



CET ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS

## CET Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Shanghai

**Course Code / Title:** (SH/POLI 130) Introduction to Comparative Politics

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Suggested Cross Listings:** Political Science / International Relations, History, Government

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

---

### Description

How does one learn to think like a political scientist? Or to simply understand and form reasoned opinions about the many complex, current political issues that shape our lives? This course surveys the basic methods for and perspectives of comparative politics that allow students to build these skills. Four mainstream research approaches are introduced: rational choice, structural explanation, cultural perspective, and institutionalism. Topics covered include: What is comparative politics? Why and how do we make comparisons to understand politics? What is a theory and what is its role in making sense of the social world? How do we explain political and international puzzles from different perspectives? What are the determinants of democratization? Why do some countries get rich while others remain poor? Why do we have social movements and revolutions? Why and how do people participate in politics? Does political culture matter? How do international linkages interact with domestic politics? Critical thinking is stressed throughout the course, and students bring their own ideas into classroom discussions.

### Objectives

In this course, students gain or advance the skills to:

- use theoretical frameworks and factual background to analyze international affairs and political events.
- understand the comparative method for the study of politics and master how to research basic questions in the field.
- think critically, engage in complex reasoning, and express their thoughts clearly through their written and oral work.
- recognize works by the principal protagonists of the field and understand why they are significant.

### Course Requirements

Active and thoughtful participation is essential throughout this course. Students are expected to attend each class, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Reading assignments average 50-80 pages per weekly class. Graded assignments include two short presentations in class that analyze assigned readings or apply them to current global events, an in-class midterm exam, and a final Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE). The PAE is a case study, where students identify a global political problem or puzzle, apply theoretical frameworks and specialized knowledge to analyze the problem, and offer solutions to the problem. Students will present their case studies, followed by

## CET Syllabus of Record

class discussion. The result is a policy analysis report (about 2,000 words) focused on analysis. A detailed case study guide will be provided in class.

### Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Presentations in class (2 at 10% each; one is part of the Policy Analysis Exercise): 20%
- Discussion in class: 20%
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final Policy Analysis Exercise: 35%

### Readings

Acemoglu, Daron, and James Robinson. "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty". In *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Business, 2012.

Allen, Hicken. "Clientelism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14, no. 1 (2011): 289-310.

Boix, Carles, Michael Miller, and Sebastian Rosato. "A Complete Data Set of Political Regimes, 1800–2007." *Comparative Political Studies* 46, no. 12 (2013): 1523-54.

Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *The American Political Science Review* 89, no. 2 (1995): 271-94.

Brubaker, Rogers. "Paradoxes of Populism during the Pandemic." Working Paper, June 2020. Accessed July 1, 2020. DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/cy73b.  
<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/cy73b/>

Chen, Jidong, and Yiqing Xu. "Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Allow Citizens to Voice Opinions Publicly?" *The Journal of Politics* 79, no. 3 (2017): 792-803.

Collier, Paul. "Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis." In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, edited by Patrick H. O'Neill and Ronald Rogowski, 84-105. London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Gandhi, Jennifer, and Adam Przeworski. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 11 (2007): 1279-301.

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. "Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set." *Perspectives on Politics* 12, no. 2 (2014): 313-31.

Goldstone, Jack. "Toward a Fourth Generation of Revolutionary Theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4 (2001): 139-87. Gourevitch, Peter. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32 (1978): 881-900.

## CET Syllabus of Record



- Gunitsky, Seva. "Democratic Waves in Historical Perspective." *Perspectives on Politics* 16, no. 3 (2018): 634-51.
- Helmke, Gretchen, and Steven Levitsky. "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda." *Perspectives on Politics* 2, no. 4 (2004): 725-40.
- Hobsbawm, Eric. "Nationalism". In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, edited by Patrick H. O'Neill and Ronald Rogowski, 72-80. London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.
- Hu, Peng. "Popular Understanding of Democracy in Contemporary China." *Democratization* 25, no. 8 (2018): 1441-1459.
- Ledeneva, Alena. "Blat and Guanxi: Informal Practices in Russia and China." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50, no. 1 (2008): 118-44.
- Levi, Margaret, and Barry R. Weingast. "Douglass North's Theory of Politics." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 52, no. 2 (2019): 213-17.
- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. "Introduction." In *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*, 3-36. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Li, Yao. "Introduction." In *Playing by the Informal Rules: Why the Chinese Regime Remains Stable Despite Rising Protests*, 1-26. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Lim, Timothy. *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues*. 3rd ed. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2016.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. "Credible Power-Sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule." *Comparative Political Studies* 41, no. 4-5 (2008): 715-41.
- McCormick, John, Rod Hague, and Martin Harrop. *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction*. 11th ed. London: Red Globe Press, 2019.
- Nathan, Andrew. "Authoritarian Resilience." *Journal of Democracy* 14, no. 1 (2003): 6-17.
- O'Neill, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 6th ed. London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2017.
- O'Neill, Patrick H., and Ronald Rogowski. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. 5th ed. London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2017.
- Park, Chong-Min, and Shin Doh Chull. "Do Asian Values Deter Popular Support for Democracy in South Korea?" *Asian Survey* 46, no. 3 (2006): 341-61.
- Parthasarathy, Ramya, Vijayendra Rao, and Nethra Palaniswamy. "Deliberative Democracy in an Unequal World: A Text-as-Data Study of South India's Village Assemblies." *The American Political Science Review* 113, no. 3 (2019): 623-40.

## CET Syllabus of Record

- Shi, Tianjian. "Cultural Norms: East and West." In *The Cultural Logic of Politics in Mainland China and Taiwan*, 41-59. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Tang, Min, Narisong Huhe, and Qiang Zhou. "Contingent Democratization: When Do Economic Crises Matter?" *British Journal of Political Science* 47, no. 1 (2017): 71-90.
- Tang, Rui, and Shiping Tang. "Democracy's Unique Advantage in Promoting Economic Growth: Quantitative Evidence for a New Institutional Theory." *Kyklos* 71, no. 4 (2018): 642-66.
- Tilly, Charles. "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" *Comparative Politics* 5, no. 3 (1973): 425-47.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, 169-191. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation." In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, edited by Patrick H. O'Neill and Ronald Rogowski, 34-40. London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.
- Zhao, Dingxin. "Ecologies of Social Movements: Student Mobilization During the 1989 Prodemocracy Movement in Beijing." *American Journal of Sociology* 103, no. 6 (1998): 1493-529.
- Ziblatt, Daniel. "Does Landholding Inequality Block Democratization?: A Test of the "Bread and Democracy" Thesis and the Case of Prussia." *World Politics* 60, no. 4 (2008): 610-41.

### Outline of Course Content

- Topic 1 – What is Comparative Politics? Why and How Do We Make Comparisons?
- Topic 2 – Perspectives on Comparative Political Analysis
- Topic 3 – States
- Topic 4 – Nations and Societies
- Topic 5 – Democratic and Nondemocratic Regimes
- Topic 6 – Authoritarian Durability
- Topic 7 – Democratization
- Topic 8 – Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution
- Topic 9 – Political Participation
- Topic 10 – Political Culture
- Topic 11 – Political Economy
- Topic 12 – Informal Politics
- Topic 13 – International Linkages and Domestic Politics