INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy

Political Science RPOS 102X
Spring Semester 2017
Monday and Wednesday, 2:45 PM – 4:05 PM, LC 18

Professor: Irina A. Chindea
Email: Ichindea@albany.edu
Office: Milne 121A
Office Hours: take place in the Contact Office (Humanities B-16)
Monday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Teachings Assistants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Sections Time</th>
<th>Sections Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inga Miller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:imiller@albany.edu">imiller@albany.edu</a></td>
<td>Wednesday 12:00PM–2:00PM</td>
<td>9:20AM–10:15AM</td>
<td>BBB 3</td>
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<td>Nakissa Jahanbani</td>
<td><a href="mailto:njahanbani@albany.edu">njahanbani@albany.edu</a></td>
<td>Wednesday 12:00PM–2:00PM</td>
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<td>10:25AM–11:20AM</td>
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<td>11:30AM–12:25PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jiacheng Ren</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jren7@albany.edu">jren7@albany.edu</a></td>
<td>Friday 12:35PM–2:35PM</td>
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* Students enrolled in this recitation, should stay alert to potential room changes during the first two weeks of class.
Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the theories and practices of international relations and comparative politics. We will explore how various actors (e.g., states, individuals, and non-governmental organizations) interact with one another in the international arena, as well as essential issues that affect state behavior such as war and democratization. We will consider questions such as: What is a state? What is a nation? Why do wars occur? How does anarchy in the international system affect the behavior of states? What is the role of non-state actors in the international system? By the end of the course you should develop a better understanding of many of the essential issues, theories, and problems that political scientists research, and you should acquire a rudimentary knowledge of the methods that are used.

Expectations: This is a reading intensive course, and students are expected to attend every class having read and prepared to discuss the assigned texts. Attendance of lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. All students are expected to turn in the assigned work on time. Late submissions will incur a penalty of 1/3 grade point per day.

Course objectives: By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the differences between international relations and comparative politics.
2. Understand and explain the major theories of international relations and comparative politics.
3. Understand how to apply these theories to grasp the meaning of everyday political interactions at international and domestic level.
4. Have an understanding of the rudiments of research in international relations and comparative politics.
5. Identify the leading authors in the IR and CP fields, as well as the theories, seminal works and key concepts they are associated with.

The course fulfills the following General Education requirements (under each are listed relevant course objectives).


1. An understanding that human conduct and behavior more generally are subject to scientific inquiry
2. An understanding of the difference between rigorous and systematic thinking and uncritical thinking about social phenomena
3. An understanding of the kinds of questions social scientists ask and the ways they go about answering these questions
4. Knowledge of the major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences
5. An understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, such as observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection,
experimentation, evaluation of evidence, employment of mathematical analysis, employment of interpretive analysis.

**General Education Challenges for the 21st Century:**

1. Knowledge and understanding of the historical roots, contemporary manifestations, and potential future courses of important challenges students may encounter as they move into the world beyond the university

2. Familiarity with these challenges in areas such as cultural diversity and pluralism, science and technology, social interaction, ethics, global citizenship, and/or others

3. An integrated understanding of how challenges often affect individuals and societies simultaneously in many of these areas

4. An appreciation for interdisciplinary approaches to understanding contemporary and future challenges.

**Ground Rules:**

This class is challenging, and it is important that it remains fair for all the students and that everyone plays on an even playing field. In order to insure that the policies of the class are clear, they are spelled out below. If you have any questions about what the policy means, please ask before it becomes personally relevant.

- **Questions**

  Education is about learning. This class is about material you have probably not covered before in this context. If you have questions or things are unclear – ask questions. Ask them in section, ask them in lecture, and feel free to email the TA’s or me to ask for further clarification. Your questions may include any problems you might have about Blackboard or any other technical aspect of the course. (Please note – I always respond to emails. If I do not respond to your email within a reasonable time, please email me again because it means that I did not get your first email.)

- **Attendance**

  This is a labor-intensive course. You have to come to lecture and to section. While there will be no attendance taken in lecture, there will be no make ups for missed quizzes without a specific medical excuse. Religious observance will be a reason for a make-up, but this needs to be brought to my attention before the student plans on being absent. As far as section goes, each person is allowed one unexcused absence. Any other absence must be excused by the TA before the absence, or excused afterwards based on a medical note. Any unexcused absence after the first one will result in a half grade penalty per absence for the course. **Really.** Repeated late arrivals will result in a warning, and then also result in a half grade penalty per absence.

