

**Sabancı University**  
**POLS 250 Comparative Politics, Spring 2023**  
**Class hours: W 9:40 – 12:30; FENS L058**  
**Instructor: Ersin Kalaycıoğlu (FASS 1048)**  
**Office hours (W 13:30 – 14:30 or by appointment)**

Comparative politics is one of the six fundamental fields of political science, which studies political institutions, values, belief, and attitudes that comprise political culture, political processes and affairs of different political regimes, the development of the political self, and political behavior of individuals, groups, organizations, and the state in our world. Comparative politics focuses on the development and sustenance of state, different types of authoritarian, totalitarian, and democratic regimes states possess, and the characteristics of authority, legitimacy, and obedience to political rule across different regimes. Comparative politics also deals with questions on the political economy of change, governance, power struggles of interest groups that deeply influence the distribution of wealth and resources, and the politics of policymaking.

This course is designed to serve the following purposes: (1) To teach students to think about political systems in comparative terms; (2) to enable students to develop a more sophisticated understanding of their own political system vis-à-vis the others; (3) to help students comprehend the political developments, institutions, and processes that occur in political systems other than their own; and (4) to analyze how major human concerns with freedom, social justice, human rights, democracy, etc., take shape and influence the emergence and structure of political institutions, processes, and practices in different polities.

Requirements for the course include one midterm and one final examination. The former (midterm) will be administered on the Zoom on **April 12, 2023** Wednesday at 9:40 a.m. and the latter (final) will be administered socially *in class* on **May 31, 2023** Wednesday. Class attendance and meaningful participation will be measured by means of the pop-quizzes that will be given throughout the term. **Lectures will be administered physically in class and synchronously if necessary.**

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam	: 35%
Final Exam	: 65%

**There is a book assigned for this course** and it is: Daniele Caramani (ed.) *Comparative Politics* (Fourth Ed.), (New York, N. Y: Oxford University Press, 2017).

All of the readings for this course will be available in PDF format on the SUCourse+ Shared Google Drive for this course.

“Disclaimer: We may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide, regarding higher education, at the beginning of April. The content to be delivered is certain but the method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are subject to change.”

## Reading Assignments

### Introduction to the Course: Why do we Study Politics Comparatively? (Week 1)

Gregory S. Mahler, *Comparative Politics* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000): 1-24.

Daniele Caramani, "Introduction to Comparative Politics," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017): 1-17.

### Major Topics of Comparative Politics (Week 1)

Steven Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, "Introduction," *Introducing Comparative Politics: The Essentials* (Thousand Oaks, CA and London: CQ Press and SAGE Publications, 2019): 2-33.

Guy Peters, "Approaches in Comparative Politics," in D. Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 35-48.

### State, Nation, and Government (Week 2)

Gianfranco Poggi, "The nation-state," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 68-82.

Andreas Wimmer, "Why Nationalism Works and Why It Isn't Going Away?" *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2019

Wolfgang C. Müller, "Governments and Bureaucracies" in D. Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 136-154.

Amie Kreppel, "Legislatures," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 118-135.

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, (New York, NY: Macmillan, 1997): 83-99, 273-337.

### Political Ideologies, Regimes, and Constitutions (Weeks 3 - 4)

Andrew Heywood, *Politics...*: 23-63.

Alec Stone Sweet, "Constitutions and judicial power," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 156-172.

Michael J. Sodaro, in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics...*: 312-341.

*The Economist*, August 7, 1999 "Judicial Review: The Gavel and the Robe," in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (10/11)* (28<sup>th</sup> Ed.) (Boston, MA: McGraw Hill, 2011): 135-137.

Eyal Benvenisti, "Reclaiming Democracy: The Strategic Uses of Foreign and International Law by National Courts," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)* (31<sup>st</sup> Ed.) (Boston, MA: McGraw Hill, 2011): 161-166.

Kathryn Hendley, "Rule of Law, Russian-Style," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 167-168.

### **Political Culture (Week 5)**

Michael J. Sodaro, "Political Culture," in Michael J. Sodaro, *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* (Boston, MA: McGraw Hill, 2008): 293-311.

