

PSIR 450: Comparative Politics

Fall 2023

(Undergraduate level | mandatory)

Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Khazar University

6 ECTS credits, 15 Weeks, 60 hours

Instructor: Farid Guliyev, PhD

Office: Neftchilar campus, Room 503

fguliyev@khazar.org

Office Hours: by appointment

Classroom / hours: 41 Mehseti str.

(Neftchilar campus), Room: TBD

Mondays: TBD

Course description

This course provides an introduction to Comparative Politics, a subfield of Political Science. It focuses on state-society relations, government structures and institutional features of different political systems across the world. The course is divided into three parts. In Part I, we examine some of the key concepts in comparative political research as well as the main methods of comparative analysis. Part II provides an overview of democratic institutional arrangements such as political parties and electoral systems. In Part III, we discuss the role of people's beliefs in the establishment and consolidation of democratic institutions.

Course objectives:

- The course familiarizes students with a variety of conceptual approaches and theoretical frameworks and assesses their usefulness through analysis of specific country case studies.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the analytical tools and approaches learnt to a wide range of substantive issues.

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- gain a familiarity with a variety of perspectives on key debates in the field of Comparative Politics;
- sharpen their understanding of different approaches to the major themes of the course;
- learn and be able to debate about some of the key analytical approaches advanced by comparativist scholarship;
- gain knowledge about the majoritarian versus consensus elements of democratic forms of government;
- appreciate the important role that political cultural values play in bringing about democracy.

Course requirements

Students are expected to attend all lecture and seminar sessions, to do the assigned readings before class meetings, and to participate actively in class discussions. The final grade will be based on attendance (10%), midterm exam (30%), two quizzes (10% each), and final exam (40%).

Failure to take an exam without a duly authorized written medical excuse will result in 0 points for that exam/ assignment. You are required to inform the instructor about your absence or family emergency *at least 2 workdays in advance* (no excuse will be granted retrospectively). Participation in a conference or other similar event is not a valid excuse.

Two quizzes (40 min, in-class) will be used to assess whether the student acquired the intended knowledge and skills. The **midterm** examination covers lectures and readings discussed by that point. The **final exam** covers all the course readings, lectures, and class discussion, and will be scheduled by the Registrar.

Final grades will be determined based on the following calculation:

Assignment	% of grade
1. Attendance	10%
2. In-class quiz I	10%
3. In-class quiz II	10%
4. Midterm	30%
5. Final exam	40%

Attendance in class is mandatory, and you are required to sign the attendance sheet I will distribute in class. Unexcused absences will result in deductions of participation points on a progressive scale as shown below. If you miss 8 (eight) or more class meetings without valid excuse (health issue or family emergency), you will automatically get an “F” for this course.

Attendance grade is calculated based on the following criteria:

Number of absences	Grade (max.10)
1	10
2	9
3	7
4	6
5	4
6	3
7	1
8	0 (F)

Use of laptop computers or mobile devices is not permitted in class. Please turn off your laptops and other electronic devices during lectures and discussions.

Course readings

Readings must be completed prior to class meetings. All required readings come from 4 books:

1. Landman, Todd. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*. 3rd ed. London: Routledge, 2008. **[LANDMAN]**
2. Powell, G. Bingham, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom, *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 11th Edition, New York: Pearson Longman, 2014. **[POWELL]**.
3. Lijphart, Arend, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, 2nd Edition, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. **[LIJPHART]**.
4. Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005 **[INGLEHART & WELZEL]**.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1)	Sept. 18	Introduction / Course Overview Key Concepts	LANDMAN: Ch. 1. Why Compare Countries? Ch. 2. How to Compare Countries Instructor's handouts
2)	Sept. 25	Comparative Approaches	LANDMAN: Ch. 3., 4, 5
3)	Oct. 2	Comparative Research Design	POWELL: Ch. 2. Comparing Political Systems
4)	Oct. 9	Politics in Britain	Ch. 8. Politics in Britain
5)	Oct. 16	Definitions of Democracy (Dahl) <u>QUIZ 1</u>	DAHL: Polyarchy [extracts]. Alvarez, M., Cheibub, J. A., Limongi, F., & Przeworski, A. [ACLP], A. Classifying Political Regimes. <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> , 31:2 (1996), 3-36. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240357392_Classifying_Political_Regimes
6)	Oct. 23	Definitions of Democracy (Other)	Freedom House, Freedom in the World. Survey Methodology, 2021 https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/FreedomInTheWorld_2021_Methodology_Checklist_of_Questions.pdf
7)	Oct. 30	Democratic Institutions	LIJPHART: Ch. 2. The Westminster Model of Democracy Ch. 3. The Consensus Model of Democracy

			Ch. 4. Thirty-Six Democracies
8)	Nov. 6	Political Parties	<p>GUNTER & DIAMOND:</p> <p>Gunther, Richard, and Larry Diamond. Species of Political Parties: A New Typology. <i>Party Politics</i> 9:2 (2003): 167-199. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/13540688030092003</p> <p>POWELL:</p> <p>Ch. 10. Politics in Germany</p>
9)	Nov. 13	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>	
10)	Nov. 20	Electoral Systems	<p>LIJPHART:</p> <p>Ch. 8. Electoral Systems</p> <p>REYNOLDS:</p> <p>Ch.2. The World of Electoral Systems</p> <p>Ch. 3. The Systems and Their Consequences</p> <p>Reynolds, Andrew, Ben Reilly, and Andrew Ellis. <i>Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook</i>. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 2008. https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/electoral-system-design-new-international-idea-handbook</p>
11)	Nov. 27	Democratic Institutions Party Systems	<p>LIJPHART:</p> <p>Ch. 5. Party Systems</p> <p>POWELL:</p> <p>Ch. 19. United States</p>
12)	Dec. 4	Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Semi-presidentialism <u>QUIZ 2</u>	<p>LIJPHART</p> <p>Ch. 6. Executive-Legislative Relations</p> <p>Skach, Cindy. The 'Newest' Separation of Powers: Semipresidentialism." <i>International Journal of Constitutional</i></p>

			<p><i>Law</i> 5:1 (2007): 93-121. https://academic.oup.com/icon/article/5/1/93/722466</p> <p>POWELL: Ch. 9. France</p>
13)	Dec. 11	Political Culture and Value Change	<p>INGLEHART & WELZEL: Ch. 1. A Revised Theory of Modernization Ch. 2. Value Change and the Persistence of Cultural Traditions</p> <p>World Values Survey: https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSCContents.jsp</p>
14)	Dec. 18	Political Culture and Value Change	<p>INGLEHART & WELZEL: Ch. 7. The Causal Link Between Democratic Values and Democratic Institutions Ch. 8. Empirical Analyses</p>
15)	Dec. 25	Comparative Politics and IR	<p>LANDMAN: Ch. 12. International Relations and Comparative Politics</p>
16)	TBD	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	