  If you are sick in order to make up an exam or to remove an absence for section please bring in a note from the Dean of Undergraduate studies (Lecture Center 30 Phone: 518-442-3950), who is responsible for excused absence certification. Without such a note any absence from section or missed exams will count against you.
- **Late Assignments**

Unless you have gotten prior approval from a TA through email or have a note from the Undergraduate Dean, all late work will be penalized. All grade appeals should be made in email, and should explain exactly why you think the grading was mistaken. The email should be emailed to me and your TA. Your first discussion about the grade should be with your TA, and then with me. Please be aware that upon reviewing your graded exam, your revised grade may go *either up or down*; the latter, if upon review, I find that your TA was too generous in her grading. So, *Grade Complainers be aware!*

- **Office hours**

Office hours are your opportunity to get personalized guidance for assignments as well as help better understanding the course material. Take advantage of it. Both myself and the TAs will have weekly office hours, and will meet with you as long as necessary to help you understand the material. If these times are not good for you, then please email the TA or me, and we will set up a time that works in order to meet.

- **Academic Integrity**

Assignments that you submit for this course will be reported to Judicial Affairs if any evidence of academic dishonesty is detected. To avoid such an unpleasant occurrence and its consequences (e.g. failing the course), please familiarize yourself with the undergraduate bulletin’s descriptions of cheating and plagiarism. You can find it at: [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html). If you have any questions about plagiarism, proper citation or any other issues involving academic integrity, please do not hesitate to come and see me. The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe, and it is better to clarify them as soon as they arise rather than to make a mistake in this area.

- **Accommodations**

“Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in any Department of Literacy Teaching and Learning class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (BA-120, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.” For the University’s policy, please see [http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml). If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

**Course Requirements:** There are four requirements for this class.

a. **Attendance and active participation** will count 30% towards your final grade. The attendance points are divided as follows:

i. 15% for mandatory attendance of discussion sections;

ii. 15% for in-class quizzes, usually given at the beginning of the class. There will be three announced quizzes (see *Important Dates* section), and two unannounced quizzes. In total, there will be five quizzes, each worth 3% of your grade. Quizzes will be made up of short answer questions or multiple choice questions, and, occasionally, short essay questions. Each quiz will be about 15-20 minutes, and
you should plan your answers accordingly. Please note that the quizzes will focus on whether you are reading and coming to lecture – i.e. it will test whether you are taking notes, and remembering the facts and theories from the material covered in readings or lectures.

b. **In-class mid-term exam**: 25%. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course, which is focused on theories of international relations. The exam will cover the material in the books, the material in lectures and in sections. The exam will be made up of combinations of short answer and/or multiple-choice questions, and an essay. Instructions on the best way to answer such an essay will be handed out prior to the exam. More details on the points that you are expected to cover in both parts of the exam, and its format will be provided to you in advance.

c. **Research and hypothesis-testing paper**: 20%. Students will identify a research question and a hypothesis, which they will frame theoretically and test empirically. The paper itself will be between 10 to 15 pages double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 as a font, 1 inch margins (bottom, top, left and right). The paper will be due on April 19th, at the end of class in hard copy. An electronic copy should also be emailed to me and to your TA by the end of class on that same day, April 19th. All topics should be developed in consultation with me and your TA. I encourage you to come to my office hours as well as those of your TA to discuss your ideas. A handout with details regarding the structure of the paper and what is expected of you will be handed out in recitation by the end of the first week of class. **DO NOT WAIT** until the last minute to choose your topic. **START EARLY** working on your paper!

d. **Second in-class exam**: 25%. The second exam will cover only the second half of the course, which is focused on theories of comparative politics. In a similar fashion to the midterm exam, this second exam will cover the material in the books, the material in lectures and in sections. The exam will be made up of combinations of short answer and/or multiple-choice questions, and an essay. Instructions on the best way to answer such an essay will be handed out prior to the exam. More details on the points that you are expected to cover in both parts of the exam, and its format will be provided to you in advance.

**Important Dates:**
- First Quiz: **February 8th, 2017**
- Midterm Exam: **Wednesday, March 8th, 2017**
- Second Quiz: **April 12th, 2017**
- Research Paper: **Wednesday, April 19th, 2017**
- Third Quiz: **April 24th, 2017**
- Second In-class Exam: **Wednesday, May 10th, 2017**.

