

GVPT 459B  
T-Th 12:30-1:45  
Fall 2018  
Room: TYD 1114

Professor Ernesto Calvo  
Office Hours: W 12:00-13:00  
2111 Chincoteague - [ecalvo@umd.edu](mailto:ecalvo@umd.edu)

## GVPT 459 B: Comparative Political Institutions

This course will provide a general introduction to Comparative Political Institutions. It will explore basic political concepts that relate to issues of representation, elections, and congresses.

Students are expected to do the assigned readings and participate in class discussion. Grades will be based on two in-class exams, participation, presentation of cases, and a short paper discussing Simone de Beauvoir's *All men are Mortal*. Please familiarize yourself with the academic honesty policy of the University of Maryland. Collaborative papers require a joint 10 minute presentation on the last week of classes (only groups of two students are expected to present their work in class). Individual papers do not require a separate presentation.

### Grade:

Participation	10%
First Exam	30%
Second Exam	40%
Short Paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

### Learning Outcomes:

- Student will master basic concepts, theories and methods pertaining to the comparative study of political institutions.
- Students will write an original paper on comparative political institutions, seen from a literary viewpoint.
- Students will be able to understand how the study of comparative politics fits within the field of Political Science in general.

### One of these three books:

- a) Claire North. 2014. *The first Fifteen Lives of Harry August*. (<https://www.amazon.com/First-Fifteen-Lives-Harry-August-ebook/dp/B00ECE90D4>)
- b) José Saramago. 1999. *The gospel according to Jesus Christ*. Random House. ([https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-According-Jesus-Christ/dp/0156001411/ref=mt\\_paperback? encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1535412734](https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-According-Jesus-Christ/dp/0156001411/ref=mt_paperback? encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1535412734))
- c) Adrian Tchaikovsky. 2016. *Children of time*. ([https://www.amazon.com/Children-Time-Adrian-Tchaikovsky/dp/1447273303/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0? encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com/Children-Time-Adrian-Tchaikovsky/dp/1447273303/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0? encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=))).

**Support Book:**

**Almond, G; Powell, G; Strom, K; Dalton, R. 2011. Comparative Politics Today. Longman. It can be rented for less than US\$ 30.**

**ALL OTHER READINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH CANVAS**

**SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1, AUGUST 28: REPRESENTATION.**

Przeworsky, Manin and Stokes. Democracy, Accountability, and Representation. Cambridge U.P. Introduction and Chapter 1.

*Optional:*

Adam Przeworski, Interview in *Passion, Craft and Method*.

**WEEK 2, SEPTEMBER 4 AND 6: STATE FORMATION.**

Cox, G. W. (2016). Marketing Sovereign Promises, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Case study: England

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9te2u50pgneidk/0205109152\\_Powell\\_CPT\\_10e\\_Ch.8.ppt?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9te2u50pgneidk/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.8.ppt?dl=0)

**WEEK 3, SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13: PRESIDENTIALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM**

Hellwig, Tim and David Samuels. 2008. "Electoral Accountability and the Variety of Democratic Regimes." *British Journal of Political Science* 38(01): 65-90.

*Optional:*

Philippe Schmitter, Interview in *Passion, Craft, and Method*.

Case study: Germany

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/i58hir9ca0x66c3/0205109152\\_Powell\\_CPT\\_10e\\_Ch.10.ppt?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/i58hir9ca0x66c3/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.10.ppt?dl=0)

**WEEK 4, SEPTEMBER 18 AND 20: REPRESENTATION II.**

Achen, Chris and Larry Bartels. 2004. Blind Retrospection: Electoral Responses to Droughts, Floods, and Shark Attack.

Case study: USA

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5umj04qde3kanf/0205109152\\_Powell\\_CPT\\_10e\\_Ch.19.ppt?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5umj04qde3kanf/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.19.ppt?dl=0)

#### WEEK 5, SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27: DEMOCRATIZATION I

O'Donnell and Schmitter. 1985. Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions. John Hopkins.

Optional:

Guillermo O'Donnell, Interview in Passion, Craft, and Method.

#### WEEK 6, OCTOBER 2 AND 4: DEMOCRATIZATION II

David L. Epstein, Robert Bates, Jack Goldstone, Ida Kristensen, Sharyn O'Halloran. 2006." Democratic Transtions." American Journal of Political Science, Volume 50 Issue 3, Pages 551 – 569.

Optional:

Robert Bates, Interview in Passion, Craft, and Method.

#### WEEK 7, OCTOBER 9 AND 11: LEGISLATURES.

Cox, Gary. 2004. The organization of democratic Legislatures.

Case Study: Argentina

#### WEEK 8, OCTOBER 16 AND 18: MOVIE

**The Deal**

#### WEEK 9: REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAMINATION:

**Review: Tuesday October 23**

**Midterm: Thursday October 25.**

#### WEEK 10, OCTOBER 30, NOVEMBER 1: PARTIES.

Octavio Amorin Neto and Gary W. Cox, 1997."Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties

Case study: Brazil

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/j6hkhkj65uyxjld/0205109152\\_Powell\\_CPT\\_10e\\_Ch.15.ppt?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/j6hkhkj65uyxjld/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.15.ppt?dl=0)

#### WEEK 11, NOVEMBER 6 AND 8: MOVIE

**Good Bye, Lenin**

**WEEK 12, NOVEMBER 13 AND 15: DE-COLONIZATION AND ETHNIC CLEAVAGES: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10-THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12.**

Eifert, Benn, Miguel Edward, Daniel N. Posner. 2010. "Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa." American Journal of Political Science 54, 2 (April): 494-510.

Case study: Nigeria

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/fqlwkgubx4pphab/0205109152\\_Powell\\_CPT\\_10e\\_Ch.18.ppt?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/fqlwkgubx4pphab/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.18.ppt?dl=0)

**WEEK 13, NOVEMBER 20: WHY ELECTORAL REFORMS?**

Calvo, E. The Competitive Road to Proportional Representation. [EV]

Case study: Chile

**WEEK 14, NOVEMBER 27 AND 29: GENDER POLITICS**

Barnes, T. D., et al. (2016). "A Reexamination of Women's Electoral Success in Open Seat Elections: The Conditioning Effect of Electoral Competition." Journal of Women, Politics & Policy: 1-20.

**WEEK 15: REVIEW AND SECOND EXAM**

**Review: December 4.**

**Second Exam: December 6.**

**EXAMS WEEK: Monday December 17**

**Turn in Final Paper**