



PLCP 1010: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Summer 2010
Daily, 10:30 - 12:45
New Cabell Hall 332

“For the essence of science, I would suggest, is simply the refusal to believe on the basis of hope.”
— *Barrington Moore, Jr.*

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Daily, 13:00 - 14:00 or by appointment

Textbooks:

Clark, Golder, and Golder, *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2009

Mayer, Thames, and Patterson, *Contending Perspectives in Comparative Politics*, 2009

Both texts may be found at the UVa bookstore or online.

Course Description:

CP 1010Z provides a basis for understanding and explaining similarities and differences in the character of political life as observed in different settings. Issues include the political role of parties and interest groups, management of political conflict, establishment of legitimate political authority, and the consequences of federal and unitary systems of government. PLCP 1010Z will focus principally on current topics in Comparative Politics in order to get new students familiar with current researcher practices and approaches in the field.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Grading:

This is a summer course. Therefore, class participation is very important. Please come to class prepared to critically address the materials assigned. If you do not come prepared, it will be obvious to both the professor and your peers and you will fail to make the most of this opportunity. Since this is a summer course, the readings have been reduced. You will be assigned roughly 60 pages per night, sometimes more, sometimes less. You do not have to read every page, the point is get the general ideas.

Your grade will be based on the following:

Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Final	25%
Participation	25%
— Each student must turn in 7 problem sets that count 15% of participation	
— Each student is expected to participate. Participation counts for 10% of the participation grade	
— Attendance does not count towards your grade but you may be penalized for excessive absences	

Academic Honesty:

Students must sign the Honor Pledge on each assignment. Cheating of any kind will be punished according to the dictates of the Honor Code of the University of Virginia.

University Attendance Policy:

Students will receive 2 free absences. Thereafter, each additional absence will cost the student three 3 points off of their final grade. For example, If I student receives a grade of 90 in the course but has missed 4 classes, the students final grade will be an 84.

This is an intensive summer course. It is pivotal that students attend daily or they risk falling behind.

Course Outline:

Class 1: Introduction to Course and CP I
Review the Syllabus, Introductions, Expectations
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 1

Class 2: What is Science? Intro to CP II
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 2
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 1

Class 3: What is Politics? Intro to CP III
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 3
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 2

Class 4: The Origins of the Modern State
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 4

Class 5: Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter

Class 6: The Economic Determinants of Democracy
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 6
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 10
Lipsets Social Requisites 69-86 (skim)

Class 7: Cultural Determinants of Democracy - Democracy I
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 7
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 15

Class 8: Test #1 / Film #1

Class 9: Democratic Transitions - Democracy II
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 8
Michael Ross, Does Oil Hinder Democracy? World Politics 53: 3 (2001), pp. 325-61
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 14

Class 10: Does Democracy Make a Difference? - Democracy III
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 13
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 9
Class 10: Varieties of Democracy
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 10

Class 11: Parliamentary, Presidential, and Mixed Democracies - Democracy V
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 11
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 3

Class 12: Elections and Electoral Systems
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 12
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 6

Class 13: Social Cleavages and Party Systems
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 13
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 5

Class 14: The Effect of Varieties of Democracy
Clark, Golder and Golder - Chapter 15

Class 15: Test #2 / Film #2

Class 16: The State and National Sovereignty Part 1: The Importance of the State in an Age of Globalization
Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 8 and 9

Class 17: Globalization:

Kaplan, *The Coming Anarchy*

Rohter, *Grievances That Can Bring Globalization to Grief*, *New York Times*

Sadowski, *The Myth of Global Chaos* Chapter 1 (pp. 1-6), Chapter 10

Class 18: Violence and Revolution

Mayer, Thames, and Patterson Chapter 12

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, *Explaining Interethnic Cooperation*, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 90 (1996) 4: 715-35.

Class 19: Ethnic Conflict (readings on collab)

Ashutosh Varshney, *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Rationality*, *Perspectives on Politics* 1: 1 (March 2003), 85-100

The Banality of Ethnic War - John Mueller

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, *Explaining Interethnic Cooperation*, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 90 (1996) 4: 715-35.

Class 20: Test #3 / Film #3