

**University of New York  
Tirana**

Introduction to Political Science & Comparative Politics  
Fall 2007

Lecturer: Enika Abazi, Ph.D.

E-mail: [eabazi@unyt.edu.al](mailto:eabazi@unyt.edu.al)

Classes: Friday, 17.00-20.00

Tutorials: 16.00-17.00 or by appointment (Use my email address).

Classroom: 4C

Course Description:

Why is there an influential third party in many rich democracies, but not in the United States? Why do political parties that profess radically different ideologies often enact surprisingly similar policies? Why are government bureaucracies in some countries blatantly corrupt while others are relatively professional? Why does democratic consolidation occur more easily in some setting than others?

This course is an introduction to a field of study that attempts to answer such questions. It seeks to understand why political systems are stable or unstable, free or unfree, violent or peaceful, stagnant or productive. This field of study has a long pedigree (going at least as far back as Aristotle) and has been called many things. Here we will call it comparative politics.

Comparative Politics can be viewed as that area of political science that uses cross-national comparisons to add to our understanding of political phenomena. Thus, "comparison" is a defining factor of comparative politics and will be addressed in a self-conscious manner through out the class. That said, self-conscious comparison is not unique to the field of comparative politics, but rather, is a key component in the scientific method - to do science is to compare. Thus, all political science is comparative politics, but we will focus our attention on that area of political science that attempts to understand politics through comparing characteristics of nation states.

But what is political science? Politics can be thought of as the area of human interaction involving the use of power. Science is a method of asking questions and building and testing explanations. Thus, political science is that science which aims to explain the exercise and regulation of power. Accordingly, I have organized this class around questions that have arisen concerning the study of power, rather than around the study of countries or regions of the world.

I have chosen to pursue a "two-track" strategy in choosing readings. The text books that will be our guide through the semester does a good job of telling you what political scientists do. It will be supplemented by journal articles which will allow you to see them actually doing it. The text is well organized and oriented toward beginning students, the journal articles will be a good deal more challenging, but, I think, well worth the effort. All of the readings not found in the texts will be available in a course pack. While I hope they supplement the text they are not supplemental in the sense of being optional - my

expectation is that all readings on this syllabus will be done before they are discussed in class.

**Course Requirements:**

To help you prepare for discussions sections, homework exercises will regularly assigned. These assignments will be due at the start of that week's discussion section. In addition to the homeworks, there will be two in-class exams: a mid-term and a final. These will contain both objective and essay portions. The homeworks will be particularly good preparation for the objective portions of the exams.

**Grading:**

Grades will be determined in the following manner:

Participation: 10%

Homeworks: 20%

Mid-term: 35%

Final: 35%

**Academic Honesty:**

I expect and require that you will conduct yourself within the norms of academic honesty. First and foremost among these is the need to distinguish between your words and ideas, and the words and ideas of others. Failure to do this puts you on the wrong side of this institution's rules regarding academic honesty and you will be punished accordingly. Please see me if you are uncertain in any way about what your responsibilities in this area are.

Required Texts:

Andrew Heywood (2002) *Politics*. Second Edition. New York: Palgrave

Noel O'Sullivan (2000) *Political Theory in Transition*. London: Routledge

Schedule:

**Scope and Methods**

**WEEK 1**

**Introduction**

**What is Politics?**

Heywood, Chapter 1. (3-24)

**WEEK 2**

**Government, Systems and Regimes**

Heywoodm Chapter 2 (25-39)

**Political Ideologies**

Heywood Chapter 3 (41-65)

Recommended: Adam Przeworski, (1991) "Could We Feed Everyone? The Irrationality of Capitalism and the Infeasibility of Socialism," *Politics & Society*. 19:1 (March 1991):1- 39

Thursday,

**WEEK 3**

## **Democracy**

Heywood Chapter 4 (67-82)

### **Citizenship democracy and the nature of the political in conditions of social diversity**

*Citizenship beyond the nation state: the case of Europe*

Bellamy at O'Sullivan (91-112)

*For an Agonistic Model of Democracy*

Mouffe at O'Sullivan (113-130)

## **WEEK 4**

### **The State**

Heywood Chapter 5 (67-83)

Recommended: Another View of the Modern State

a) Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in *Bringing the state back in* edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Theda Skocpol. (New York : Cambridge University Press, 1985.) pages 169 - 191.

### **The Concept of the Individual**

*Communitarism and its legacy*

Mason at O'Sullivan (19-32)

*Identity, diversity and the politics of recognition*

Patreck at O'Sullivan (20-46)

## **WEEK 5**

### **Nations and Nationalism**

Heywood Chapter 6 (105-123)

*Nationalism and Political Theory*

Archard at O'Sullivan (155-171)

*Globalisation, the nation state and the political theory*

Hirst at O'Sullivan (172-189)

## **WEEK 6**

### **Global Politics and Sub-national Politics**

Heywood Chapter 7 (125-156)

Heywood Chapter 8 (157-173)

## **WEEK 7**

### **MID-TERM EXAM**

## **Comparing Political Systems**

## **WEEK 8**

### **The Economy and Society**

Heywood, Chapter 9 (177-196)

### **Political Culture, Communications and Legitimacy**

Heywood, Chapter 10 (199-219)

## RECOMMENDED

### *Democratization*

Robert H. Bates (March 1991) "The Economics of Transitions to Democracy," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 24:1 ():24-27

## WEEK 9

### **Representation, Elections and Voting**

Heywood, Chapter 11 (223-244)

### **Parties and Party Systems**

Heywood, Chapter 12 (247-265)

#### RECOMMENDED:

William H. Riker, 1982. "[Duverger's Law Revisited](#)," in *Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences*, in Bernard Grofman and Arend Lijphart, eds., (New York: Agathon Press):19-42. (or APSR version: Vol. 76, No. 4. (Dec., 1982), pp. 753-766. )

Octavio Amorin Neto and Gary W. Cox, 1997. "[Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties](#)," *American Journal of Political Science* 41:1 (January) :149-174.

### **Groups, Interests and Movements**

Heywood, Chapter 13

## Machinery of Government

## WEEK 10

### **Constitutions, the Law and Judiciaries**

Heywood, Chapter 14 (291-306)

### **Assemblies**

Heywood, Chapter 15 (311-330)

## WEEK 11

### **Political Executives**

Heywood, Chapter 16 (333-354)

#### RECOMMENDED:

Alfred Stepan and Cindy Skach, (October 1993) "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism," *World Politics* 46:1-22.

Scott Mainwaring. (1999) "The Surprising Resilience of Elected Governments" *Journal of Democracy* 10:3: 101-114.

## WEEK 12

### **Bureaucracies**

Heywood, Chapter 17 (357-374)

### The Problem of Bureaucratic Reform

Barbara Geddes (1991) "[A Game Theoretic Model of Reform in Latin American Democracies](#)," *American Political Science Review* 85:2 (June):371-392. JSTOR

Thursday, May 2

**WEEK 13**

**Militaries and Police Forces**

Heywood, Chapter 18 (377-393)

**WEEK 14**

**Policy process and System Performance**

Heywood, Chapter 19 (399-415)

**Review**

**WEEK 15**

**FINAL EXAM**