

Department of Political Science, BBAU

Course Title: Comparative Politics II- Applied Comparative Politics

Course Code: 202

Semester: II

Course Teacher- Sudhir Kumar

Credits: 4

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Description of the course:

The course is divided into five units. First unit will provide a brief background and introduction to what you have already studied in the first semester i.e. concepts and theories of CP. Second unit will touch upon the issue of democratization which is very prominent in comparative politics literature. Third and fourth units will deal with specific institutions and case studies. Finally a concluding unit is also there which deal with the problem of democratization and its criticisms.

Objectives:

1. To make student familiar with applications of comparative research in political science;
2. To develop an understanding about various regions of the world which are undergoing transitions;
3. To make student familiar with the ongoing political trends in three crucial regions of the world;
4. To evolve a theoretical understanding of the comparative analysis.
5. To make student understand the emerging dimensions in the democratization literature and politics of democratization.

Evaluation

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their ability to understand the politics of different countries of the world along with the knowledge of the concepts of comparative politics. First evaluation will carry 20 percent weightage which will be a mid term examination. Second evaluation will be a take home

examination in which every student will be given one question to attempt within fifteen days. This will carry thirty percent weightage. The end term will carry seventy percent weightage and will be a descriptive type examination.

Points to remember

The students are expected to attend all the classes. In case if they are not able to come, they are supposed to inform the teacher in advance. Personal information or an email will be preferred. Students are requested to avoid making calls on the mobiles unless it is unavoidable.

Details of the readings are given below. Students are expected to come after going through the reading. This will be helpful for them and will make it convenient for the teacher to explain things.

Course Contents

Unit 1 Understanding comparative politics and institutionalism (January 10-February 3)

Before we take off it is necessary to know some of the basics of the discipline. Although a larger part of this section has been covered in the previous semester in which the students have read about the basic concepts and theories in comparative politics.

In this section we will look into some of the issues and concepts once again for the specific purpose of this course. In the last forty years it has emerged as the most vibrant and market demanding discipline because of its interdisciplinarity in nature. Although it is known as politics but it incorporates issues of culture, economy, society and of course polity. In comparative politics at times it is really difficult to draw a distinction between various disciplines.

Keeping this in mind the students are advised to try to read basics of other disciplines such as economics, sociology etc. for this purpose they can refer to the basic books of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). If they can use internet for the knowledge of some of the basics, that will further make your task easier.

Essential readings:

Bara, Judith and Mark Pennington (2009), *Comparative politics: Explaining Democratic Systems*. New Delhi: Sage Indian Publishing (Introduction, chapter one and two). The introductory chapter deals with the basics of comparative politics and also tries to explain the reasons behind adopting the approach

which the book follows. Chapter one deals with the concept of institutions and institutionalism. It deals with the varieties of institutionalism which have become popular in the past one and half decade. Second chapter deals with the methods of comparative research. Unless the students have some basic idea about the methodology it will be difficult for them to understand the nature of research which is being carried out in this discipline. However, in our own course we will follow a very simple and easily understandable methodology, qualitative methods, since most of the students are not familiar with the quantitative and empirical techniques.

Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) **Chapter one and two**

John Pierre and B Guy Peters, *Institutionalism* (London, Sage Publications, 2010) Vol 1., **Chapter 1**

Unit II Understanding democratization (February 4-16)

This unit will focus on the meaning of democratization and relevance of institutionalism in understanding this process in various parts of the world. In this unit we will also touch upon the meaning of civil society and party systems.

Essential readings

Juan J Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe* (Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press, 1996), **Chapter one and Part IV**

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Delhi, Adarsh Books, 2009)

O'Donnell, Philip C. Schmitter and Laurence Whitehead, eds. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America* (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1986)

Andrew Haywood, *Politics* (London, Palgrave, 2007), **Chapters on political parties and party systems**

*******Evaluation one Mid Semester Examination**

Unit III Analysis of Civil society and Party systems (February 17-March 4)

This unit will focus on the evolution of civil societies in Pakistan, South Africa and Russia. We will see how three countries with different political set ups have different nature of civil society development. Here

the focus will be on media freedom, and non governmental organizations. This unit will emphasize upon the development of party system in the above mentioned cases. It will also try to explain how evolution of party system determines the nature of political system.

Essential readings

Andrew Haywood, *Politics* (London, Palgrave, 2007), **Chapters on political parties and party systems**

Goran Hyden, "The study of governance" In Goran Hyden and Michael Bratton, eds. *Governance and Politics in Africa*, (Boulder, CO Lynne Rienner Publishers 1992)

Sunil Khilnani (ed.), *Civil society*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), **Introduction and chapter three**

Neera Chandoke, *Concepts of Civil Society* (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1999)

Stephen P. Cohen, *The Idea of Pakistan* (Washington DC, Brookings Institution Press, 2005)

Also see the website: <http://www.democracy-asia.org>

*******Evaluation two (Take home exam)**

Unit IV Lessons from democratization experiences (March 5 - April 15)

Finally we will examine how democratization differs in different countries. We will also try to see its impact upon the development. The unit will also touch upon the critical issues of importing democratization.

Essential Readings

Richard Rose and Dol Chull Sin, "Democratization Backwards: The Problems of Third Wave Democracies", *British Journal of Political Science*, 31, 331-54

For overall world governance survey see the website <http://www.odi.org.uk/work/projects/00-07-world-governance-assessment/publications.html>.

End Semester Examination BEST OF LUCK AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS