



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2019

5,310: Comparative Politics

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Central - Written examination (60%, 90 mins.)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[5,310,1.00 Comparative Politics](#) -- Englisch -- [Freyburg Tina](#)

[5,310,3.01 Comparative Politics: Independent Studies, Group 1](#) -- Englisch -- [Marcos-Marné Hugo](#)

[5,310,3.02 Comparative Politics: Independent Studies, Group 2](#) -- Englisch -- [Marcos-Marné Hugo](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No formal prerequisites. Basic knowledge of political science concepts and methods would be an asset.

The present course [5,310 'Comparative Politics'] is held in English and will be assessed in English. Sollten Sie bevorzugen, den Kurs in Deutsch zu besuchen, so wählen Sie bitte Pflichtkurs 5,308 'Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft.'

Students with special needs are kindly asked to identify themselves to the lecturer so that together we can think over how to best accompany them according to their Needs.

Course content

Why do political regimes and institutions develop how they do, where they do? Why are some countries democratic and others not? How does economic development influence the success of democratization? And, do democratic systems provide better outcomes than non-democratic ones? The course covers these and many other questions related to the nature of politics and the political process within and across different political systems, such as the nation-state of Switzerland but also the European Union.

The course provides an introduction to the study of real-world politics through the eyes of comparative politics scholars. In addition to the discussion of substantial questions in comparative politics ("empirical knowledge"), we will reflect on how to study these questions with rigid scientific research ("methodological knowledge") to produce and test reliable and valid arguments that can be generalized beyond the studied cases ("theoretical knowledge"). The course thus takes an integrative approach to the relationship between big themes and empirical-analytical research.

The course provides invaluable skills and knowledge for anyone seeking to develop familiarity with some of the major issues in comparative politics and the practical skills in critically evaluating political systems at multiple levels worldwide. In particular:

- Students will broaden their understanding of key concepts and issues in Comparative Politics;
- Students will deepen their knowledge about the determinants and effects of differences across political systems worldwide;
- Students will improve their skills in constructing and substantiating an informed and nuanced argument;
- Students will foster their ability to critically evaluate scholarly work in comparative research;
- Students will strengthen their understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of major methodological approaches in comparative politics.

Course structure



The course includes two key components: lectures and seminar groups.

There will be one two-hour lecture held during each week. The lectures are designed to outline the topic and to prepare the theoretical and empirical ground for the seminar discussions. They provide condensed introductions to the theme, identify key challenges and controversies in existing scholarly research, and are the basis for the discussion of carefully selected scholarly applications in the seminar group meetings. Lectures will generally build on the required readings, but new material will also regularly be presented. For this reason, active attendance during lectures is essential for a successful completion of the course. Students will be provided guidance on how to prepare for the exam during lectures.

Seminar group meetings (independent studies) led by your teaching assistant (TA) are a vital addition to the weekly lectures. They provide opportunities for students to practice how to critically assess scholarly work. Seminar group meetings are discussion-based. Participation should reflect solid preparation - having attended lectures, done the required readings for the week's topic, thought about the material and done the best to understand it. Constructive participation includes not only providing thoughtful answers to questions posed by the TA but also asking questions about material that one has struggled to understand. The seminars are assessed through two short review papers (1'000 words each). Review papers are critical reviews of academic articles that have been published with top comparative politics journals. The review must be written from the perspective of a potential ad hoc reviewer for a journal - critical, constructive and realistic. Details will be communicated in the first session of the lecture and also published on StudyNet. The critical reading and commenting of scientific work will be practiced in the meetings of the seminar groups. Students will receive qualitative feedback on their first review paper, which shall help them when working on their second paper.

Important:

ATTENDANCE. Lecture and seminar group meetings are tightly linked but address different objectives of learning. While the lecture provides a discussion of the hitherto best answers to key questions in comparative politics, the seminars offer an opportunity to learning how these answers have been produced and to critically evaluating the quality of the empirical analysis. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to attend both. If you know you will be unable to attend a seminar group meeting it is both courteous and helpful to the rest of the class to make all reasonable efforts to notify the TA in advance.

EXCHANGE TERM: This course is a mandatory course in the Major "International Affairs"; courses that are attended while abroad will be accepted only in exceptional cases and upon careful scrutiny of equivalence. Albeit contact studies should always be favoured, in principle, it is possible to successfully complete this course while abroad. Students are kindly requested to contact the lecture.

INDEPENDENT STUDY. Please note that you are expected to engage in intensive independent study, employing the reading list provided to deepen knowledge of the subject.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS. A penalty of 3% per day including weekends and statutory holidays will be assigned to late assignments, except in the event of a documented serious illness or serious personal emergency. Late assignments will be accepted for a maximum of ten days, including holidays and weekends. After this time the papers will not be accepted for grading.

Course literature

A reader will be made available through both StudyNet (Canvas) and as printed script through the script commission.

For introductions and overviews, see:

- Clark, W., M. Golder and S. Nadenichek Golder (2013) *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Sage.
- Caramani, D. (ed.) (2017) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford UP.
- Boix, C. and S. Stokes (eds) (2009) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford UP.

Additional course information

Tina Freyburg is Professor of Comparative Politics in the School of Economics and Political Sciences at the University of St.Gallen. She received her Ph.D. from ETH Zurich in 2011. Professor Freyburg currently serves as the academic director for the MA programme "International Affairs and Governance." In her research she explores the chances and challenges that emerge for democracy in a globalized and digitalized world. Please visit her personal website for more information: www.tina-freyburg.eu

Examination information



Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Central - Written examination (60%, 90 mins.)

Remark

Sit-in exam (90 mins)

Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, PDAs, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Remark

Review of 2 scholarly articles (1'000 words each)

Examination-aid rule

Term papers

- Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship.
- The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the APA or MLA standards. The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into the text in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C. (2017), *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien* (12th ed., Cornelsen Schweiz).
- For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers both according to the MLA and the APA standard is never optional.
- Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.
- For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B. (2018), *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende* (6. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages



Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The final examination (90 mins) is divided into 3 parts:

- (1) 5 definitions (selection)-10 points
- (2) 10 multiple-choice questions-20 points
- (3) 6 short-answer questions-60 points

Examination relevant literature

Readings covered on the exam are provided through StudyNet (Canvas) and the script commission. All basic readings will be made available by the start of term and complemented with additional material as we go.

Please note

Please note that this fact sheet alone is binding and has priority over any other information such as StudyNet (Canvas), personal databases or faculty members' websites and information provided in their lectures, etc.

Any possible references and links within the fact sheet to information provided by third parties are merely supplementary and informative in nature and are outside the University of St.Gallen's scope of responsibility and guarantee.

Documents and materials that have been submitted no later than the end of term time (CW51) are relevant to central examinations.

Binding nature of the fact sheet:

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral) and examination type starting from the beginning of the bidding on 22 August 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for decentral examinations after the 4th semester week on 14 October 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for central examinations as from the starting date for examination registration on 4 November 2019

Please consult the fact sheet again after these deadlines have expired.