

**University of Washington**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**  
**POLS 204**

**Winter Quarter 2011**  
*Lectures MWF 12:30-1:20pm*  
*Room 120 Smith Hall*

**Professor Susan Whiting**  
*45 Gowen Hall, 543-9163*  
[swhiting@u.washington.edu](mailto:swhiting@u.washington.edu)  
*Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00pm*

### **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the subfield of comparative politics in political science. Comparative politics—in contrast to international relations, which studies phenomena (like inter-state wars) that *cross* international boundaries—focuses on phenomena *within* state boundaries. At the same time, scholars in comparative politics recognize that the *causes* of phenomena *within* state boundaries may be either international or domestic. Comparative politics—unlike American politics—examines phenomena within countries *other* than our own. Finally, comparative politics gains insight through comparison, asking how and why countries are similar to or different from each other. For the purposes of this course, the most salient similarities and differences involve the phenomenon of development, which has both economic and political features. This course will answer the following questions about development:

- Why are some countries rich and some countries poor?
- Why are some countries democratic and some authoritarian?
- Why are some countries stable and others wracked by violence?

We will study four important theories that each purport to explain developmental outcomes. These theories are neo-liberalism, modernization, dependency, and statism. Neo-liberalism suggests that rich countries are rich because they have relied on highly efficient specialization and division of labor within a free market in order to develop. Modernization holds that economic wealth and its correlates lead to democratic forms of government. In contrast, dependency claims that rich, democratic countries derived much of their wealth by plundering the resources of others, leaving global inequality and a trail of poor, authoritarian countries in their wake. Finally, statism holds that strategic intervention in the economy by relatively autonomous government agencies—not exclusive reliance on the free market—is the key to prosperity for countries still trying to develop today.

We will examine these theories in the context of six cases: Britain, Japan, Russia, China, Mexico, and Nigeria. Materials for each case will include readings on the country's place in the global political economy and the nature of its state institutions, as well as the place of the individual in the polity and economy. The goal is not only for students to develop a base of knowledge about political and economic change in six countries, but also for students to learn to evaluate competing explanations and to develop arguments that account for changes in the world around them.

Finally, we will also briefly examine some other important institutional features of our six cases, including the significance of presidential vs. parliamentary institutions, electoral system design, and unitary vs. federal systems of government.

## Grading and Course Requirements

Students' grades will be based on the following elements:

1. Quiz section (15%)
2. Test One (25%)  
Students will take the first in-class test on **Wednesday, January 26.**
3. Test Two (30%)  
Students will take the second in-class test on **Wednesday, March 9.**
4. Final paper (30%)  
Students will write a short, analytical paper not to exceed 5 double-spaced pages in length (with reasonable margins and font size). Guidelines for the paper will be handed out in advance during class. The paper itself is due on **Thursday, March 17**, our officially scheduled final exam day. Unexcused late papers will be marked down 0.1 points per day. I strongly encourage students to consult with me and/or your section leader as you work on your paper. Plagiarism or cheating in any aspect of the class will result in a grade of 0.0 on the assignment.

## Writing Link and Sections

Carrie Matthews (crmatthe@uw.edu), Lecturer in the Department of English, teaches the Writing Link.

The teaching assistants for the course are Javier Crespan (sections: AE and AF, e-mail: [jcrespan@u.washington.edu](mailto:jcrespan@u.washington.edu)), Carolina Johnson (sections: AA and AC, e-mail: [csjohns@uw.edu](mailto:csjohns@uw.edu)), Kristan Seibel (sections: AI and AJ, e-mail: [kseibel@u.washington.edu](mailto:kseibel@u.washington.edu)), and Changdong Zhang (sections AG and AH, e-mail: [zhangchd@u.washington.edu](mailto:zhangchd@u.washington.edu)).

## Office Hours

Office hours for Professor Whiting are scheduled for Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00pm in 45 Gowen Hall. Office hours for TAs will be announced in section meetings.

## Course Materials

The following required books are available for purchase at the University Book Store:

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (Norton, 2010)

Patrick O'Neil, et al., *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (Norton, 2010)

Chinua Achebe, *No Longer At Ease* (Random House, 1960)

All books are available on four-hour reserve at the Odegaard Undergraduate Library.

Additional required readings, marked with an asterisk (\*), are found on the course website.

Films listed in the syllabus are available for viewing through the Odegaard Media Center.

The course website is: <http://faculty.washington.edu/swhiting/pols204/>

## Additional Course Information

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (V/TDD). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for class.

## Course Schedule

The following course schedule indicates the required readings for each week and the topic for each lecture.

### **WEEK ONE**

**January 3-7, 2011**

**Readings:**

Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*,

Chp. 2: "States," pp. 21-45 (all).

Chp. 3: "Nations and Society," pp. 47-53 (indicated pages only).

Chp. 4: "Political Economy," pp. 96-106 (indicated pages only).

\*Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), excerpt.

\*Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man* (New York: Doubleday, 1960). Excerpt: "Economic Development and Democracy," in Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed., pp. 268-276.

**Lectures:****Monday, January 3, 2011**

Introduction

**Wednesday, January 5, 2011**

The Concepts of the State and Development

**Friday, January 7, 2011**

Introducing Competing Explanations of Developmental Successes and Failures:

Neo-Liberalism and Modernization Theory

**WEEK TWO****January 10-14, 2011****Readings:**

\*Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976, originally published 1776). Excerpted in O'Neil and Rogowski, *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed., pp. 105-110.

