

Instructor: Dr. Zhang
Email: bzhang@ln.edu.hk
Office: SOC305

Comparative Politics

Course Code:	POL210
Recommended Year of Study:	Second Year
No. of Credits/Term:	3
Mode of Tuition:	Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hour:	3
Category in Major Program:	Elective
Discipline:	Politics
Prerequisite:	(a) POL 101 or (b) CUS 213

Course Aims

This course surveys major research issues in comparative political studies. It covers three main themes in the field: political development, political economy, and culture and identity politics. Specific topics include democratization, constitutional choices for new democracies, varieties of capitalism, strategies for economic reforms, challenges for economic development, clash of civilizations, ethnic conflicts and others

Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to critically assess alternative choices in political and economic institutions across the world and their important consequences. Students should also be able to understand the causes of rising ethnic conflicts and cultural clashes in the world and their potential solutions.

Teaching Method:

This course consists of lectures, classroom discussions, tutorials, presentations, and research and writing.

Assessment:

Your final grade will be determined by the following: class participation 10%; presentation 10%; research paper 30%; final exam 50%. The paper should be least 12

pages long and no more than 15 pages. It needs to be typed and double-spaced. The topic of your paper should be related to comparative politics and can include issues not covered by the class. The due date of the paper is May 7, one week after the final exam.

Topics

Jan 12. Introduction

Jan 19. Survey of the Field.

Timothy C. Lim. 2006. *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues*, Chapter 1, "Introduction."

Howard J. Wiarda. 2000. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Concepts and Processes*, Chapter 1: "What Is Comparative Politics?"

Jan 26. Political Development: Democracy's European Origin

Robert Dahl. 1998. *On Democracy*. Chapter 2, "Where and How Did Democracy Develop? A Brief History."

Brian Downing. 1992. *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*. Chapters 1 and 2.

Baohui Zhang. 2006. "Toward the Rule of Law: Why China's Path Will Be different the West," in Suisheng Zhao, ed., *Options of Political Reform in China: The Rule of Law Regime vs. a Democratic Polity*.

Feb 2. Political Development: Waves of Democratization

John Markoff. 1996. *Waves of democratization: Social Movements and Political Change*, Chapter 1, "A Quick History of Modern Democracy."

Samuel Huntington. 1992. "How Countries Democratize." *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 106.

Howard J. Wiarda. 2000. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Concepts and Processes*. Chapter 6, "Democracy and Democratization: Transitions from Authoritarianism"

Baohui Zhang. 2004. "How and When Will China Democratize: The Lessons from Taiwan." *Asian Profile*, Vol. 32, No. 3.

Feb 9. Political Development: Consolidation of New Democracies

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward Consolidated Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 7, No. 2.

Larry Diamond. 1996. "Toward Democratic Consolidation," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*.

Marc Plattner. 1996. "The Democratic Moment," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*.

Feb 23. Political Development: The Quality of Democracy

Larry Diamond and Leonardo Morlino. 2004. "The Quality of Democracy: An Overview," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15, No. 4.

Arend Lijphart. 2000. "Majoritarian vs. Consensus Democracy," in Bernard E. Brown, ed., *Comparative Politics*.

Baohui Zhang. 2008. "Improving Democratic Governance in East Asia," *Asian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 16, No. 1.

March 2. Political Economy: Varieties of Capitalism

David Coates. 2002. *Models of Capitalism: Debating Strengths and Weaknesses*. Chapter 2, "The Political Economy of the World's Capitalisms".

Mortimer Zackerman. 1998. "A Second American Century." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 77, No. 3.

Robert Shiller. 2009. "A Failure to Control Animal Spirits," *Financial Times*, March 8, 2009.

Edmund Phelps, 2009. "Uncertainty Bedevils the Best System," *Financial Times*, April 14, 2009.

David Coates. 1999. "Models of Capitalism in the New World Order: The UK Case," *Political Studies*, Vol. XLVII.

March 9. Political Economy: Varieties of Capitalism

Louis D. Hayes. 2004. *Introduction to Japanese Politics*. Chapter 9, "The Economy."

Jeff Kingston. 2004. *Japan's Quiet Revolution*. Chapter 1, "The Lost Decade of the 1990s".

