

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Grado en Relaciones Internacionales / Bachelor in International Relations BIR SEP-2023 CP-IR.2.M.A

Area Comparative Politics

Number of sessions: 30

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: SECOND

Number of credits: 6.0

Semester: 1º

Category: BASIC

Language: English

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Nina Wiesehomeier has received her PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Konstanz (Germany). She has previously held positions of Senior Lecturer in Politics in the Department of Political and Cultural Studies at the University of Swansea (UK), Fellow at the Social Science Institute, University of Lisbon (Portugal), and was a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame (USA). Nina's research interests fall into the area of comparative politics and evolve around political parties, political institutions, women representation, ideology and issues of political representation, political preferences, and political behavior. More information can be found at www.wiesehomeier.net.

Please contact me via Email.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This course allows students to explore and scrutinize some of the key contemporary debates in comparative political science – or comparative politics. Comparative politics involves describing, comparing, and explaining political phenomena around the world. In today’s climate of increased political volatility and heightened political risk, a course in comparative politics forms an essential part of the education of any aspiring professional (both in the public and the private sectors) with an international outlook and a keen interest in cross-border affairs. It asks questions such as how do different countries’ political systems compare to one another and why are they similar or different? What effect does having a presidential form of government rather than a parliamentary one? Why do some countries have a multiparty political system while others have a two-party system? How do rules for elections differ across countries and what effects do they have on politics and representation? Students will get acquainted with studying human behavior embedded in institutions and what that entails for the larger system of representative democracy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Knowledge and understanding of a number of key contemporary debates and theories
- Ability to critically evaluate theories and concepts through original, independent and critical thinking
- Practice in the use, interpretation, and presentation of quantitative measures and indicators of concepts in comparative politics
- Ability to digest and use academic readings
- Oral and written communication skills
- Library and information retrieval skills
- Practice of independent research

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor’s main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	30.0 %	45.0 hours
Discussions	4.0 %	6.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	20.0 %	30.0 hours
Group work	20.0 %	30.0 hours
Individual studying	26.0 %	39.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

INTRODUCTION

COMPULSORY READING:

Book Chapters: The relevance of comparative politics (Chapter 1, pp. 21-32, in Comparative Politics, Fifth., Caramani, D., Ed.; Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2020) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: The Concept of Representation, (ced)

Article: What Democracy Is...and Is Not (Journal of Democracy, 2(3), 75-88) (CED)

Recommended reading:

- Nardi, Jr., Dominic J. (2014) "Political Institutions in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying About the Lack of Democracy," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: 33(1): pp. 101-123
- Bogaards, Matthijs (2017). Comparative Political Regimes: Consensus and Majoritarian Democracy. in: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*
- Dahl, Robert (2005). What Institutions does Large Scale Democracy Require? (*Political Science Quarterly* 120(2), pp. 187-197)

SESSION 3 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

CONCEPT EXERCISE

Article: Thrown around with abandon? Popular understandings of populism as conveyed by the print media: A UK case study (Acta Politica Vol. 46, 2, 111–131 (ced))

SESSIONS 4 - 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

CONCEPTS AND METHODS

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Foundations of comparative politics (Chapter 2) (See Bibliography)

Recommended readings:

- Martin A. Schwartz. 2009. The importance of stupidity in scientific research. *Journal of Cell Science* 121, p.1771
- Kenneth Benoit. 2005. How Qualitative Research Really Counts. *Qualitative Methods*, 9-12

SESSIONS 6 - 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

DEMOCRACY AND CULTURE

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Comparative Politics (Political Culture, chapter 17, pp. 297-308) (See Bibliography)

Article: Why are there no Arab Democracies? (Journal of Democracy 21 (1): pp. 93-104) (CED))

Book Chapters: Islam and Democracy. What is the Real Question? Chapter 87, pp. 502-515) (CED)

Article: Changing Mass Priorities: The Link between Modernization and Democracy (Perspectives on Politics, vol. 8, no. 2, 2010, pp. 551–67) (CED))

Recommended readings

- Knutsen, Oddbjørn (2011). Values. In: Bertrand Badie, Dirk Berg-Schlosser & Leonardo Morlino (eds).: International Encyclopedia of Political Science. Sage Publications. pp. 2691-2696
- Mora y Araujo, Manuel (2011). Attitudes. In: Bertrand Badie, Dirk Berg-Schlosser & Leonardo Morlino (eds).: International Encyclopedia of Political Science. Sage Publications. pp. 95-99.
- Torcal, Mariano and Jordi Muñoz (2011). Beliefs. In: Bertrand Badie, Dirk Berg-Schlosser & Leonardo Morlino (eds).: International Encyclopedia of Political Science. Sage Publications. pp. 143-145.