\*Peter Evans, "Imperialism, Dependency, and Dependent Development," in *Dependent Development* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979), pp. 14-54, focus on pp. 25-34.

\*Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962), pp. 5-30.

**Lectures:****Monday, January 10, 2011**

Introducing Competing Explanations of Developmental Successes and Failures:

Dependency Theory, Colonialism, Neo-colonialism, and Structural Inequality Today

**Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

Introducing Competing Explanations of Developmental Successes and Failures:

Statism, Neo-liberalism, and the Debate over State-led Economic and Political Development Today

**Friday, January 14, 2011**

The British Case: Why Did Britain Industrialize First?

**WEEK THREE****January 17-21, 2011 (Note: Monday, January 17, 2011 is a holiday.)****Readings:**O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 2: "United Kingdom," pp. 31-71 (all).

O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 5: "Democratic Regimes," pp. 109-140 (all).

James Ivory, Director, "Remains of the Day (based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro)," Odegaard Media Center

**Lectures:****Wednesday, January 19, 2011**

The British Case: Industrialization and Domestic Political Change

**Friday, January 21, 2011**

The British Case: Electoral Politics and Political Culture

**WEEK FOUR****January 24 – January 28, 2011****Readings:**O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 6: "Japan," pp. 200-241 (all).

\*Chalmers Johnson, "A Japanese Model?" in *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 305-324.**Lectures:****Monday, January 24, 2011**

Catch Up and Review

**Wednesday, January 26, 2011****FIRST TEST****Friday, January 28, 2011**

The Japanese Case: How Did Japan "Catch Up"?

**WEEK FIVE****January 31 – February 4, 2011****Readings:**O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 4: "Political Economy," pp. 77-96 (indicated pages only).

Chp. 7: "Advanced Democracy," pp. 167-176 and 186-195 (indicated pages only).

O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 7: "Russia," pp. 245-282 (all).

**Lectures:****Monday, January 31, 2011**

The Japanese Case: Japanese Politics in the Post-World War II Era

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011**

The Japanese Case: Economy and Society in Post-War Japan

**Friday, February 4, 2011**

The Russian Case: How Did the Soviets "Catch Up"?

**WEEK SIX****February 7 - 11, 2011****Readings:**O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 6: "Non-Democratic Regimes," pp. 141-166 (all).

Chp. 8: "Communism and Post-Communism," pp. 197-228 (all).

O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 8: "China," pp. 285-324 (all).

**Lectures:****Monday, February 7, 2011**

The Russian Case: The End of Soviet Rule and the Emergence of Post-Communist Russia

**Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

The Russian Case: Political Culture and Russian Politics

**Friday, February 11, 2011**

The Chinese Case: Chinese Efforts at "Catching Up"

**WEEK SEVEN****February 14 – 18, 2011****Readings:**O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 11: "Globalization," pp. 291-316 (all).

\*Gary Gereffi, "Global Production Systems and Third World Development," in Barbara Stallings, ed., *Global Change, Regional Response: The New International Context of Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), pp. 100-142.\*José Emilio Pacheco, "Battles in the Desert," in Katherine Silver, transl., *Battles in the Desert and Other Stories* (New York: New Directions, 1987), pp. 81-117.**Lectures:****Monday, February 14, 2011**

The Chinese Case: China's Gradual Economic Reform vs. Russia's "Big Bang"

**Wednesday, February 18, 2009**

The Chinese Case: Political Implications of Economic Reform in China

**Friday, February 20, 2009**

The Mexican Case: The Struggle to Overcome Dependency

**WEEK EIGHT****February 21 - 25, 2011 (Note: Monday, February 21, 2011 is a holiday.)****Readings:**O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 11: "Mexico," pp. 407-444 (all).

O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 9: "Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries," pp. 230-259 (all).

**Lectures:****Wednesday, February 23, 2011**

The Mexican Case: The Political System and the Rise and Decline of the PRI

**Friday, February 25, 2011**

The Mexican Case: Dependency and Political Culture

**WEEK NINE****February 28 – March 4, 2011****Readings:**O'Neil, *Cases*,

Chp. 14: "Nigeria," pp. 531-565 (all).

O'Neil, *Essentials*,

Chp. 3: "Nations and Society," pp. 53-57 and 66-75 (part).

Chp. 10: "Political Violence," pp. 261-289 (all).

Chinua Achebe, *No Longer At Ease* (New York: Random House, 1960), pp. 1-194.**Lectures:****Monday, February 28, 2011**

The Nigerian Case: Legacies of British Colonialism

**Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

The Nigerian Case: The Evolution of Political Parties in Nigeria

**Friday, March 4, 2011**

The Nigerian Case: Political and Economic Crises in Contemporary Nigeria

**WEEK TEN****March 7 – 11, 2011****Readings:**

To be assigned.

**Lectures:****Monday, March 7, 2011**

Catch Up and Review

**Wednesday, March 9, 2011****SECOND TEST****Friday, March 11, 2011**

Applying Theory in Comparative Politics: Thinking about Your Final Paper

**FINAL PAPER DUE****Thursday, March 17, 2011, no later than 10:30 am.**

101 Gowen Hall