

CPO 2001 – Introduction to Comparative Politics

Course instructor: Dr. Sebastian Elischer; selischer@ufl.edu; AND 320
Class Meeting Time: M and W 3:00 PM – 3:50 PM. Classes are led by Dr. Elischer
Class Venue: MCCC 0100
Section Meeting Time: All students must sign up for **one** section. Sections are led by TAs.
Sections take place on Thursdays and Fridays.
Section Venue: Please consult with one.uf.

Office Hours

Dr. Elischer: M: 1:00-3:00 PM
M: 5:00-6:00 PM
W: 4:30-5:30 PM
Office Hours take place in AND 320 or via zoom

TAs:

Kevin Thomas:	F: 11:34 AM-1:45 PM	kevin.thomas@ufl.edu
Cory Meneley:	M: 03:00 PM-5:00 PM	cmeneley@ufl.edu
Frances Edwards:	R: 12:45 PM-2:45 PM	fc.edwards@ufl.edu
Sunkyoo Kim:	F: 09:30 AM-11:30 AM	sunkyoo.kim@ufl.edu
Soumik Sengupta:	R: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM	soumiksengupta@ufl.edu
Walleign Hassen:	F: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	whassen@ufl.edu

Your TA should always be the first point of contact!

Sections	TA	
R 10:40-11:30 AM	Walleign	whassen@ufl.edu
R 11:45-12:35 PM	Walleign	whassen@ufl.edu
R 12:50-01:40 PM	Soumik	soumiksengupta@ufl.edu
R 01:55-02:45 PM	Soumik	soumiksengupta@ufl.edu
R 03:00-03:50 PM	Fran	fc.edwards@ufl.edu
F 09:35-10:25 AM	Cory	cmeneley@ufl.edu
F 09:35-10:25 AM	Kevin	kevin.thomas@ufl.edu
F 10:40-11:30 AM	Kevin	kevin.thomas@ufl.edu
F 11:45-12:50PM	Sunkyoo	soumiksengupta@ufl.edu
F 01:55-02:45 PM	Sunkyoo	soumiksengupta@ufl.edu
F 03:00-03:50 PM	Fran	fc.edwards@ufl.edu

Course Objectives, Description, and Goals

This course is designed to provide students a comprehensive introduction to Comparative Politics through the discussion of a broad range of thematic topics. These are supplemented with a selection of academic readings and real-world case studies from various regions of the world. In general, Mondays will be dedicated to the basic concepts of the week's readings (ECP), Wednesdays to the related scholarly readings (provided by the course instructor) and Thursdays/Fridays (sections) will focus on the comparative cases (CCP) as a platform for applying what was learned in the other readings.

Prerequisites

None – this is an introductory course

Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies on:

- Attendance and make-up policies
- DRC information
- Assigning grade points
- Gator Evals
- Honesty policy
- In-class recording
- Academic and wellness resources

For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#)

Attendance

Note that class attendance is a course requirement. During lectures the professor may provide additional information for exams and otherwise incentivize regular attendance. Repeated absences will affect student performance on assignments and exams. Lecture notes and other related course materials discussed or distributed during class ***will NOT be posted online*** or otherwise distributed.

Grading & Assessment

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class.

Two Midterms (2x20% each = 40%)

Final Exam (40%)

Section grade (20%)

Grading Scale

91% – 100% = A

88% – 90% = A-

85% – 87% = B+

82% – 84% = B

79% – 81% = B-

76% – 78% = C+

73% – 75% = C

70% – 72% = C-

67% – 69% = D+

64% – 66% = D

60% – 63% = D-

< 60% = F

There is no extra credit for this class

Required Textbooks

O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics (8th Edition) ECP

O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics (8th Edition) CCP

***Earlier editions are not acceptable!
Only purchase these two books! More info in class!***

General Education Course

This course is classified as a general education course (social and behavioral sciences). As stipulated by UF "Social Science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues. Social and Behavioral Sciences is a subdesignation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida.

Additional information on General Education courses at UF can be found [here](#).

Please note that A minimum grade of 'C' is required for general education credit

Student Learning Outcomes

Subject Area

Social and Behavioral Sciences (general). See [UF website](#).

CPO 2001 specifically

Content

Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.

Identify core elements of different political systems, including regime type, institutions, relevant historical facts, societal issues, and implications.

Critical Thinking

Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. Differentiate between inductive and deductive reasoning, as well as causality versus correlation when determining relationships between events/actors/institutions and outcomes.

Apply abstract core concepts to real world examples.

Communication

Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.

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Class Calendar

*Any session may be subject to change
Dates for individual sections are not included
Make sure you know which section you signed up for
Section attendance is mandatory.*

The **readings for the Monday class and your section (Thursday or Friday)** are based on the textbooks. The **Wednesday readings** consist of timely or pertinent articles that you can access through the inserted hyperlink.

Week 1 (January 12 and 14): Introduction

Organizational meeting, introduction of instructor and student assistants; discussion of syllabus; expectations and assignments. *Please* pay close attention as we will discuss the modalities and the manifold challenges of this class.

Readings:

ECP Chapter 1 (Wednesday)

Week 2 (January 21): The Origin and Role of States I

ECP Chapter 2 (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 2/ United Kingdom (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 3 (January 26 and 28): The Origin and Role of States II

ECP Chapter 2 (Monday)

Journal of Democracy (Monday and Wednesday)

[Fukuyama](#)

[Tudor](#)

CCP Chapter 3/United States (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 4 (February 2 and 4): Nations, Nationality and Identity

ECP Chapter 3 (Monday)

[Tariq Modood](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 10/Iran (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 5 (February 9 and 11): Political Economy

ECP Chapter 4 (Monday and Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 6/Japan (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 6 (February 16 and 18) Democracy and Democratic Regimes

ECP Chapter 5 (Monday)

[Schmitter and Karl](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 4/France (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 7 (February 23 and 25): Review and Midterm I

We review the topics we discussed so far in order to make sure everyone is prepared for the midterm. There are no required readings for this week. The midterm consists of an online quiz in canvas. Details about the content and the modalities of the midterm will be provided in class. There are no sections this week.

Week 8 (March 2 and 4): Non-Democratic Regimes

ECP Chapter 6 (Monday)

[Schedler](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapters 13/South Africa (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 9 (March 9 and 11): Political Violence

ECP Chapter 7 (Monday)

[Valentino](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 14/Nigeria (Thursday/ Friday)

Spring Break: March 16 to March 20

Week 10 (March 23 and 25): Developed Democracies

ECP Chapter 8 (Monday and Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 5/ Germany (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 11 (March 30 and April 1): Communism and Post-Communism

ECP Chapter 9 (Monday)

[Snegovaya](#) (Wednesday)

[Ang](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 7/Russia (Thursday/ Friday)

Week 12 (April 6 and 8): Review and Midterm II

We review the topics we discussed so far in order to make sure everyone is prepared for the midterm. The midterm consists of an online quiz in canvas. Details about the content and the modalities of the midterm will be provided in class.

Week 13 (April 13 and 15): Less developed and newly industrializing countries

ECP Chapter 10 (Monday)

[Bull](#) (Wednesday)

CCP Chapter 8/China (Thursday/Friday)

Week 14 (20): Globalization

ECP Chapter 11 (Monday)

[Walter](#) (Monday)

Week 16 (April 22): Review and Final Exam

Your opportunity to ask any questions. Details about the content and the modalities of the final exam will be provided in class during the semester. The date of the final exam is tba.