

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

A Global Perspective on Politics in Asia

Last Name : BALME.....

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Year 2019/2020

Fall semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparing countries and societies is a usual way of thinking for anyone living or traveling abroad, particularly with the development of communication and mobility in the contemporary world. It is largely part of the way we, as individuals, perceive our environment, from our own place of origin to the encounters we make in different cities or different countries. This experience of otherness is part of our identity. However, thinking comparatively is also a fundamental aspect of humanities and social sciences. From the onset, political theorist such as Aristotle, Machiaveli and Montesquieu, explored the various patterns of political organization of societies, and tried to understand how they changed with history and with geography, and what differences they make for the exercise of government. Building on this legacy, Comparative Politics is at the core of contemporary political science. It develops research questions, methods, and results which are essential to our understanding of political institutions, political behaviours and ideologies, the different regimes formation and transformations, and the way they interact with the domestic and global economy. Comparative politics is also essential to the understanding of international relations and world politics.

The course introduces the different usages of comparison in political analysis with a focus on Asia. When politics is considered, what are the common characteristics and what are the singularities in the region? Is there any distinctive *Asian* politics? If so where does it come from? What are the differences within Asia, and how to explain them? And what are the differences between Asia or Asian countries and the rest of the World? The course will review the different methods used in comparative analysis. I will also present and discuss the concepts (development, democracy, political culture, federalism...), as well as the implications of the different scales (global, regional, national, or local) used in this approach. It proposes an interpretation of politics in Asia from a global perspective, and develop students skills for political analysis and knowledge in the epistemology of social sciences.

Type of course

- X Lecture course with seminars
- Lecture course
- Seminar course
- Elective course
- Workshop

Language of instruction

- French
- X English
- Other :

PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the student is expected to :

- 1°) Be familiar with the major aspects of comparative politics and political change in Asia covered in the lecture.
- 2°) Be engaged in a reflection on Asia in World Politics
- 3°) Be able to develop a well structured and argued comparative political analysis from the readings and discussions during the seminar .

COURSE GRADE SYSTEM

To validate the course, the student is expected to pass the following assignments (at least three grades):

- 1°) Write a research paper prepared and presented in the seminar (30%)
- 2°) Present and discuss some of the readings in the seminar (30%)
- 3°) Write a final table exam, 3hrs (40%).....

DETAILED OUTLINE

1: Introduction – The Comparative Approach in Political Science.

2. The Comparative Approach in Political Science. (ctd)

Read : DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016, Ch. 1 and 2. .

Additional References :

HUANG Xiaoming, YOUNG Jason, Politics in Pacific Asia: An Introduction. London, Palgrave, 2016. Introduction.

RANDALL Vicky, « Changing Analytical Approaches to the Study of Politics in the Developing World », in Peter Burnell, Lise Rakner and Vicky Randall, Politics in the Developing World, Oxford University Press 2017, 13-28.

3: State-Building in Asia

Read: DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016, Ch. 3.

HUANG Xiaoming, YOUNG Jason, Politics in Pacific Asia: An Introduction. London, Palgrave, 2016. Ch. 1.

4: Nationalism in Asia

Read: DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016, Ch. 13, “Nationalism and National Identity”.

HUANG Xiaoming, YOUNG Jason, Politics in Pacific Asia: An Introduction. London, Palgrave, 2016. Ch. 9 “Nation and State: Ethnicity, Religion and Culture”.

5: Political Culture and Ideologies: the question of Asian Values

Read: DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016, Ch. 15, “Ideology and Religion in Modern Politics”.

PYE Lucian W. Asian Power and Politics. The Cultural Dimensions of Authority. Cambridge, Belknap Press 1985. Ch. 11, The Substance of Asian Power.

6. Political Culture and Ideologies: Majoritarianism and Religious Minorities in Asia

Readings to be announced.

7: Dynamics of Political Change: Democracy and Democratization

Read: DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016, Ch. 6, “Democracy and Democratization”.

HUANG Xiaoming, YOUNG Jason, Politics in Pacific Asia: An Introduction. London, Palgrave, 2016. Ch. 2.

8 . Comparative Research Design: Recap.

9. Dynamics of Political Change . Patterns of Authoritarianism (1)

Read:

Chapter 7 "Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown»,) in Dickovic and Eastwood, Comparative Politics.

10. Dynamics of Political Change . Patterns of Authoritarianism (2)

Read :

The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism. Freedom House 2018.

11. Comparative Political Economy and Globalization (1)

The Asian Developmental State

Read:

Chapter 4 (political economy) and 5 (development) in Dickowick and Eastwood, Comparative Politics.

12. Comparative Political Economy and Globalization (2)

Regionalism and Globalization.

Read: Introduction, Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 in "Riding the Wave", the World Bank Report on Asia-Pacific, 2018.

REQUIRED READING

- DICKOVICK James Tyler, EASTWOOD Jonathan, Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2016.
- HUANG Xiaoming, YOUNG Jason, Politics in Pacific Asia : An Introduction. London, Palgrave, 2016.

A more detailed bibliography and reading list for the seminar will be provided at the beginning of the class.