

## **INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Fall 2018

Dr. Molly Ariotti

M W F : 10:10-11 am

Location: Candler Hall, Room 214

(BLDG 0031, RM 0214)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 pm (or by appointment)

**Office Location:** 318 Candler Hall (BLDG 0031)

**Email:** mariotti@uga.edu

### **Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to give you a broad understanding of the topics and questions that scholars of comparative politics study. These include topics on both democratic and authoritarian regimes, as well as the role of economic and cultural factors in different regimes and how regimes transition. We will also discuss typologies in authoritarian regimes (military, personalistic, etc.) and types of democracy (presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential). This course will also cover different types of electoral systems, and the consequences of democratic institutions. The aim is to present you with a broad picture of major topics in comparative politics, while also introducing you to different methods used by political scientists who study them. *Course Prerequisites: POLS 1101 or INTL 1100*

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce foundational topics and concepts in comparative politics
2. Develop a familiarity with various methods used by comparative scholars
3. Learn about measurement and classification of concepts such as democracy and dictatorship
4. Use critical thinking to engage with contemporary comparative politics research

### **Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to (1) attend all lectures; (2) complete the required reading before the start of each class; (3) complete all assignments. In the event of an emergency, it is expected the student will contact me with appropriate documentation within 24 hours of a missed class or assignment deadline.

Your responsibilities will often force you to make choices about what you need to prioritize. If you have a conflict and cannot attend class, I expect you to communicate with me in a timely fashion, preferably in advance of the absence. I will not take attendance every class, however I will collect group work and other in-class assignments that will make up your participation grade. As a result, in order to score high marks on participation, you will need to be in class. Because I expect you to attend all lectures, **I will not post slides or notes online.** You should try to befriend some classmates early on so that you can make a copy of their notes in the event that you are absent. I will not make photocopies of my notes, nor will I hold a special make up class session during my office hours.

Note that while this course is introductory, that does not mean the topics we cover will be easy. The goal of any introductory course is to introduce key topics, questions, and methodologies that will be relevant in future advanced coursework.

If you have any special accommodations, I expect that you will provide me with all necessary paperwork during the first week of class, and set up a time to meet with me to discuss what I expect from you.

### **Assignments:**

I will discuss assignments in class, and after that discussion information about the assignment and deadline may be posted to eLC. If you are absent, I encourage you to speak with a classmate or come to office hours in order to be clear about the expectations.

Each assignment is due **in class** (paper copy in person in class, unless specifically noted otherwise). Late assignments will accrue a penalty of one letter grade (e.g. a B+ becomes a C+) each 24-hour period until the assignment is given to the instructor. I reserve discretion to set a deadline after which I will accept no further late work. It is always best to contact me directly (by whichever means you feel most comfortable) to discuss late work, or other reasons why you may have a problem meeting a deadline. If you know there is a conflict, it is also best to talk to me before the assignment is due, rather than the day of or after the fact.

### **Grading and Scale:**

Class participation: 10%

Homework assignments (10, worth 5% each): 50%

Midterm: 20%

Final exam: 20%

A (93-100)	C+ (77-79.9)
A- (90-92.9)	C (73-76.9)
B+ (87-89.9)	C- (70-72.9)
B (83-86.9)	D (60-69.9)
B- (80-82.9)	FAIL (0-59.9)

### **Required Course Materials:**

There is one required textbook for this course, which is available at the campus bookstore as well as from various sources online. This edition was significantly revised, so you will want the third (blue) edition.

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (Third Edition). Washington D.C.: CQ Press/Sage.

Occasionally readings or chapters excerpted from books will be placed on eLC for you to access. Otherwise, readings are available through the library website (in order to access these readings you may either need to be on campus or logged into your Georgia library access account). Check the most recent syllabus regularly as it may be updated throughout the semester; it will always be available and up to date on eLC.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

Readings should be completed *prior to class* on the day they are listed.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. While I might adjust the timing for topics if we are unable to cover them as planned, I will **not** move the exam dates.*

### **Week 1: August 13-17**

#### **Chapter 1 – What is Comparative Politics?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 1.  
*Please have the reading completed by Wednesday at the latest.*

### **Week 2: August 20-24**

#### **Chapter 2 – What is Science?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 2.

### **Week 3: August 27-31**

#### **Chapter 3 – What is Politics?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 3.

*Friday: NO CLASS (CONFERENCE)*

### **Week 4: September 3-7**

#### **Chapter 4 – What is the State?**

*Monday: NO CLASSES (LABOR DAY)*

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 4.

### **Week 5: September 10-14**

#### **Chapter 5 – Democracy and Dictatorship: Measurement and Conceptualization**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 5.

### **Week 6: September 17-21**

#### **Chapter 6 – The Economic Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 6.

**Week 7: September 24-28**

**Chapter 7 – The Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 7.

**Week 8: October 1-5**

**Chapter 8 – Democratic Transitions**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 8.

*Friday: MIDTERM EXAM [in class]*

**Week 9: October 8-12**

**Chapter 9 – Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it make a difference?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 9.

**Week 10: October 15-19**

**Chapter 10 – Varieties of Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 10.

**Week 11: October 22-26**

**Chapter 12 – Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-presidential Democracies**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 12.

*Friday: NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)*

**Week 12: October 29 – November 2**

**Chapter 13 – Elections and Electoral Systems**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 13.

**Week 13: November 5-9**

**Chapter 14 – Social Cleavages and Party Systems**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 14.

**Week 14 : November 12-16**

**Chapter 16 – Consequences of Democratic Institutions**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 16.

**Week 15: November 19-23**

**Chapter 15 – Institutional Veto Players**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 15.

NO CLASSES THIS WEEK (BREAK)

Please read this chapter on your own – you will be responsible for this material on the final exam!

**Week 16: November 26-30**

**Chapter 16 – continued**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 16 (cont'd).

*Friday: NO CLASSES (CONFERENCE)*

**Bonus “Friday” class: December 4**

*Tuesday:* Optional review session during normal class time!

**FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 11 am**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.