

CPO 2002: Comparative Politics

Spring 2020 (Section 10568)

11:00-11:50 MWF 51/152

Office Phone: 474-3008

Office and Office Hours: Bldg 50/Rm 126, MW 12:30-1:30 and TR 8:30-10:30 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. Human politics takes many forms, yet in the modern world, we live in the shadow of historical innovations that are now almost universal. In fact, no one on Earth lives outside the official sovereignty of a modern state. 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). These begin 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 to the modern state, including Communism, nationalism, and Islamism.
- Identifying and applying academic integrity.
- Evaluating and understanding different political cultures.
- Political and civic participation.

Course Materials

- 1) J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood (2018) Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases 3rd ed. ISBN: 9780190854867
- 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 attendance and participation (10%), online discussion & assignments (20%), three exams (50%) and a research essay (20%)

Attendance & Participation We will engage in discussion, group work, and individual assignments during class time. 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.

Online Discussion & Assignments Most weeks, you will have a small assignment or debate point to complete in a Canvas discussion forum. Requirements will vary.

You can find these either under the “Home” page on Canvas (linked at the top left of the page) and then under the current week OR linked in the “Discussions” page on Canvas.

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 Education course. The General Education 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 Sciences**. The major General Education learning outcomes for this course are **Critical Thinking** and **Integrity/Values**.

Career Development & Community Engagement

Career Development & Community Engagement (CDCE) is a free, on-campus resource designed to equip UWF students and alumni with the tools necessary for professional success. CDCE is located in Building 19 and offers resume reviews, assistance with your job or internship search, interviewing tips, and many other strategies to become career ready. For more information, check out Handshake (uwf.joinhandshake.com), visit uwf.edu/career or call 850-474-2254.

Your Major

If you are interested in a major in **Political Science, Pre-Law, or International Studies** feel free to contact your instructor or **the Department of Government at 850-474-2929**. 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>	<u>Introduction</u>
Jan 6	-Why, How and What to Compare
Jan 8	-Ch 1
Jan 10	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 2</u>	
Jan 13	-Ch 3: The State
Jan 15	-Institutions, Interests and Identities
Jan 17	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Early Developers</u>
Jan 20	NO CLASS – MLK DAY
Jan 22	-Ch 4: Political Economy -p 539: United Kingdom
Jan 24	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 4</u>	
Jan 27	- Ch 5: Development
Jan 29	-p 427: France
Jan 31	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 5</u>	
Feb 3	-Catch-up and review
Feb 5	
Feb 7	-EXAM 1
<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Middle Developers</u>
Feb 10	- Ch 6: Democracy and Democratization
Feb 12	-p 441: Germany
Feb 14	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 7</u>	
Feb 17	- Ch 8: Constitutions and Constitutional Design
Feb 19	-p 482: Japan
Feb 21	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 8</u>	
Feb 24	- Ch 7: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown
Feb 26	-p 525: Russian Federation
Feb 28	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 9</u>	
Mar 2	-Catch-up and review
Mar 4	-EXAM 2
Mar 6	
Mar 8-14	SPRING BREAK
<u>Week 10</u>	<u>Late Developers</u>
Mar 16	-Ch 2: Theories, Hypotheses, and Evidence
Mar 18	-Abstracts
Mar 20	-ONLINE Due

<u>Week 11</u>	
Mar 23	-Ch 9: Legislatures and Legislative Elections
Mar 25	-Coalition Formation
Mar 27	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 12</u>	
Mar 30	-Ch 10: Executives
Apr 1	-p 412: China
Apr 3	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 13</u>	<u>Experimental Developers</u>
Apr 6	-Ch 11: Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups
Apr 8	-p 455: India
Apr 10	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 14</u>	
Apr 13	-Ch 12: Revolutions and Contention
Apr 15	-p 468: Iran
Apr 17	-ONLINE Due
<u>Week 15</u>	
Apr 20	-Wrap-up and Review
Apr 22	
Apr 24	-EXAM 3
<u>Week 16</u>	
Apr 28	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. This should be about five pages long (see Formatting below).

Specifically, address one of the following questions:

- a) why are the two countries different on this topic despite being very similar?
- b) OR 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. (See Chapter 1.) 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. 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 countries must appear on the syllabus. Papers must include at least 6 sources. Sources include scholarly references as well as the primary and other materials we evaluated during our weekly discussion assignments.

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 Canvas: locate and upload to the appropriate “Assignment” 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.

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