



Academic Year 2017-2018

Syllabus

Political systems

CFU 6

Prof. Emilie Frenkiel

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the comparative study of politics. It aims at familiarizing students with the main concepts of political science with a focus on the concepts of public sphere, democracy, authoritarianism and democratization. With special emphasis on the evolution and the diversity of political situations and attention to not only national but also local and global scales, we will compare and contrast the political regimes of various countries of the world, the roles of key political actors, political institutions, political processes and patterns of political competition. We will be particularly interested in Asian countries (including China, India, Japan, Taiwan). The main objective for this course is to provide students with the broad context needed for analyzing the political phenomena of any country and understand the main criteria and tools used to compare and rank countries in the world, as well as what we mean by democracy, the role media and social media play in democracy, what makes a non-democracy become more democratic, what makes a stable democracy and so on.

Teaching Method

The course is based on lectures introducing students with major political concepts, institutions, processes, theories, and detailing case studies taken both from consolidated Western democracies, more recent democracies (India, Japan, Brazil) and non-democratic countries like Iran and China. Active participation is demanded on the part of students. Lectures will be supplemented with practical study based on class discussions, text commentaries in class and at home, as well as collective oral presentations on specific countries.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	What is politics? What is comparative politics?
Topic 2	What is the public sphere? What role do media and social media play in democracies?
Topic 3	How to classify political systems?
Topic 4	How to define democracy?
Topic 5	Development and transitions
Topic 6	Representative, participatory, deliberative democracy

Textbook and Materials

Alan Draper, Ansil Ramsay, *The Good society: an introduction to comparative politics*, 2nd edition, Pearson, 2012

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative politics*, 5th edition, Norton, 2015

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger & William A. Joseph, *Introduction to comparative politics, Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 6th edition, Cengage Learning, 2013, Chapter 1

G. Bingham Powell, Russel J. Dalton and Kaare Strom, *Comparative politics Today, a world view*, 11th edition, Pearson, 2015, chapters 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18

Pierre Rosanvallon, *Democracy, Past and Future*, Columbia University Press, 2007

Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro and José Antonio Cheibub, *The Democracy Sourcebook*, MIT, 2003, chapter 1

Assessment

Students will be assessed through a mid-term home text commentary (30%) due before the Christmas break. The final exam is an oral exam (40%) taking place in January 16th and 17th. Finally, collective groups will focus on case studies and make oral presentations (30%). Students are demanded to actively take part in class discussions, notably as they prepare video and text commentaries throughout the course. Their final mark will also be rounded off so as to reflect their homework and participation in the class discussions.

Students who do not pass the mid-term written text commentary or who reject the mark of both the mid-term written text commentary and the oral presentations will take an additional written exam added to the final oral exam.

You will be able to keep the results of midterms/oral presentations only within the same exam session, otherwise the whole exam will have to be redone in another session.

Non-attending students are required to take the oral final exam test with an additional written part based on additional readings they will be assigned. The mark will be based 100% on the final.

Office hours

Contact email address: anmingli@gmail.com

Appointments with the professor must be taken before or after the class, or by email.

NOTE: Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus or non Global Governance students** who would like to attend the course need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail global.governance@uniroma2.it for registration and inform the Professor of the course. They are required to sign a code of conduct like all Global Governance students, accepting all values and rules. Please read it carefully before enrolling. Please notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson and only 3 absences are permitted to take the exams as attending student.