**Readings:** There are **three required** books for this course. All three are available at the bookstore, but also online with a variety of providers.


**ERCP: Essential Readings in Comparative Politics**, by Patrick H. O’Neil and Ronald Rogowski, W.W. Norton Company, 2010. Third edition. (You may also use the latest – fourth edition. I will upload on Blackboard the readings that are present in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} edition, but are missing in the 4\textsuperscript{th}.)

Besides the textbook, the rest of the readings for this course are either available on Blackboard (under Course Materials) or can be accessed using the University Libraries online databases (http://library.albany.edu/db/). The readings posted on Blackboard are marked on the syllabus with **BB** next to them. The articles available on-line through the University Libraries online databases are marked as **Electronic Resources (ER)**. The readings assigned from the three assigned books are marked with **KM** (Karen Mingst), **AJ** (Art & Jervis) and **ERCP** (Essential Readings in Comparative Politics).

**Numerical grades are converted to letters based on the following scale:**

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<td>B</td>
<td>83.5 – 86</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73.5 – 76</td>
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<td>69.5 – 73</td>
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<td>60 – 63</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66.5 – 69</td>
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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**January 23, 2017 – Course Introduction**

– Discuss Syllabus, Course Organization, Grading, and Class Policies

**January 25, 2017 – The Discipline and Its Methods**

– Mingst: Chapter 1, “Approaches to International Relations” (**KM**)

– Gabriel Almond et al., “Issues in Comparative Politics,” 3-13 (**BB**)

– Essential Readings: Lichbach and Zuckerman, “Research traditions and theory in comparative politics” (**ERCP**)

**For Friday’s recitation (January 27), please read**: Stephen Van Evera, “Hypotheses, Laws, and Theories” 7-30 (**BB**)

**January 30, 2017 – Defining the State. The Creation of the Modern International System**

– Mingst: Chapter 2 (until page 51), “The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations” (**KM**)


6
February 1, 2017 – Theories of International Relations. Anarchy and Levels of Analysis

- Mingst: Chapter 3 (until page 76), “Contending Perspectives: How To Think About International Relations” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 4 (from page 124 to 130), “The International System” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 5 (from page 133 to 138; from page 146 to 151), “The State” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 6 (until page 197): “The Individual” (KM)

For Friday’s recitation (February 3), please read: Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" (BB) and J. David Singer, “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations” (BB)

February 6, 2017 – Realism and Causes of War (1)

- Mingst: Chapter 3 (from page 76 till page 83), “Contending Perspectives: How To Think About International Relations” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 4 (from page 109 to 116), “The International System” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 5 (from page 139 to 142), “The State” (KM)
- International Politics: Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue” (AJ)
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory” (BB)


First Quiz!

- Mingst: Chapter 8 (from page 261 to 293; 297 to 303), “War And Strife” (KM)
- International Politics: Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (AJ)

For Friday’s recitation (February 10), please read:

- International Politics: Hans Morgenthau, “The Six Principles of Political Realism” (AJ)
- Stephen Van Evera, “Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War” (BB)
February 13, 2017 – System Polarity and World Order

– Kenneth Waltz, “The Stability of a Bipolar World” (BB)
– Karl Deutsch and J. David Singer, “Multipolar Systems and International Stability” (BB)
– John J. Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War” (BB)

February 15, 2017 – Power Transitions. Will China’s Rise be Peaceful?

– Richard Betts and Thomas Christensen, “China: Can the Next Superpower Rise Without War?” (BB)

For Friday’s recitation (February 17), please read:


February 20, 2017 – Liberalism. Causes of Peace (I)

– Mingst: Chapter 3 (from page 83 to 89), “Contending Perspectives: How To Think About International Relations” (KM)
– Mingst: Chapter 4 (from page 116 to 118), “The International System” (KM)
– Mingst: Chapter 5 (from page 142 to 143), “The State” (KM)
– Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace” (BB)
– Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points” (BB)


– Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, “Democratization and War.” (BB)
– Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, “Power and Interdependence.” (BB)

For Friday’s recitation (February 24), please read:

– Michael Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” (BB)
February 27, 2017 – International Institutions, and the Problem of Cooperation

