



DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Course Dates: Aug 29, 2023–Dec 7, 2023

When/where: TuTh 12:30pm–1:45pm (TYD 2109)

Credits: 3

Course Number and Title: GVPT459B (Comparative Political Institutions)

Instructor: Youngjoon Lee

Email: yjlee@umd.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

In this course, we will address the following five themes: 1) the state vs. the puppet state; 2) the government; 3) the legislature; 4) firms; and 5) individuals. We will study how political and economic institutions operate in both democracies and non-democracies.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to gain a lot of knowledge on political and economic institutions in various countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Required Resources

Students do not need to buy any textbook. Reading materials are available in the ELMS. The reading list is given below. PPT slides will be posted in the ELMS prior to each lecture. Students do not need to peruse assigned reading materials before they come to class.

UMD Policies and Resources for Undergraduate Courses

I observe the University of Maryland's course-related policies maintained by the Office of Undergraduate Studies (<https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>)

Final Grade Cutoffs

97-103 A+ / 93-96 A / 90-92 A- / 87-89 B+ / 83-86 B / 80-82 B- / 77-79 C+ / 73-76 C

Midterm Exam (20 pts) <i>(Oct 12)</i>	Paper #1 (30 pts) <i>(Oct 26)</i>	Paper #2 (30 pts) <i>(Nov 21)</i>	Final Exam (20 pts) <i>(Dec 7)</i>	Extra Credit (Participation) (3 pts) <i>(Nov 30)</i>	Total Sum (103 pts)

Green: Graded by the Instructor.

Blue: Self-assessment (i.e., I trust you. You assign your score to yourself based on my rubric). I will also provide feedback on both your paper and your self-assessment.

Two Paper Assignments: 60pts (=2×30pts).

1. Students must submit two paper assignments (4–5 pages, double spaced, 12 font) to the assignment board 1) by 11:59pm on Thu Oct 26 and 2) by 11:59pm on Tue Nov 21.
2. The prompt will be provided two weeks before the due date of each paper assignment.
3. Sample questions may include:

You are the President of your selected country. No domestic firm is currently open to foreign capital. In Dec 2023, you plan to allow select domestic firms into the stock market liberalization program. Stock market liberalization refers to a government's decision to ease restrictions on foreign investors and permit them to buy/sell shares of firms listed on its domestic stock market. Please answer the following three questions.

- 1) When no domestic firm is open to foreign capital, what are the advantages for you? What are the disadvantages for you?
 - 2) When all domestic firms are opened to foreign capital, what are the advantages for you? What are the disadvantages for you?
 - 3) What types of domestic firms would you select into the stock market liberalization program? Potential candidates may include (but are not limited to): firms with huge growth potentials; firms generating massive profits; firms currently working with government officials; and firms having CEOs and workers, most of who are now affiliated with your political party. Please choose two types and justify your selection.
4. The self-assessment form that I will provide looks like:

- Are you extremely happy with the quality of your paper? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Would you recommend your closest friend to read your paper? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Is your theory fully compelling? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Is your theory new and original? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Did you pay enormous attention to detailed facts? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Did you appropriately use relevant evidence to support your reasoning? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Is your paper logically structured and well organized? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Did you sufficiently link your paper with the lectures and/or readings? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Did you eliminate typos and fully follow the guidelines? (3, 2, 1, 0)
- Are you a trustworthy person (3, 2, 1, 0)

Open Book Midterm Exams and Open Book Final Exams: 40pts (=2×20pts).

1. Students must take the midterm exam in TYD 2109 at 12:30pm–1:40pm on Thu Oct 12.
In order to help you succeed in the exam, I will conduct a review session on Tue Oct 10.
2. Students must take the final exam in TYD 2109 at 12:30pm–1:40pm on Thu Dec 7.
In order to help you succeed in the exam, I will conduct a review session on Tue Dec 5.
3. **There will be no multiple-choice question.** Students must answer 4 essay questions (=4×5pts).
 - On the day of the exam, students will be given 6 essay questions.
 - **Students may choose one of the two options when submitting their answers.**
 - (Handwriting) Students must write 2–3 pages (exam-book sized) for each question.
 - (Word/PDF) Students must write 1-2 pages (double spaced; 12 ft) for each question.
4. The “open book” format means that students may have full access to their own notes, their laptop, their mobile phone, the readings, and the Internet.
5. Sample mid-term and final exam questions are provided on Page 3.
6. A review sheet (e.g., selected readings and pages) will be provided two weeks before each exam.
7. The final exam is not cumulative.