Christian Welzel and Ronald Inglehart, "Political Culture," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 291-309.

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, "The True Clash of Civilizations," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 181-187.

The Economist, "Bleak Chic," (December 21, 2013):  
<http://www.economist.com/news/christmas-specials/21591749-bleak-chic>.

### **Authoritarianism (Week 6)**

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (2010): 141-166.

Paul Brooker, "Authoritarian Regimes," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 99-113.

Steven Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, "Authoritarian Institutions," *Introducing Comparative Politics: The Essentials*...: 252-276.

Moises Naim, "Mafia State: Organized Crime Takes Office," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 203-206.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "Why Democracy Needs a Level Playing Field?" in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 193-198.

F. Gregory Gause III, "Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring: The Myth of Authoritarian Stability," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 48-52.

### **Democracy (Week 7)**

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*...: 65-82.

Aníbal Pérez Liñán, "Democracies," in D. Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 83-98.

Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 34-40.

Philippe C. Schmitter, "Twenty-five Years, Fifteen Findings," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 41-47.

Russell J. Dalton, Susan E. Scarrow, and Bruce E. Cain, "Advanced Democracies and the New Politics," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 53-60.

Robert A. Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?" in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 74-79.

The Economist. "Are Western democracies becoming ungovernable?" (August 1, 2019):  
<https://www.economist.com/international/2019/08/01/are-western-democracies-becoming-ungovernable?frsc=dg%7Ce>.

The Economist. "The corrupting of democracy: Cynicism is gnawing at Western democracies," (August 8, 2019):  
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/08/29/the-corrupting-of-democracy?frsc=dg%7Ce>.

The Economist. "How Viktor Orban hollowed out Hungary's democracy" (August 29, 2019):  
<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2019/08/29/how-viktor-orban-hollowed-out-hungarys-democracy?frsc=dgle>.

## **Mid-Term Week 7 (on April 12, 2023 during the class hours)**

### **Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems (Week 8 - 9)**

Michael J. Sodaro, "Democracy: How Does It Work?" in Michael J. Sodaro, *Comparative Politics*...: 194-205

Juan J. Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds.), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996): 124-142.

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, (Third Ed.) (New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010): 161-170.

Martin Dimitrov, "The Resilient Authoritarians," in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (12/13)*...: 113-117.

*The Economist* "Tangled Webs: Institutions," in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (12/13)*...: 104-105.

### **Federal and Unitary Forms of Government (Week 10)**

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*...: 121-137.

John Loughlin, "Federal and Local Government institutions," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 188-204.

Alfred Stepan, "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model," *Journal of Democracy* (October 1999): 19-33.

### **Representation, Elections, and Voting (Weeks 10 - 11)**

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*...: 205-228.

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*...: 128-139.

Michael Gallagher, "Elections and Referendums," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 173-187.

The Economist, August 14, 1999 "Referendums: The People's Voice," in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (10/11)*...: 23-25.

Kees Aarts and Jacques Thomassen, "Satisfaction with Democracy: Do Institutions Matter?" in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (12/13)*...: 121-134.

### **Interests, Parties, and Power Struggle (Weeks 12 - 13)**

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*...: 229-269.

Richard S. Katz, "Political Parties," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 207-223.

Daniele Caramani, "Party Systems," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 224-244.

Roland Erne, "Interest Groups," in Daniele Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*...: 245-259.

The Economist, August 21, 1999, "Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures" in O. Fiona Yap (ed.) *Comparative Politics (10/11)*: 45-47.

Taras Kuzio, "Civil Society, Youth and Social Mobilization in Democratic Revolutions," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*: 82-92.

Guobin Yang, "Online Activism," in O. Fiona Yap and Ryan Gibb (eds.) *Comparative Politics (13/14)*...: 93-95.

### **Political Development and Political Economy (Weeks 13 - 14)**

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*...(2017): 96 - 133.

Michael J. Sodaro, "Political Economy," in Michael J. Sodaro, *Comparative Politics*...: 342-391.

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*...: 165-184.

Steven Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, "Political Economy of Development," *Introducing Comparative Politics: The Essentials*...: 350-378.

**Final Examination will be offered on May 31, 2023  
during the class hours.**