- Mingst: Chapter 7 (from page 209 to 220; from 227 to 245), “Intergovernmental Organizations” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 8 (from page 305 to 314), “War And Strife” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 9 (from page 317 to 338), “International Political Economy” (KM)

March 1, 2017 – Constructivism

- Mingst: Chapter 3 (from page 92 to 95), “Contending Perspectives: How To Think About International Relations” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 4 (from page 123 to 124), “The International System” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 5 (from page 144 to 145), “The State” (KM)
- International Politics: Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It" (AJ)
- John Mueller, “The Obsolescence of Major War” (BB)

For Friday’s recitation (March 3), please read:

- Robert O. Keohane, “Cooperation and International Regimes” (BB)
- Joseph M. Grieco, “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation” (BB)

March 6, 2017 – The Functions of Force. Nuclear Deterrence

- International Politics: Robert Art, “The Four Functions of Force” (AJ)
- Mingst: Chapter 5 (from page 151 to 161), “The State” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 8 (from page 303 to 305), “War And Strife” (KM)
- International Politics: Kenneth Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb” (AJ)

March 8, 2017: In class MID-TERM exam.

For Friday’s recitation (March 10), please read:

March 11 to March 19, 2017: SPRING Break!

   - James Madison, The Federalist No.10 (BB)
   - Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, 1-16 (BB)


For Friday’s recitation (March 24), please read:
   - Essential Readings, North, “Institutions” (ERPC)
   - Essential Readings: Lijphart, “Constitutional choices for new democracies” (ERPC)

March 27, 2017 – Core Concepts in Comparative Politics (3): Political Culture
   - Gabriel Almond et. al., *Comparative Politics*, Chapter 3, “Political culture and socialization,” 56-67 (BB)

March 29, 2017 – Types of Political Regimes: Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Hybrid Regimes
   - Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy*, 1-16 (BB)
   - Essential Readings, Schmitter and Karl, “What democracy is and is not” (ERPC)
   - Essential Readings, Linz and Stepan, “Modern non-democratic regimes” (ERPC)
April 3, 2017 – What Causes Democracy?

– Essential Readings, Lipset, “Economic development and democracy” (ERPC 3rd edition; available of BB if you have the 4th edition)

– Robert Putnam, Making Democracy Work, 1-16, 163-185 (BB)

April 5, 2017 – What Hinders Democracy?

– Michael Ross, “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” World Politics (53), 325-337, 356-357 (BB)

– M. Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism,” World Politics (55), 4-10, 20-37 (BB)


April 10, 2017 – Passover: CLASSES SUSPENDED

April 12, 2017 – Recent Waves of Democratization: The Arab Spring

Second Quiz!

– Essential Readings, Goldstone, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011” (ERPC 4th edition; BB for those who have the 3rd edition)

– Eva Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East. Lessons from the Arab Spring,” Comparative Politics, v. 44, no. 2 (January 2012), 127-149 (BB)

– Michael Ross, “Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring?” Foreign Affairs, September/October 2011, 17-22 (BB)


– Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel, 13-32 and 405-425 (BB)


– Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle, 3-34 (BB)
April 19, 2017 – Is Democracy Good for Growth?

RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY THE END OF CLASS!

- Essential Readings, Przeworski “Political regimes and economic growth,” (ERPC 3rd edition; BB for those who have the 4th edition)
- Milton Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom, 22-36 (BB)

For Friday’s recitation (April 19), please read:


April 24, 2017 – Nationalism and the Politics of Ethnic Identity

Third Quiz!

- Ernest Gellner, Nationalism, 1-62 (BB)

April 26, 2017 – Ethnic Conflict


May 1, 2017 – Human Rights. The Responsibility to Protect

- Mingst: Chapter 7 (from page 220 to 226), “Intergovernmental Organizations” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 8 (from page 293 to 297), “War And Strife” (KM)
- Mingst: Chapter 10, “Human Rights” (KM)
- John Western and Joshua Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age.” (AJ)
May 3 – Political Violence. Theories of Social Revolution. Causes of Terrorism

– Essential Readings, Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist party” (ERPC)

– Essential Readings, Skocpol, “France, Russia, China: a structural analysis of social revolutions.” (ERPC)


– Essential Readings, Crenshaw, “The Causes of Terrorism” (ERPC)

For Friday’s recitation (May 5), please read:

– Richard Betts, “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention” (BB)

May 8, 2017: Review Session

May 10, 2017: In-Class Second Exam.