

Comparative Area Studies (Fall 2025)

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Office hour: by appointment

Aims and Objectives

Why do we need to compare apples and oranges? How to compare them? This course aims to introduce the major concepts, theories, and methods in the field of comparative politics and area studies. During the course, students will explore the notion of state, society, nation, political economy, democracy, authoritarianism, communism and post-communism, political violence by comparing countries and areas.

Assessments:

Group project and presentation	15%
Discussion leading and participation	15%
Mid-term exam	35%
Final exam	35%

Course textbooks:

Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th edition (2017)

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (2012)

국가는 왜 실패하는가 (국문)

The Nordic Theory of Everything, by Anu Partanen

우리는 미래에 조금 먼저 도착했습니다: 북유럽 사회가 행복한 개인을 키우는 방법 (국문)

Sept 1	Introduction Why do we need to compare apples and oranges?
Sept 3	What is Comparative Politics? O'Neil, pp. 6-19.
Sept 8	Political Institutions O'Neil, pp. 19-27.
Sept 10	Group Discussion
Sept 15	Defining the State/ The Origin of Political Organization O'Neil, pp. 31-45
Sept 17	Group Discussion
Sept 22	Comparing State Power/ Nations and Society O'Neil, pp. 46-68
Sept 24	Group Discussion
Sept 29	National Identity, Ethnic Identity, Citizenship O'Neil, pp. 68-77.

Oct 1	Group Discussion
Oct 6/8	NO CLASS (Holidays)
Oct 13	Political Attitude and Political Ideology O'Neil, pp. 77-88.
Oct 15	Group Discussion
Oct 20	<u>Mid-term exam</u>
Oct 22	NO CLASS (exam period)
Oct 27	Religion, Fundamentalism, and the Crisis of Ideology O'Neil, pp. 88-95.
Oct 29	Group Discussion
Nov 3	Political Economy I O'Neil, pp. 99-131
Nov 5	Discussion
Nov 10	Democratic Regimes O'Neil, pp. 137-152

Nov 12	Group Discussion
Nov 17	Democratic Regimes O'Neil, pp. 152- 171
Nov 19	Group Discussion
Nov 24	Non-democratic Regimes O'Neil, pp. 175-204
Nov 26	Group Discussion
May 12/14	Political Violence O'Neil, pp. 207-226
May 19	Discussion
Dec 1	Communism and Post-communism O'Neil, pp. 26-302
Dec 3	Group presentation
Dec 8/10	Student presentation
Dec 15	<u>Final Exam</u>