

Lecture/Vorlesung

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS I**

Einführung in die Vergleichende Politik I

300.511 (2SSt VO, WS 2015/16) 3 ECTS

TUESDAY 9h00-11h00 HS 381 (RU42UG1.0021)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Comparative Politics is a core field of political science, the oldest, and also perhaps the broadest field in the discipline. It encompasses the systematic comparison of the world's variety of political institutions, and the values that underpin them. There are also various methodologies employed in Comparative Politics, ranging from case studies, small-n comparisons, and large-n statistical studies. Rather than simply describe the political system of a selected number of countries, this course will focus on cross-national comparisons in order to investigate some of the systematic relationships that exist between social, economic, and political variables around the world. The intent is therefore clearly comparative and analytical.

This course introduces students to important concepts, themes, and approaches in the field of Comparative Politics. By the end of the course, students will have acquired a broad perspective of the field of Comparative Politics and be prepared to face the subject matter examined in upper level classes. Although the title says "introduction" this does not mean the material that will be covered will be easy. No prior knowledge is required, but an open mind and some willingness to acquire new knowledge are important assets for success: for instance, we will cover some issues which will require you to become familiar with some new methodological tools.

Class will meet every Tuesday from 9h00 to 11h00 in room HS 381 starting on 06.10.2015 until 26.01.2015. The class and its evaluation will be conducted in English (some support will be offered in German for those who require it, please get in touch with me). I will make all the additional materials you will need for this course on the portal blackboard, within the limits of legality, of course.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

1. October 6: Introduction/ comparing countries
2. October 13: The State
3. October 20: Democracy
4. October 27: Authoritarian/Hybrid Regimes
5. November 3 : Democratic change/persistence
6. November 10 : Presidents/Assemblies I
7. November 17 : Presidents/Assemblies II
8. November 24 : Electoral institutions
9. December 1 : Social cleavages and party systems I
10. December 15 : Social cleavages and party systems II
11. December 22\* : Institutional veto players (this date will change)
12. January 12: Consequences of democratic institutions
13. January 19: Topic review and question session before exam
14. January 26: EXAM

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class attendance is strongly recommended. Although attendance is not mandatory, you should know that class attendance is usually strongly correlated to performance in any given class. Material covered on the exam will come from lectures as well as the assigned readings. There will be a final examination administered at the end of the semester (January 26). Dates for the second and third exams will be announced later.

This class is tailored for you to succeed. This should be easy to achieve if you come to class regularly, read the notes, and keep up with the readings. Even if this class is a lecture, I welcome students' questions and remarks about the topics we will cover.

### **A) READINGS:**

I expect you to keep up on the weekly readings as we will discuss them in class. You will notice that some readings overlap considerably, thus it is up to you to select the readings that suit your interests/preference best. The readings will be made available to you online and at the library when possible.

### **B) CLASS NOTES**

Most of the material you will need to be successful in the exam will be in the class notes. I will make these available on Blackboard before class meets so you have time to print them and bring them to class. You should also be taking notes.

*Sprechstunde:* TBA

## **COURSE READINGS**

Will mainly be taken from the following books:

Caramani, Daniele. 2011. Comparative Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Clark, William, Matt Golder, & Sona Golder. 2008. Principles in Comparative Politics. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Newton, Kenneth, and Jan van Deth. 2009. Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Haerpfer, Christian, Patrick Bernhagen, Ronald F. Inglehart, & Christian Welzel. 2009. Democratization. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **WEEK 1 (October 6): Introduction/ Comparing countries**

Required readings:

Caramani, Chapters 1-3 (pp.27-81)

### **WEEK 2 (October 13): The State**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 4 (pp.91-146).

-Or-

Caramani. Chapter 4, (pp.84-107).

Recommended (but not required):

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 1 (pp.13-33).

### **WEEK 3 (October 20): Democracy**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 5 (pp.147-168).

-Or-

Caramani. Chapter 5, (pp.108-132).

Recommended (but not required):

Haerpfer, Bernhagen, Inglehart & Welzel. Chapter 3, (pp.24-40).

**WEEK 4 (October 27): Authoritarian/Hybrid Regimes**

Required readings:

Caramani. Chapter 6, (pp.133-156)

**WEEK 5 (November 3): Democratic Change/persistence**

Required readings:

Haerpfer, Bernhagen, Inglehart & Welzel. Chapter 6, (pp.74-90).

Recommended (but not required):

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 6-8(pp.167-310)

**WEEK 6 (November 10): Presidents/Assemblies I**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 11 (pp.395-462).

Recommended (but not required):

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 5 (pp.91-103).

Caramani. Chapter 7-8, (pp.159-216)

**WEEK 7 (November 17): Presidents/Assemblies II**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 11 (pp.395-462).

Recommended (but not required):

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 5 (pp.91-103).

Caramani. Chapter 7-8, (pp.159-216)

**WEEK 8 (November 24): Electoral Institutions**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 12 (pp.463-527).

Recommended (but not required):

Caramani. Chapter 10 (pp.240-262)

**WEEK 9 (December 1) Social Cleavages and Party Systems I**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 13 (pp.533-598).

Recommended (but not required):

Caramani. Chapter 12-13 (pp.293-347)

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 13 (pp.268-288).

**WEEK 10 (December 15): Social Cleavages and Party Systems II**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 13 (pp.533-598).

Recommended (but not required):

Caramani. Chapter 12-13 (pp.293-347)

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 13 (pp.268-288).

**WEEK 11 (December 22): Institutional Veto Players**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 14 (pp.603-657).

Recommended (but not required):

Caramani. Chapters 9 & 11 (pp.217-339, 263-289).

Newton and van Deth. Chapter 6 (pp.105-132).

**WEEK 12 (January 12): Consequences of Democratic Institutions**

Required readings:

Clark, Golder and Golder. Chapter 15 (pp.675-763).

**WEEK 13 (January 19): Topic Review and Question Session before Exam**

**WEEK 14 (January 26): FINAL EXAMINATION**