Course Objectives:

This course is designed as a graduate-level introduction to study regions as a whole, comparatively through analyses of component states, or in comparison with other regions (‘comparative regionalism’). The overall purpose of the course is to explore to what extent and how various socio-political conditions affect distinctive areas of the world. It does so by covering the theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches - in disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary ways- that aim to explore the factors supporting political institutions and their societal underpinnings, such as political cultures and public spheres. The course draws mainly on literature from developed regions (such as Europe/the EU), but is designed so as to provide theoretical perspectives open to other regions & countries of various stages of political or economic development. After an initial discussion of the field of area studies & a historical introduction to political institutions, social science theories (such as norm-, culture- & rational based theories) & approaches (quantitative, qualitative, case-studies, process-tracing, ethnographic), we explore & discuss themes of political sociology (pol. Culture, civil society, public spheres) before ending with more complex, inter-regional comparisons.

Required Texts:


Inglehart, Ronald. *Modernization & Human Development Sequence*.


Other readings may be posted on FIU’s course website on Moodle, [http://ecampus.fiu.edu](http://ecampus.fiu.edu)

Class Participation and Attendance
You are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings, written the critique and prepared to actively participate in discussions. Please let me know in advance if you cannot attend.

Papers
Each student is asked to write a 20-25 page research paper (which I may submit to turnitin.com), which should critically & theoretically analyze an area studies topic of your choice, taking into account some of the literature presented here. The paper is worth 50% and due at the end of the semester, although a 2 page outline is expected mid-term. Aside from the presented literature in class, there are many good books && journals that you should use in the library (as e-journals & in print). Both the paper & your critical lit-review (below) will be graded based on clarity and logic of the arguments, the depth of critical &-transfer thinking, as well as the cohesion & range of sources.

Oral Presentation of Readings
A discussion leader (rapporteur) should discuss the readings for each session by outlining the main arguments, critiquing the works (covering the theoretical focus, methodological approach and substantive conclusions/significance/evaluation of the literature), and stimulating a critical discussion. Also, a 5-6 page/1500 words critical review of the readings is required before class. In addition, the presenter is asked to prepare (at least 3) discussion questions, while each student ought not only to participate, but also prepare a 300 word critique, incl. 1 question, from the readings for each class (to be submitted electronically before WED noon).

The final grade will consist of the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (&amp; weekly critiques)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Leadership + crit. Review</td>
<td>30 % (20 for review, 10 for leading the discussion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper (incl. outline)</td>
<td>50 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Outline

WED, 8/24: Introduction & Overview (Instructor out this week for conferences)

WED, 8/31: The concept of Area Studies: history & future of a field of inquiry

[http://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/3638435/bates_areastudies.pdf?sequence=4](http://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/3638435/bates_areastudies.pdf?sequence=4)

Recommended: Mary M. Lay, Janice J. Monk, Deborah Silverton Rosenfel (eds). Encompassing gender: integrating international studies and women's studies (Introduction)

**WED, 9/7:** The evolution of political order

Required: Fukuyama, Part 1,2 (choose 1: China, India or Ottoman)+ Ch. 16


**WED, 9/14:** Political development, rule of law & accountable government

Required: Fukuyama, Part 3 (only Ch. 17-19), part 4 & 5


**WED, 9/21:** The philosophies of social sciences

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 1 (- p. 98)


**WED, 9/28:** Epistemology: the diversity of approaches to area studies

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 1 cont. (-p. 174)

WED, 10/5: Research Design & Methods I: concepts, case studies, process-tracing

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 2 (-p. 239)
George & Bennett, Part 1 & 2 (-p. 124)


WED, 10/12: Research Design & Methods II: quantitative, ethnographic, comparative

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 2 cont.
George & Bennett, Part 3


WED, 10/19: Culture & Politics: political culture, identity & globalization

Reading: Crothers & Lockhart, Part 1 & 2 (-p.118)


WED, 10/26: Culture & Politics II: civil society, social capital & movements

Reading: Crothers & Lockhart, Part 4

WED, 11/2:  Political Culture, ‘Modernization’ & Value Change

Reading:  Inglehart


WED, 11/9:  Public Spheres – from Enlightenment to Habermas

Reading:  Gripsrud et al., Part 1, 2 & 3 (-p. 126)


WED, 11/16:  The public sphere rediscovered: conceptual and factual challenges

Reading:  Gripsrud et al., Part 3 cont., 4 & 5


WED, 11/23:  Macro-analyses: Comparative (Inter-)Regionalism

Reading:  Telo, Part 1 & 2 + Ch. 15


WED, Dec 2  Short Paper presentations & Conclusions: Papers Due midnight!