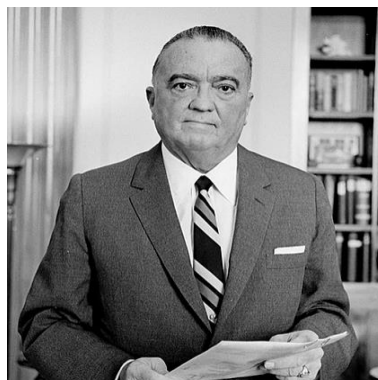
Sample Midterm/Final Exam Questions

1. Read the text (excerpted from Geddes et al. (2014)) and answer the question. (5 points)

When the leader of an autocratic regime loses power, one of three things happens.
(A) The incumbent leadership group is replaced by democratically elected leaders.
(B) Someone from the incumbent leadership group replaces him and the regime persists.
(C) The incumbent leadership group loses control to a different group that replaces it with a new autocracy.

Please choose two out of (A), (B) and (C) to explain what happened in Argentina in 1976–83.

2. What does the literature on cronyism say about the relationship between state support and firm productivity? Also, what does the literature on party-state capitalism say about the relationship between state support and firm productivity? (5 points)
3. Please assess the following statement: He was the most powerful elected American of his time. (5 points)



Week 1 (Tue Aug 29 and Thu Aug 31)
The State and Threats to the State

- Democracy Index. 2023. "Democracy Index 2022: Frontline Democracy and the Battle for Ukraine." *The Economist*.
- Elsässer, Lea, and Armin Schäfer. 2023. "Political Inequality in Rich Democracies." *Annual Review of Political Science* 26.
- Varieties of Democracy. 2023. "Defiance in the Face of Autocratization." *Democracy Report*.

Note that we will meet in-person on Aug 29 but we will not meet in-person on Aug 31 (I am scheduled to present my academic paper in a conference). I will record the lecture on Aug 31 and upload it in the ELMS. Students need to view the lecture prior to Week 2.

Week 2 (Tue Sep 5 and Thu Sep 7)
Puppet State

- De Gaulle, Charles. 1940. "'Appeal of June 18' by Charles de Gaulle."
- Fazal, Tanisha M. 2011. *State Death: the Politics and Geography of Conquest, Occupation, and Annexation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Reiter, Dan. 2020. "Avoiding the Coup-Proofing Dilemma: Consolidating Political Control While Maximizing Military Power." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 16 (3).

Week 3 (Tue Sep 12 and Thu Sep 14)
Why Do Autocrats Often Tolerate Protests?
Why Do Democrats Often Repress Protests?

- Carey, Sabine C., and Anita R. Gohdes. 2021. "Understanding Journalist Killings." *The Journal of Politics* 83 (4).
- Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10.
- Lorentzen, Peter. 2017. "Designing Contentious Politics in Post-1989 China." *Modern China* 43 (5).
- United Nations. 1986. "Case Concerning the Differences between New Zealand and France Arising from the Rainbow Warrior Affair." Reports of International Arbitral Awards.

Week 4 (Tue Sep 19 and Thu Sep 21)

Why Do Some Autocrats Join the U.N. Convention Against Torture? Why Do Some Democrats Often Engage in Torture?

- Conrad, Courtenay R, Daniel W Hill, Jr, and Will H Moore. 2018. "Torture and the Limits of Democratic Institutions." *The Journal of Peace Research* 55 (1).
- Hassan, Mai, Daniel Mattingly, and Elizabeth R. Nugent. 2022. "Political Control." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25.
- Hollyer, James R., and B. Peter Rosendorff. 2011. "Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Sign the Convention Against Torture? Signaling, Domestic Politics and Non-Compliance." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 6.

Week 5 (Tue Sep 26 and Thu Sep 28)

Cabinet/Presidency

- New York Times. 1993. "In French Ex-Premier (Pierre Bérégovoy)'s Suicide, Cries of 'J'accuse'."
- New York Times. 1996. "François Mitterrand Dies at 79; Champion of a Unified Europe."
- New York Times. 2009. "Roh Moo-hyun, Ex-President of South Korea, Kills Himself."
- Prior, Markus. 2013. "Media and Political Polarization." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16.

Week 6 (Tue Oct 3 and Thu Oct 5)

Why Do Some Legislature Malfunction in Democracies? Why Do Some Autocrats Establish the Legislature?

- Alexander, Dan, and Asya Magazinnik. 2022. "Income Inequality and Electoral Theories of Polarization." *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 3.
- Brancati, Dawn. 2014. "Democratic Authoritarianism: Origins and Effects." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17.
- Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. 2014. "Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set." *Perspectives on Politics* 12 (2).

Week 7 (Tue Oct 10 and Thu Oct 12)

- Oct 10: A review session
- Oct 12: Students must take the midterm exam in TYD 2109 at 12:30pm–1:40pm.

