred Stephan (1996), "Towards consolidated democracies", *Journal of Democracy*: 7.2.
- Andrew J. Enterline and J. Michael Greig (2008), "Against All Odds? The History of imposed Democracy and the Future of Iraq and Afghanistan", *Foreign Policy Analysis* 4(4), pp: 321-347

5. Autocracy and authoritarianism

Overview:

What are authoritarian regimes – what do they have in common with democracies and how are they different? What is the connection between authoritarianism and development? What is modernization theory? Are all authoritarian regimes the same?

Assignment #2 is due

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "authoritarian rule", pp. 58 – 75
- Steven Levitsky (April 2002), "Elections without democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism", *Journal of Democracy*

Recommended Readings:

- Paul Brooker, "authoritarian Regimes". in Caramani (2008), p. 133-156
- Larry Diamond (April 2002), "Thinking about hybrid regimes", *Journal of Democracy*
- Larry Diamond (2011), "A fourth wave or false start?", *Foreign Affairs*, May 22
- Mancur Olson (September 1993), "Dictatorships, democracy and development", *American Political Science Review*: 87:3, pp. 567-576
- Bellin, Eva, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Politics* 36, no. 2 (January 2004): 139-157.
- Linz and Stephan (1996), "Towards consolidated Democracies", *Journal of Democracy* 7(2), 14-33

6. Political Culture and communication

Overview:

What is political culture? Is there merit in studying political culture and what do we gain from it when it comes to our understanding of politics? What are civilizations and how are they different from one to another? What is the role religion plays in culture and in politics? What is the impact of media on politics? Does it even have an effect? How has twitter, facebook and other social media channels affect our understanding of politics?

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "Political culture", pp. 93-110
- Hague & Harrop, "Political Communication", pp. 111-129

Recommended Readings:

- Huntington, Samuel P. (1993) "The clash of civilizations?." *Foreign affairs*, July 1st, 22-49.
- Onderco, M., & Wagner, W. (2017). The ideational foundations of coercion: political culture and policies towards North Korea. *European Political Science Review*, 9(2), 279-302.
- Gilboa, E. (2005). The CNN effect: The search for a communication theory of international relations. *Political communication*, 22(1), 27-44
- Rothschild, J. E., & Shafranek, R. M. (2017). Advances and Opportunities in the Study of Political Communication, Foreign Policy, and Public Opinion. *Political Communication*, 1-10.
- Gottfried, J. A. et al (2017). "The Changing Nature of Political Debate Consumption: Social Media, Multitasking, and Knowledge Acquisition", *Political Communication*, 34(2): 172-199

7. Collective action and mobilization

Overview:

What is collective action? What is a public good? How do social movements

form? What is needed for mobilization to take place? What is the notion of contention? What is the connection between regime type and development to collective action and mobilization?

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "Political participation", pp. 130 – 149
- Hirschman, Alberto O., *Exit, Voice and Loyalty* (Harvard University Press, 1970). P. 21 – 41

Recommended Readings:

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Harvard University Press, 1965, pp. 1-52.
- Kriesi Hanspeter, "social movements", in Caramani (2008), pp. 392-418
- Kitschelt, Herbert, "Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest," *British Journal of Political Science*, 16 (1986), pp. 57-85
- Meyer, D. S., & Staggenborg, S. (1996, May). Movements, Countermovements, and the Structure of Political Opportunity. *American Journal of Sociology*, 101(6), 1628-1660.

8. Political parties and Interest Groups

Overview:

What are political parties? What is their purpose? How are parties formed? Why are some systems multi-parties while others are bi-partisan and even single-party? How do party systems, electoral rules and regime type constrain or enable parties and politicians?

Required Readings:

- Hague & Harrop, "Interest Groups", pp. 150-168
- Hague & Harrop, "Political parties", pp. 169-189

Recommended Readings:

- Richard S. Katz, "Political Parties", in Caramani (2008), pp. 293-317
- Aldrich, John, *Why Parties?: The Origins and Transformation of Party Politics in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), pp. 3-61.
- Stokes, Susan C. "Political Parties and Democracy," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999).
- Laver, Michael (2005), "Policy and the Dynamics of Party Competition", *American Political Science Review* 99.9, pp. 263-282.
- Berkhout, J. (2016). Lobbying In The European Union: Interest Groups, Lobbying Coalitions And Policy Change. *Public Administration*, 94(1), 278-280.

9. Civil Wars and Political violence

Overview:

When does mobilization turns violent? What are some of the causes of civil wars? What is the logic behind political violence? What role does ethnicity play? What about religion and culture? Class activity: defining 'ethnic identity'

Discussing Assignment #3

Required Readings:

- Sambanis, N. "What is a Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48, (2004) pp. 814-858
- Bass, G. "What really causes civil wars?" *New York Times*, August 13th 2006. Can be accessed at: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/13/magazine/13wwln_idealab.html?_r=0

Recommended Readings:

- Posner, Daniel, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *American Political Science Review* 98, No. 4 (November 2004), pp. 529-545.
- Collier, P. and Hoeffler, A. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers*, No. 56 (2004), pp. 563-595.
- Fearon, J. D. and Laitin, D. D. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97.1 (February 2003), pp. 75-90.
- Chandra, Kanchan, "What is Ethnic Identity and does it Matter?" *Annual Review of*

Political Science 9 (2006), pp. 397-424.

- Posen, B. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival* 35.1 (Spring 1993), pp. 27-47
- Fearon, J. D. "Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict," in David Lake and Donald Rothchild, eds., *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict: Fear, Diffusion, and Escalation* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), pp. 107-26

10. Civil Wars and Political violence – continued

Overview: Watching movie in class

Required Readings: /

Recommended Readings: /

11. Review - International context and challenges to the state

Overview:

What have we learned? What do we know now about the way states operate that we did not know before? Is there a future for democracy? Is there a future to the nation state as we know it? To sovereignty?

Required Readings:

- Georg Sorensen, "Globalization and the nation-state", in Caramani (2008), pp. 602-624

Recommended Readings:

- Strange, Susan. 1996. *The Retreat of the State*, pp.16-30.
- Simon Hix, "The EU as a new political system", in Caramani (2008), pp. 573-601.
- Stephen D. Krasner, "Sovereignty", *Foreign Policy*, (Jan/Feb 2001), pp. 20-29

12. Debate

Overview:

Assignment #3 is due.

The End