Introduction

Comparative Politics is the least defined of the four subfields in Political Science. Its scope is vast, its boundaries unmarked, and its content unclear. While introductory courses in the other political science subfields are pretty standard, covering similar subjects, that is not the case in Comparative Politics. Because the field encompasses so much in terms of the questions it asks and the material it covers—from A to Z—literally from Australia to Zanzibar, no two "Introduction to Comparative Politics" courses look alike. They are idiosyncratic, reflecting the interests of the instructor more than an accepted body of knowledge. For better or worse, this is particularly true for this course.

This course will try to combine how I taught Comparative Politics in the past with how I intend to proceed in the future. In the past, I taught the course as three separate modules that examined the process of development as it proceeded in the West, the Soviet Union, and the Third World. The question we posed was how did these areas become modern; what was similar and different about their developmental paths? But history has made this way of organizing a course obsolete. The Soviet Union no longer exists and the Third World contains too many dissimilar countries to be conceptually accurate or helpful.

Not only was history changing but so was I. I became impatient with my own material. The course failed to make clear the stakes involved in examining these three forms of development. My approach was directed too much to students’ heads and not their hearts. I have thus taken a different tack. My approach now is less historical and more normative; less about delving into the past to understand the present and more about holding the present accountable against some moral standard. I am interested in the question: who lives better? Is political, economic and social life in the U.S. organized in such a way that Americans live better than citizens in other countries? What does it mean to live better? And what set of institutions contribute to the good society so that people live better?

Required Books

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
Draper and Ramsay, *The Good Society, 2e*
Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

Books for Review Essay

TBA

Course Requirements

First Exam 20%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Analyticals</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentatively, the first draft of the first analytical is due Tuesday, February 11; The first draft of the second analytical is due Thursday, March 6. The third analytical is due Tuesday, April 22. The first draft of the review essay is due Tuesday, April 1.

No late papers are accepted. Students who fail to accumulate 75 points are subject to failure, a 0.0 for the course.

**Course Outline**

1. Introduction to Course
   Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

2. What is the Good Society?
   See also [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org)

3. From Feudalism to Liberalism

4. Markets as Real Life
   Louise Tilly, “The Food Riot as a Form of Political Conflict in France”

5. Capitalism at Work
   Sidney Pollard, “Factory Discipline and the Industrial Revolution”
   Peter Capelli, “Is the Skills Gap Really About Attitudes”

6. States and Markets
   Draper and Ramsay, Chapter 5

7. From Liberalism to Democracy
   Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution*, pp. 74-101

8. From Democracy to Socialism
   Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, all

9. Fascism: Authoritarian Democracy
   Paul Grunberger, *The Twelve Year Reich*, pp. 223-285
   Draper and Ramsay, pp. 147-149

10. Democracy
Draper and Ramsay, Chapter 7.

11. Advanced Capitalist Democracies
   Draper and Ramsay, Chapter 9, pp. 222-226.

12. Social Democratic Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 9, pp. 225-236.

13. Extreme Market Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 9, pp. 236-238.

14. Christian Democratic Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 9, pp. 244-254.

15. Comparing Capabilities among Advanced Democratic Capitalist Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 9, pp. 254-264.

16. Why Are Some Countries More Developed Than Others?
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 8.

17. Developmental Authoritarian Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, “Authoritarian Developmental Regimes” and “South Korea” (on
   Sakai).

18. Developmental Democratic Regimes
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch 10.

19. Quiescence and Resistance
   Peter Singlemann, “Structures of Domination,”
   James Scott, “Domination and the Arts of Resistance,”

20. Russia and China
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 10, pp. 291-233.

21. The State
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 2.

22. State and Society
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch. 3.

23. Political Culture
   Draper and Ramsay, Ch 4.