Week 8 (Tue Oct 17 and Thu Oct 19)

The Lack of Robust Political Institutions & Civil War Recurrence

- Chenoweth, Erica, and Kathleen G. Cunningham. 2023. "Guest Editors' Introduction: Nonviolent Resistance and its Discontents." *The Journal of Peace Research* 60(1).
- Manela, Erez. 2022. "From the Jews of Retreat: Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the Persistence of American Ambition." *Foreign Affairs*.
- Pearlman, Wendy. 2008/09. "Spoiling Inside and out: Internal Political Contestation and the Middle East Peace Process." *International Security* 33 (3).
- Pearlman, Wendy. 2020. "Host State Engagement, Socioeconomic Class, and Syrian Refugees in Turkey and Germany." *Comparative Politics* 52 (2).

Week 9 (Tue Oct 24 and Thu Oct 26)

What is the Relationship between Technological Advancement and Economic Growth?

- Early, Bryan R., and Erik Gartzke. 2021. "Spying from Space: Reconnaissance Satellites and Interstate Disputes." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65 (9).
- Ernaux, Annie. 2022. "Nobel Lecture by Nobel Laureate in Literature."
- Gerring, John, Carl Henrik Knutsen, and Jonas Berge. 2022. "Does Democracy Matter?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25.
- Nathan, Andrew J. 2020. "The Puzzle of Authoritarian Legitimacy." *Journal of Democracy* 31 (1).

Week 10 (Tue Oct 31 and Thu Nov 2)

Resource Allocation: Public Goods

- Beard, Victoria A., and Diana Mitlin. 2021. "Water Access in Global South Cities: The Challenges of Intermittency and Affordability." *World Development* 147.
- Gallagher, Mary E., and Jonathan K. Hanson. 2015. "Power Tool or Dull Blade? Selectorate Theory for Autocracies." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18.
- Lee, Youngjoon. 2023. "Strategic Fiscal Spending: Evidence from China." *Governance* 36 (2).
- Pepinsky, Thomas B., Jan H. Pierskalla, and Audrey Sacks. 2017. "Bureaucracy and Service Delivery." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20.

Week 11 (Tue Nov 7 and Thu Nov 9)
Resource Allocation: Foreign Aid and Business Subsidy

- Carcelli, Shannon P. 2023. "Special Interests in Foreign Policy Bureaucracies: Evidence from Foreign Aid." *The Journal of Politics* Published Online.
- Dietrich, Simone. 2016. "Donor Political Economies and the Pursuit of Aid Effectiveness." *International Organization* 70 (1).
- Diwan, Ishac, Philip Keefer, and Marc Schiffbauer. 2020. "Pyramid Capitalism: Cronyism, Regulation, and Firm Productivity in Egypt." *Review of International Organizations* 15.
- Jensen, Nathan M., and Edmund Malesky. 2018. *Incentives to Pander: How Politicians Use Corporate Welfare for Political Gain*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Week 12 (Tue Nov 14 and Thu Nov 16)
Firms in Autocracies

- Malesky, Edmund, and Jonathan London. 2014. "The Political Economy of Development in China and Vietnam." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17.
- Pearson, Margaret, Meg Rithmire, and Kellee S. Tsai. 2022. "China's Party-State Capitalism and International Backlash: From Interdependence to Insecurity." *International Security* 47 (2).

Week 13 (Tue Nov 21)
Firms in Democracies

- Faccio, Mara. 2010. "Differences between Politically Connected and Nonconnected Firms: A Cross-Country Analysis." *Financial Management* 39 (3).
- Lee, Kyuwon, and Hye Young You. 2023. "Bureaucratic Revolving Doors and Interest Group Participation in Policy Making." *The Journal of Politics* Published Online.
- Tihanyi, Laszlo, Ruth V. Aguilera, Pursey Heugens, Marc van Essen, Steve Sauerwald, Patricio Duran, and Roxana Turturea. 2019. "State Ownership and Political Connections." *The Journal of Management* 45 (6).

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 (Tue Nov 28 and Thu Nov 30)
The Effects of Individuals and Collective Memory on Political Institutions

- Hong, Ji Yeon, Sunkyoung Park, and Hyunjoo Yang. 2023. "In Strongman We Trust: The Political Legacy of the New Village Movement in South Korea." *American Journal of Political Science* Published Online.
- Jo, Eun A. 2022. "Memory, Institutions, and the Domestic Politics of South Korean–Japanese Relations." *International Organization* 76 (4).
- Kim, James D. 2023. "The Long-run Impact of Childhood Wartime Violence on Preferences for Nuclear Proliferation." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Published Online.
- Sikkink, Kathryn, and Hun Joon Kim. 2013. "The Justice Cascade: The Origins and Effectiveness of Prosecutions of Human Rights Violations." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 9.

Week 15 (Tue Dec 5 and Thu Dec 7)

- Dec 5: A review session
- Dec 7: Students must take the final exam in TYD 2109 at 12:30pm–1:40pm.