

SYLLABUS

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj–Napoca
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
1.3 Department	Political Science
1.4 Field of study	Political Science
1.5 Level of study	Undergraduate
1.6 Study program /Qualification	Political Science

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Discipline title				Comparative Politics: theory and methods (ULE1311)			
2.2 Course coordinator				Daniel Pop, PhD (email: daniel.pop@ubbcluj.ro); office hours: Tuesdays, 11.00 am to noon, please seek appointment in advance)			
2.3 Seminar coordinator				Cătălin Pop, PhD (email: catalin.pop@ubbcluj.ro); office hours: Tuesdays, 3.00 pm to 4 pm, please seek appointment in advance)			
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline type	compulsory

3. Total estimated time (hours of didactic activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the study plan	42	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Time distribution: 3 hours classroom work, and 6 hours individual study.					hrs
Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography, and notes:					28
Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field:					14
Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios, and essays:					28
Tutorials					6
Examinations					4
Other activities: field research, etc.					4
3.7 Total hours of individual study					84
3.8 Total hours per semester					106
3.9 Number of ECTS credits					5

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 based on the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not the case
4.2 based on competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not the case

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 for the course	<p>The notion of plagiarism is defined in accordance with the Department of Political Science policies: (http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/). Plagiarism and attempted fraud at examination is punishable by 1 to this note and the case presented to the Dean to take appropriate administrative measures.</p> <p>Final exam fraud is punishable by removal from the exam.</p>
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5.2 for the seminar/ lab activities	Attendance at seminars is required by university regulations to a level of 75%. Note: arrear exam includes seminar component. If the work done by the student does not meet the seminars requirements to promote this discipline the student will not be admitted to the exam.
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6. Accumulated specific competencies

Professional competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of reports and analysis regarding the evolution of local, regional, national, and international policy processes. The identification of key concepts and methods to evaluate public policy processes and critical policy events. The application of tools and instruments specific to comparative public policy analysis. The use domain specific tools and instruments in the evaluation of political and policy processes.
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to effectively operate in a multidisciplinary and hierarchic environment. The ability to assimilate, operationalise, synthesise, and communicate complex information in mother tongue and at least one international language.

7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)

7.1 General objective of the discipline	This course provides a general introduction to the extensive field of comparative politics. The principal aim of this course is to help you develop a comprehensive understanding and acquire the general skills and competences, as well as to acquire major concepts and to become familiar with theories in the field of Comparative Politics. To this end the course will focus on the cross-national study of governments, political systems and of the various social, geopolitical, and economic variables which condition their formation and effective/ineffective operation. Finally, we will employ social science methodology in evaluating the effects of political events and processes.
7.2 Specific objectives of the discipline	<p>The key specific objectives of the course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce students to the evolution of comparative politics as a standalone multi-disciplinary field of scientific inquiry. To help students to acquire the skills, competences and learn about the key analytical tools necessary to both comprehend and elaborate comparative political analyses. To problematise the limitations of the field and present students the principal lines of inquiry seeking to further develop comparative politics as a standalone multi-disciplinary field of scientific inquiry

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
Week 1. Introduction and review of syllabus Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education. Chapter 1.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	
Week 2. What is comparative politics?	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course.	Students are required to read

O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 1. Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education. Chapter 2.	Interactive discussion of examples.	the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 3. States O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 2.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 4. Nations and society O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 3.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 5. Review of concepts and methodologies	Review of concepts and methodologies	Students are required to revisit the literature weeks 1 to 4
Week 6. Political economy O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 4.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 7. Democratic regimes O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 5.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 8. Nondemocratic regimes O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 6.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 9. Political violence O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 7.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 10. Review of concepts and methodologies	Review of concepts and methodologies	Students are required to revisit the literature weeks 6 to 9
Week 11. Developed democracies O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 8.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 12. Communism and post-communism O'Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 9.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course.	Students are required to read the literature

	Interactive discussion of examples.	indicated in the syllabus
Week 13. Globalization and the future of comparative politics O’Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Chapter 11.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 14. Summary and wrap-up		
Bibliography Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. O’Neil, Patrick H. 2017. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 6th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton. Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education.		

8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
Week 1. Introduction and seminar activities review		
Week 2. Multi Causality, context conditionality, and endogeneity, part I Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 2.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 3. Multi Causality, context conditionality, and endogeneity, part II Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 2.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 4. States – collective action theory Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 8. Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education. Chapter 5.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 5. Civil wars Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 18.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 6. Public policy Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 7. Interest articulation Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education. Chapter 4.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature

		indicated in the syllabus
Week 8. Mechanisms of globalized protest movements Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 20.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 9. Dictatorship: analytical approaches Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 16.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 10. The welfare state in global perspectives Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 35.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 11. Poor performance and economically weak democracies Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 36.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 12. Inequality and participation Elkjær, Mads Andreas, and Michael Baggesen Klitgaard. 2021. "Economic Inequality and Political Responsiveness: A Systematic Review." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> : 1–20. doi: 10.1017/s1537592721002188.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 13. Globalization and the future of comparative politics Visualization of global processes and trends	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 14. Review		
Bibliography Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i> . London, England: Oxford University Press. Elkjær, Mads Andreas, and Michael Baggesen Klitgaard. 2021. "Economic Inequality and Political Responsiveness: A Systematic Review." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> : 1–20. doi: 10.1017/s1537592721002188. Strom, Kaare, Russell J. Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2015. <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Global Edition</i> . Pearson Education.		

9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program

The course is intended to synthesise the key and core concepts, notions, and theories in comparative politics at the undergraduate learning cycle. This way, the course helps students further understand the nature of their professional formation and the practical utility of their acquired skills and competencies in the labour market. From the employer's point of view, the mastery of graduates in understanding comparative political theories and methods and the related distribution of welfare effects makes graduates a fundamental resource for their strategic planning and operations.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Weight in final mark
10.4 Course	Evaluation of expert knowledge taught in class. Assessment of exposure and clarity of expression level of specialized knowledge taught in class	Written final exam will evaluate knowledge on the subjects treated in lectures and seminars to the time of the test.	50%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Work in the seminars	Substantive contributions to the discussions of the seminar.	20%
		Individual case study presentation	30%

10.6 Minimum performance standard

The first assignment is to read the assigned weekly readings carefully and be prepared to discuss them in class.

You will also prepare and deliver a previously agreed original case presentation during the semester. This will count for 30% of your final grade. Middle-term quizzes will be taken in weeks 5 and 9; each test counts for 10% of the final grade.

A written final exam will be 30% of the final grade. Failing to obtain a passing grade on the final exam implies failing the class.

The Department of Political Science regulations define the notion of plagiarism.

Any academic paper relies on information with proper sources cited according to scientific rules. Using one of the existing bibliographical styles (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) is strongly recommended. The Department of Political Sciences recommends using the [APSA](#) style (American Political Science Association). If any other style is preferred, it should be used consistently throughout the paper. Evaluation of the papers will also consider the correct use of the bibliographical style.

Date Signature of course coordinator Signature of seminar coordinator
 25 September 2024

Date of approval Signature of the head of department
 25 September 2024