POSC 120 Democracy and Dictatorship  
Days T,TH 1:15-3:00 WCC 233

Prof. Bryan R. Daves  
Office: Willis 404  
Bdaves@carleton.edu  
Office Hours T, TH 10:00-11:45 in Weitz Atrium, W 1:30-3:30 Willis 404  
(507) 222-6195

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the Comparative Politics subfield, which examines the largely domestic dynamics of the competition over and the effects of the division of power within a country. The comparative component of this course is in analyzing varied experiences across time and space. We examine major questions in the field:

• How do we compare politics in different countries at different historical periods?  
• Why do different societies have varied levels of bureaucratic efficacy?  
• Why are some countries rich and others poor?  
• How do we understand the origins of different regime types? When are they stable?  
• Under what circumstances is a political system susceptible to revolution?  
• What are the different ways in which constitutions are written, and how does it matter?

Textbooks


Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methods Exercise</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper I</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper II</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA MOODLE

Grade Components

Methods Exercise  After you are introduced to some of the foundations of comparative politics, I will post an article from a political science journal, and I will ask to identify the different components of the theoretical argument being made, evaluate the strength of the argument and the evidence presented, and finally the degree to which the article helps us understand a political phenomenon more generally.

Short Papers  The study of comparative politics requires one to judge competing theories about the causes of major political phenomenon. The first paper will ask students to compare and contrast arguments made about political phenomena we study in the course. The second paper will ask
students to weigh in on those arguments and advance one of them using cases tied to those arguments.

**Simulation** The class will spend a full class session on how an authoritarian regime faces a crisis, and whether that leads to a regime transition or to deepening authoritarianism. Students will be divided into teams representing different stakeholders during the crisis. Each team will prepare a position statement prior to the simulation outlining their positions and strategies. After the simulation, each team will write a brief essay outlining how their expectations, strategies and positions changed (if at all) because of the simulation.

**Final Exam** The Final will cover the entire course, including lectures, text and supplementary readings. The exam will include essays, and identification of key terms. It will be closed book and self-scheduled.

**Participation** Students are expected to attend lectures ready to discuss the text, supplemental readings and actively engage in the lectures themselves. This component of the final grade will be based on 1) Active discussion of the material for the class sessions, including asking questions and responding to queries from me. 2) We will also break into groups to discuss readings, and debates in comparative politics. These are designed for active learning to help students understand the complexities and the importance of issues dealt with in political science.

**Students with Disabilities**

Carleton College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Services office (Burton Hall 03) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, autism spectrum disorders, chronic health, traumatic brain injury and concussions, sensory, or physical), please contact Chris Dallager, Director of Disability Services, by calling 507-222-5250 or sending an email to cdallager@carleton.edu to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is demanded in a college community. The life of the mind requires precision in attribution and authorship of work. "Dishonesty in academic work, particularly in the form of plagiarism, also defeats the process of self-discovery which is the heart of a liberal education." Students must familiarize themselves with the Web site "Academic Integrity in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers" (from which the above quotation is taken) which is maintained by the office of the dean of the college. Students are assumed to be familiar to rules and procedures of the college found in the Student Handbook, which is located here: [https://apps.carleton.edu/handbook/academics/?a=student&policy_id=21359](https://apps.carleton.edu/handbook/academics/?a=student&policy_id=21359).

**Electronics Policy**

The use of computers for any purpose other than taking notes or reading electronic version of text or readings, and the use of any other devices are strictly prohibited. Students found using computers for any other purpose risks my banning the use of any electronic devises for the entire class for the remainder of the term.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule**

(Depending on progress of course, this schedule might be adjusted. Assignment and Exam dates will not change, but the subject coverage might. I will announce any changes in class and via Moodle.

**Week 1 (March 28, 30)**
- CP: Chapter 1. The Comparative Approach: An Introduction
- Asking Why: Research Questions in Comparative Politics
- CCR: Chapter 1

**Week 2 (April 4, 6)**

**APRIL 5: SPECIAL LECTURE WITH DARON ACEMOGLU 4:15-5:30 Boliou 104**

**Week 3 (April 13, 18 NO CLASS APRIL 11)**
- CP: Chapter 3. The State
CCR: Chapter 3


**Week 4 -Week 5 (April 20, 25, 27)**

**CP: Chapter 4. Political Economy**

**Short Paper I Due April 25 5PM**

**CP: Chapter 5. Development**

**READ FOR BOTH WEEKS**

CCR: Chapter 4. Development and Political Economy


**Week 6 (May 2, 4)**

**CP: Chapter 6. Democracy and Democratization**

CCR: Chapter 5.


**Paper II Due May 12**

**Week 7 (May 9, 11)**

**CP: Chapter 7. Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown**

CCR: Chapter 6.


**Week 8 (May 16, 18)**

**CP: Chapter 12. Revolutions and Contention**

CCR: Chapter 11. Revolutions and Contention


**Simulation May 23**

**Week 9, 10 (May 25, 30)**
**CP:** Chapter 13. Nationalism and National Identity
**CCR:** Chapter 12.