SESSIONS 8 - 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Comparative Politics (Party systems, chapter 13) (See Bibliography)

Article: Bolognesi, B., Ribeiro, E., & Codato, A. (2022). A New Ideological Classification of Brazilian Political Parties. (Dados, 66) (CED))

SESSION 10 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

READ AND PREPARE:

Book Chapters: Comparative Politics (Chapter 10; 178-185) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Foundations of comparative politics (Chapter 11) (See Bibliography)

TAKE THE QUIZ!

SESSIONS 11 - 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS - CASE STUDIES

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: The dynamics of political representation. How Democracy Works: Political Representation and Policy Congruence in Modern Societies (ced)

Article: Ganghof, S. (2015). Four Visions of Democracy: Powell's Elections as Instruments of Democracy and beyond. (Political Studies Review, 13(1), 69-79) (CED))

SESSIONS 13 - 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Foundations of comparative politics (Chapter 10; 217-240) (See Bibliography)

Article: Constitutional parliamentarism in Europe, 1800–2019 (READ pages 10 to 20; West European Politics) (CED))

Recommended reading:

- Gerring et al. (2021). Why Monarchy? The Rise and Demise of a Regime Type, (Comparative Political Studies, 54(3-4) 585–622

SESSIONS 15 - 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

PRESIDENTIAL (AND MIXED) DEMOCRACIES

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Foundations of comparative politics (Chapter 10; 240 - 252) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Principles of Comparative Politics (pp. 499 - 509; Principal-Agent Framework) (See Bibliography)

Article: Sedelius, T., & Linde, J. (2018). Unravelling semi-presidentialism: democracy and government performance in four distinct regime types. (Democratization, 25(1), 136-157) (CED))

Recommended reading:

- Martínez, Christopher (2020). Presidential Instability in Latin America: Why Institutionalized Parties Matter, (Government and Opposition, 1-22)

SESSION 17 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

INSTITUTIONAL VETO PLAYERS

READ AND PREPARE:

Book Chapters: Foundations of comparative politics (Chapter 13) (See Bibliography)

TAKE THE QUIZ!

SESSIONS 18 - 19 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

INSTITUTIONAL VETO PLAYERS - CASE STUDIES

We will look at different cases of territorial and administrative organization of a country, reflect on pros and cons and unintended consequences.

Article: Bayu, T. B. (2022). Is Federalism the Source of Ethnic Identity-Based Conflict in Ethiopia? (Insight on Africa, 14(1), 104-125) (CED))

Article: Does decentralisation turn minority parties into secessionists? Insights from Eastern and Western Europe (West European Politics, 4 June 2020) (CED))

Article: Democratic stress and political institutions: Drives of reforms of bicameralism in times of crisis (Representation, 58(1), 85-102) (CED))

SESSIONS 20 - 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

THE REPRESENTATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

COMPULSORY READINGS

- Paxton, Pamela, and Melanie M. Hughes (2014). Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective. 2nd ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., Chapter 1: Introduction to Women in Politics, pp.1-29.
- Electoral rules and voter bias against female candidates in Brazilian congressional elections (Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 2020)
- Female leaders and citizens' perceptions of political parties (Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 2019)
- Sexism and the Far-Right Vote: The Individual Dynamics of Gender Backlash (American Journal of Political Science, 2023)

Book Chapters: Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective (Chapter 1: Introduction to Women in Politics, pp.1-29) (See Bibliography)

Article: Country-level and individual-level predictors of men's support for gender equality in 42 countries (Eur J Soc Psychol. 50: 1276– 1291) (CED))

Article: Electoral rules and voter bias against female candidates in Brazilian congressional elections (Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 2020) (CED))

Article: Female leaders and citizens' perceptions of political parties (Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 2019) (CED))

Podcast: Women are not Men (freakonomics.com)

Article: Sexism and the Far-Right Vote: The Individual Dynamics of Gender Backlash (American Journal of Political Science, 2023) (CED))

Recommended readings:

- Krook, Mona Lena (2016). Contesting gender quotas: dynamics of resistance. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 4:2, pp. 268-283
- Htun, Mala. 2004. Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups, *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Sep., 2004), pp. 439-458
- Pyeatt, Nicholas & Alixandra B. Yanus (2020): Will Americans Really Vote for a Woman President? Aggregate Gender Bias in the 2016 Presidential Election, *Representation*
- Filip Kostelka, André Blais & Elisabeth Gidengil (2019) Has the gender gap in voter turnout really disappeared?, *West European Politics*, 42:3, 437-463
- Parties, Candidates, and Gendered Political Recruitment in Closed-List Proportional Representation Systems: The Case of Spain (*Political Research Quarterly* 72(4), pp. 805– 820)

SESSIONS 22 - 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

Problems of representation

COMPULSORY READINGS:

Book Chapters: Farrell, D. M., & Stone, P. (2020). "Sortition and mini-publics: A different kind of representation" in "The Oxford Handbook of Political Representation in Liberal Democracies" (CED)

Article: Ewig, C. (2022). Ethnic parties and indigenous substantive representation in Ecuador. (Representation, 58(3), 391-409) (CED))

