Purpose and Nature of the Course

This is a graduate course in comparative politics. While reviewing some major questions that comparative political scientists are currently examining, the main goal is to train and prepare the students intellectually for undertaking comparative research. For this purpose, the course familiarizes students with the various and contending approaches in comparative politics, with emphasis on recent, integrative attempts.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15% of total grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentations and reports</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choice of Take-Home Final or Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Course Outline

(If necessary, changes might be made in the following outline, and in the rest of the syllabus, during the semester)

COMPARATIVE POLITICS AS A FIELD AND METHOD: TOWARD A SYNTHESIS OF DIVERSE APPROACHES? (3 weeks)

Methodological monisms and fragmentation vs. methodological “diversity within unity”
Case Choice, causal vs. descriptive inference
Advantages and challenges of conducting ‘good’ (small-N) comparative research
Integrative approaches, single vs. multiple cases, single vs. multiple causes, variables vs. processes and mechanisms


Integrative approaches: Institutions, causal processes and mechanisms


APPLICATION I: ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM, CONFLICT, AND DEMOCRACY IN A CHANGING WORLD (3 weeks)


APPLICATION II: TRUST, SOCIAL CAPITAL, AND DEMOCRACY (2 weeks)


APPLICATION III: RELIGION, DEMOCRACY, AND CHANGE (4 weeks)


ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is a fundamental value that all members of the university should cherish. Students and faculty at Koç adhere to the following principles of academic honesty:

1. Individual responsibility and accountability for all individual work, written or oral. Copying from others or providing answers or information, written or oral, to others is cheating.
2. Providing proper acknowledgement of original author: you should acknowledge the person whenever you use another author’s ideas or information, unless the idea or information in question is common knowledge as in “the world is round” or “Turkey’s capital city is Ankara.” Using any other idea or information without acknowledging its owner, using any terminology or text without putting it in quotation marks or without acknowledging its source, and copying from another student’s work is plagiarism.
3. Study or project group activity is effective and authorized teamwork. Unauthorized help from another person, including excessive help with writing or language (e.g. English), or having someone else write one’s paper or assignment is plagiarism and collusion.

Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are serious offences resulting in an F grade and possibly disciplinary action.