

CPO 2002: Comparative Politics

Spring 2018 (Section 10838)

11:00-12:15, T&TR 11/121

Office Phone: 474-3008

Office and Office Hours: Bldg 50/Rm 126, MW 1:00-2:00, TR 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

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Course Description

“Without comparison, the mind does not know how to proceed.” - Alexis de Tocqueville

This course examines modern political systems. As Aristotle observed, humans may be thoroughly “political animals,” yet the modern world brought forth a unique series of innovations and revolutions that are now almost universal. No person on earth officially lives outside the sovereignty of a modern state, so our goal is to understand how those states work, how they are similar and how they differ. The course centers on a series of country case studies (NOT including the US) that begins with Britain, perhaps the first “modern,” industrialized state, and ends with more recent but influential developers. Along the way, students will practice applying the comparative method; collect and evaluate research materials as well as reflect on academic integrity and information literacy; complete three exams; and write a comparative research essay. Our goal is a stronger ability to evaluate foreign political systems and political cultures and compare those models to one another as well as our own experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will seek out, evaluate, and categorize research materials.
- Students will apply the comparative method to evaluate foreign political systems and political cultures.
- Students will write a short research essay that integrates and critically engages both scholarly sources and theories.
- Students will complete short assignments exploring academic integrity and information literacy.

Topics

- Political organization and dynamics in a series of high-profile and influential states.
- The comparative method of research and analysis.
- Challenges and adaptations the modern state, including Communism, nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism.
- Identifying and applying academic integrity.
- Evaluating and understanding different political cultures.
- Political and civic participation.

Course Materials

- 1) J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood (2016) *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases* 2nd ed. ISBN: 9780190270995
- 2) There may be other readings that will be announced in class. You will find them on eLearning, in the Content section under Course Materials.

Course Requirements

This course requires participation (12%), a briefing (18%), three exams (50%) and a research essay (20%)

Country Issue Briefing You will choose one of our chapter topics and then brief the class on a related issue in a country of your choice. This will be 5-10 minutes.

Each chapter of our textbook covers a general topic. You will receive an assigned chapter after putting in preferences the first or second week. With your group, choose a country that appears in that chapter OR is a good example of concepts found in the chapter. Note: your country CANNOT be the United States or one of our eight major case studies (see the course schedule).

Your goal: brief the class on recent politics in your country as they relate to one or several concepts in the chapter. This should be focused on current events (over the last year or two) or long-running issues that remain current. Treat this as if you are analysts for a government agency or policy maker.

Briefing should include:

- Short country overview/profile
- The concept
- The issues and events in the country
- Written outline: post this to the designated discussion board on eLearning.

Participation We will engage in discussion, group work and individual assignments during class time (40% of Participation/12% of final grade) and online through eLearning. You will be graded on Online Research Collection and Research Literacy (below), materials submitted in class, your overall contributions to class and your attendance record. You may miss two class meetings with no penalty. Absences due to illness, emergency or university-sponsored activities will be excused with proper documentation. You need not contact me about missing class unless you have already missed two class periods and/or have documentation to present.

Exams There are three exams that involve multiple choice and short answers. They are worth, respectively, 13%, 17% and 20% of the final grade. You will receive a study guide one week before the exam.

Comparative Essay No fewer than five full pages long. You are to compare two countries on a focused topic (such as election outcomes or civil society). AT LEAST ONE must be a country that appears on the syllabus and *cannot* include the US. More details on this assignment appear on page 6 of the syllabus.

GRADING I consider how well you followed directions and focused tightly on your given topic; your mastery (i.e. correct understanding and general use) of the readings and other course material; your argument's clarity, consistency and accuracy; overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar.

LATE PAPERS lose 5 points a day.

If you are struggling with your paper or feel unsure about how to improve your work, feel free to contact me or the University Writing Lab: <http://uwf.edu/writelab/>.

*You MUST complete both exams and the paper or you will receive a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty may also result in a failing grade for the assignment and the course.

Letter Grades

95% or better	A	87% to 89%	B+	77% to 79%	C+	63% to 69%	D
90% to 94%	A-	83% to 86%	B	73% to 76%	C	60% to 62%	D-
		80% to 82%	B-	70% to 72%	C-	59% or less	F

Academic Conduct

PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC DISHONESTY involve adding others' words to your text as if they were your own and will not be tolerated. For University policies on plagiarism and other misconduct, see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://uwf.edu/osrr/documents/BOTApprovedStudentCodeofConduct-2010edition.pdf>.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at <http://uwf.edu/sdrc/internal/>, which requires documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

General Studies

CPO 2002 is designated as a General Studies course. The General Studies curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting your requirement in the **Social Science: Socio-Political Perspectives** area. The major General Studies learning outcomes for this course are **Values/Integrity** and **Multicultural**.

If you are interested in a major in **Political Science, Pre-Law, or International Studies** you should contact **The Department of Government at 474-2929**. If you are undecided about your major you should contact your academic advisor or the Career Center at 850-474-2254.