Article: Lupu, Noam, and Zach Warner. "Affluence and congruence: unequal representation around the world." (The Journal of Politics 84.1 (2022): 276-290) (CED))

Article: Delegating Away Democracy: How Good Representation and Policy Successes Can Undermine Democratic Legitimacy (Comparative Political Studies 51(13):1754-1788) (CED))

Recommended readings:

- Costa, M. (2021), Ideology, Not Affect: What Americans Want from Political Representation. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65: 342-358
- Rosanvallon Pierre (2018). *Populism and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century*. In: Ignatieff, M., & Roch, S. (Eds.). *Rethinking Open Society*. Budapest; New York: Central European University Press

SESSIONS 24 - 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS I

SESSIONS 26 - 27 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS II

SESSIONS 28 - 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

TABOO

SESSION 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sustainability Topics:

- Governance
- Social Challenge

FINAL EXAM

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your final grade in the course will be based on different elements that will be weighted in the following way:

A. BECOMING A COUNTRY EXPERT:

Working in groups you will become the expert of one particular country. You will look at public opinion data, analyze your country's level of democracy, its party system, democratic institutions, among others. You will prepare short reports and a presentation (more details in class)

B. FINAL EXAM

The final exam will consist of a multiple choice section, a true/false section, and short open questions to check your understanding of basic concepts and will review the assigned readings and class discussions. Hence, the purpose of the exam is to test your attainment of the course objectives, your grasp of important concepts and relationships, and your ability to apply this knowledge to different situations. Please be aware that you need to pass with a 5 to pass the course.

C. PARTICIPATION

Your participation grade will be based on your class participation and additional exercises to help you advance your grasp of course content and to become informed researchers (Taboo, 2 quizzes & concept exercise).

PLEASE NOTE: you are required to submit your essays via Turnitin. Without prior permission, late submissions will not be accepted unless proof of any technical issues can be provided. There will not be any extra credit assignments available.

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Final Exam	45 %		multiple choice; true / false; open questions; entire course content
Participation	20 %		Two quizzes, Taboo cards, Concept exercise
Workgroups	35 %		Country Portfolio

THIRD CALL RETAKE POLICY

Any student in their third call of a course, also known as a “Retaker”, is obliged to observe the following rules:

- Third call students must contact their professors before or during the first session to ask which work and or *sessions will be required to obtain a passing grade. The professor will determine which work will be required in their course.
*(e.g. when presenting group work, sitting for examinations or other work done in class)
- Retakers are exempt from failing the call due to absences; however, they are not exempt from work the professor designates as necessary to obtain a passing grade. This means some sessions may be mandatory to attend in order to complete the work within.
- Students in their third call are responsible for managing the conflicts in their schedule, should students need advice on how to manage their conflicts they should visit the program office.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the extraordinary exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The extraordinary call will consist of a comprehensive exam or equivalent assignment. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
- The exam/assignment will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. For every BIR Program mandatory class aside from the IR Unplugged and BIR Electives, students are required to obtain the minimum grade of 5 required to pass the course. Students whose grade in the Final Exam (or the largest assignment) is below 5 will fail the course. The rule applies to whichever assignment carries the greatest weight to the final grade. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year). Students who are in the third or fourth attempt **must** contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

The Bachelor's in International Relations pursues to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for bringing transformative and sustainable change in today's world. Therefore, all the courses follow the principles of sustainability and diversity. Firstly, this course considers the agenda 2030 and helps you to reflect particularly upon the Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Secondly, this course is committed to an inclusive learning environment and looks to be enriched and enhanced by diversity along numerous dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person's ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor's permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don't know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. The professor will also advise the student on how to present said material. For help with your academic writing, contact the Writing Center (writingcenter@faculty.ie.edu).

All written assignments must be submitted through Turn-it-in, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the BIR Program from the moment they began receiving this support.

In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the BIR Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Daniele Caramani (ed.). (2020). *Comparative Politics*. Fifth edition. OUP. ISBN 9780198820604 (Printed)
- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder. (2018). *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. International Student edition. CQ Press. ISBN 9781544326863 (Printed)

Recommended

- William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder. (2017). *Principles of comparative politics*. Thousand Oaks, CA : SAGE/CQ Press. ISBN 9781506389790 (Digital)
- Pamela Marie Paxton and Melanie M Hughes. (2014). *Women, politics, and power : a global perspective*. SAGE Publications. ISBN 9781483310473 (Digital)

UNIVERSITY AND PROGRAM POLICIES

The program fully supports the professor in enforcing any classroom specific rules laid out either within this syllabus or enacted later by the professor. Students should be aware that the IE University code of conduct specifically states that, "The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor". Students are hereby notified that the professor is in charge of their classroom, and that it is the students' responsibility to fully read and understand the code of conduct, attendance and ethics policies of this university. **Students breaking these rules and policies could face punishments up to expulsion.**

Links to all of those policies are found below;

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