Tun-Jen Cheng. 1993. "Distinctions between the Taiwanese and Korean Approaches To Economic Modernization." *Journal of East Asian Affairs*, Vol. VII, No. 1.

March 16. Political Economy: Politics of Economic Reform

John Bennett. 1995. *The Transition from Communism to Capitalism*.

Vladimir Popov. 2004. "Circumstances versus Policy Choices: Why Has the Economic Performance of the Soviet Successor States Been So Poor?" in Michael McFaul,

ed., *After the Collapse of Communism: Comparative Lessons of Communism*.
Alvin So. 2003. "Rethinking the Chinese Developmental Miracle," in Alvin So. ed.,
China's Development Miracle: Origins, Transformations, and Challenges.
Minxin Pei. 2006. "The Dark Side of China's Rise," *Foreign Policy*, March/April.

March 23. Political Economy: Why Is Sustained Development So Difficult?

John Rapley. 2002. *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World*. Chapters 1-3.

Timothy C. Lim. 2006. *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues*, Chapters 4 and 5.

David S. Landes. 1998. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Poor and Some So Rich*.

Jaffrey D. Sachs. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*.
Chapter 13, "Making Investment Needed to End Poverty".

March 30. Identity Politics: Why Culture Matters?

Howard J. Wiarda. 2000. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Concepts and Processes*.
Chapter 4, "Political Culture and Comparative Politics"

Steve Bruce. 2004. "Did Protestantism Create Democracy?" *Democratization*, Vol. 11,
No. 4, pp. 3-20.

Robert Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*.
Chapter 5.

Chua Beng Huat. 2004. "Communitarian Politics in Asia," in Chua Beng Huat, ed.,
Communitarian Politics in Asia.

Robert D. Woodberry and Timothy S. Shah. 2004. "The Pioneering Protestants,"
Journal of Democracy, Vol. 15, No. 2.

April 13. Identity Politics: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflicts

Raymond C. Taras and Rajat Ganguly. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict*. Chapter 1.

Lina M. Kassem, 2005. "Nationalism," in Michael T. Snarr, ed., *Introducing Global Issues*.

Donald L. Horowitz. 1994. "Democracy in Divided Societies," in Larry Diamond and
Marc F. Plattner, eds., *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy*.

April 20. Identity Politics: Civilizational Conflicts

Samuel Huntington. 1996. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. Chapters 7 and 9.

Samuel Huntington. 1996. "The West Unique, Not Universal," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 6.

Anoushiravan Thteshami. 2004. "Islam, Muslim Polities and Democracy," *Democratization*, Vol. 11, No. 4.

April 27. **Final Exam**

Tutorial Topics for POL210

Feb 13 and 18

Baohui Zhang. 2006. "Toward the Rule of Law: Why China's Path Will Be different the West," in Suisheng Zhao, ed., *Options of Political Reform in China: The Rule of Law Regime vs. a Democratic Polity*.

Feb 20 and 25.

Baohui Zhang. 2004. "How and When Will China Democratize: The Lessons from Taiwan." *Asian Profile*, Vol. 32, No. 3.

Feb 27 and March 4

Marc Plattner. 1996. "The Democratic Moment," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*.

March 6 and 11

Baohui Zhang. 2008. "Improving Democratic Governance in East Asia," *Asian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 16, No. 1.

March 13 and 18

David Coates. 1999. "Models of Capitalism in the New World Order: The UK Case," *Political Studies*, Vol. XLVII.

March 20 and 25

Tun-Jen Cheng. 1993. "Distinctions between the Taiwanese and Korean Approaches To Economic Modernization." *Journal of East Asian Affairs*, Vol. VII, No. 1.

March 27 and April 1

Minxin Pei. 2006. "The Dark Side of China's Rise," *Foreign Policy*, March/April.

April 3 and 8

Jaffrey D. Sachs. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. Chapter 13, "Making Investment Needed to End Poverty".

April 17 and 22

Donald L. Horowitz. 1994. "Democracy in Divided Societies," in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy*.

April 24 and 28

Alfred Stepan and Braeme B. Robertson. 2004. "Arab, Not Muslim, Exceptionalism." *Journal of Democracy*, Vo. 15, No. 4.