Course Schedule*

*Readings not in assigned texts will appear in PDF form in eLearning > Course Materials>Content

<u>Week 1</u> Jan 9 Jan 11	<u>Introduction</u> -Why, How and What to Compare -Ch 1 -ONLINE: Information Literacy, Diversity, and Political Cultures (Diagnostic Quiz)
<u>Week 2</u> Jan 16 Jan 18	-Ch 3: The State -Institutions, Interests and Identities
<u>Week 3</u> Jan 23 Jan 25	<u>Early Developers</u> -Ch 4: Political Economy -p 539: United Kingdom
<u>Week 4</u> Jan 30 Feb 1	- Ch 5: Development -p 427: France
<u>Week 5</u> Feb 6 Feb 8	-Catch-up and review - EXAM 1
<u>Week 6</u> Feb 13 Feb 15	<u>Middle Developers</u> - Ch 6: Democracy and Democratization -p 441: Germany
<u>Week 7</u> Feb 20 Feb 22	-Ch 7: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown -p 482: Japan
<u>Week 8</u> Feb 27 Mar 1	<u>Late Developers</u> -Ch 8: Constitutions and Constitutional Design -p 525: Russian Federation
<u>Week 9</u> Mar 6 Mar 8	-Catch-up and review - EXAM 2
Mar 13, 15	SPRING BREAK
<u>Week 10</u> Mar 20 Mar 22	-Ch 2: Theories, Hypotheses, and Evidence -Research and methods
<u>Week 11</u> Mar 27 Mar 29	-Ch 9: Legislatures and Legislative Elections -Abstracts -ONLINE: Abstracts
<u>Week 12</u> Apr 3 Apr 5	-Ch 10: Executives -p 412: China
<u>Week 13</u> Apr 10 Apr 12	<u>Experimental Developers</u> -Ch 11: Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups -p 455: India

<u>Week 14</u>	
Apr 17	-Ch 12: Revolutions and Contention
Apr 19	-p 468: Iran
<u>Week 15</u>	
Apr 22	-Wrap-up and Review
	-ONLINE: Information Literacy, Diversity, and Political Cultures (Diagnostic Quiz)
Apr 24	- EXAM 3
<u>Week 16</u>	
May 2	PAPERS DUE by 5:00PM on eLearning

Comparative Essay

Overall You are to compare 2 countries—excluding the US—regarding a specific topic or issue. Specifically, address one of the following questions: a) why are the two countries different on this topic despite being very similar? OR b) why are the two countries similar on this topic despite being relatively different?

For example, a) despite being well-established European democracies, the French and British differ regarding the role of public protest. Why? OR b) India and Brazil harbor very different political cultures and democratic systems, yet both have settled on a similar levels of state intervention and private enterprise for economic development. Why?

This is a *most similar* OR *most different* case comparison approach. (The English philosopher John Stuart Mill famously developed these approaches as *method of difference* and *method of agreement*.) In the *most similar* approach, you attempt to find two cases that are very similar along most of the key variables but still have a different outcome on the issue at hand. Your goal is to identify the variable (or factor) that causes the difference between the two. In the *most different* approach, you observe a similar outcome between two cases and attempt to isolate the one variable (or set of variables) that causes that similarity.

Possible Topic Areas

Civil society	Electoral systems	Institutional veto players
Constitutional design	Executive powers	Political parties
Corruption	Failed States	Resource dependence/Dutch disease
Democratic transitions	Health care	Social cleavages
Development policy	Human rights	Social movements
Economic policy	Institutional design	

REQUIREMENTS At least one of your counties must appear on the syllabus. Papers must include at least 6 scholarly sources, but you are encouraged to use—though are not limited to—sources from our Online Research Collection from throughout the semester.

FORMATTING Papers will be no fewer than five full pages long with the following format: double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. Title and works cited pages do not count towards the page total. Quotations cannot exceed two typed lines. You may choose your citation style, but you must use that style consistently throughout.

Submit to eLearning: locate and upload to the appropriate dropbox on our course page. As a safety measure, you may email your text to me before it is due, but unless there is an emergency, I will only grade the version on eLearning.

LATE PAPERS lose 5 points a day.

Online Research Collection: Identifying Scholarly Sources

Scholarly sources for these assignments must focus primarily on the country for that section. This includes a study of that country alone; that country in comparison to another; that country as a major example of a certain classification (such as newly democratic states or resource dependent states).

- **Scholarly journals you might consult** (others also possible):

Asian Survey

American Political Science Review

Comparative Political Studies

Defense Studies

European Political Science Review

Geopolitics

International Organization

International Politics

International Security

International Studies Quarterly

International Studies Review

Journal of Comparative Politics

Journal of Peace Research

Perspectives on Politics

Political Science Quarterly

Survival

Third World Quarterly

World Politics

- Scholarly/Academic journals are *peer-reviewed*, which means each article has been studied and critiqued by other scholars before it was published.
- As a general rule, journals on JSTOR or Academic Search Elite will work for this assignment.
- When in doubt, look for citations: if the article in question thoroughly cites its source material, it is usually a scholarly work.

- **Non-government organizations (NGOs), think tanks and policy/popular journals**

- Note: many of these sources and/or article authors have *ideological and other biases*. Approach them with a critical mindset.

Journals:

American Interest

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Current History

Foreign Affairs

International Studies Quarterly

Small Wars Journal

Journal of Peace Research

Washington Quarterly

Institutions, Think Tanks and Centers:

Center for Strategic & Int'l Studies

Human Rights Watch

Int'l Institute for Strategic Studies

Oxfam

RAND

United Nations

US Gov't – Congressional Hearings, State Dept., Dept. of Defense, etc.

US Institute of Peace