

CPO 2001: Introduction to Comparative Politics

University of Florida – Summer B 2024

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Office: TBD

Class: MTWRF: Period 2 (9:30 AM - 10:45 AM)
Location: CSE E119
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11 am – 12 noon
Office Hours Signup:

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to comparative politics. These are supplemented with a selection of real-world case studies from various regions of the world. By the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of a broad range of thematic topics such as political institutions, ethnic conflict, political violence, democratic and authoritarian regimes and political economy. Students will also become familiar with the political, social and economic developments and problems in some of the largest countries in the world.

In general, Mondays and Tuesdays will be dedicated to the basic concepts of the week's readings (*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, **ECP**), Wednesdays and Thursdays will focus on the comparative cases (*Cases in Comparative Politics*, **CCP**) as a platform for applying what was learned in the other readings, and Fridays will be for **in-class quizzes** and take-home worksheets.

General Education Objectives

This course fulfills the Social Sciences General Education Requirement. A grade of a "C" or above is required to fulfill this requirement. As per the UF Undergraduate Affairs website, "Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions."

Prerequisites

None – this is an introductory course.

Textbooks

1. O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics **ECP** (5 OR 6 OR 7th Edition)
2. O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics **CCP** (5 OR 6 OR 7th Edition)

BOTH textbooks are **required** for this course.

Course Requirements

Assignment	Points	Percent of Grade
Attendance	50	5
Participation	50	5
Quizzes	500	50
Worksheets	300	30
Final Project	100	10
Total	1000	100

- Attendance = **5%**
 - Attendance is mandatory. I will take a roll call in every class. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation. You are also allowed two unexcused absences.
 - I understand that unforeseen events can arise and therefore missing a class will not harm your grade. However, a pattern of absences will result in a low attendance score.
- Participation in class = **5%**
 - This course relies on your active and consistent engagement with the material. Students are therefore expected to actively participate in all the class discussions by asking and answering questions. Students should arrive at class having read the material thoroughly.
 - Students who feel uncomfortable speaking in class should feel free to discuss with me how we can develop this skill, as public speaking is an important aspect of any career, academic or otherwise.
- Quizzes = $10\% * 5 = \mathbf{50\%}$
 - There will be **six in-class** quizzes out of which your **top five** scores will be considered towards the final grade.
 - These quizzes will be based on the country case studies from the textbook, *Cases in Comparative Politics*. These quizzes will be closed-book.
 - If you are doing poorly on these quizzes or struggling with the material, please meet me during the office hours as early in the semester as possible to remedy the situation. I will not be able to help you improve your grades once the majority of quizzes are done.

- Worksheets (take home) = $5\% * 6 = 30\%$
 - There will be **six worksheets** – one for each of the six weeks.
 - These worksheets will be based on the textbook, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*.
 - The worksheets will have short answer questions on concepts covered in the course. The goal of these worksheets is to ensure that you complete the assigned readings. These worksheets will be open-book.
 - Every week the worksheet will be available on Canvas on Monday and will be **due on Friday NOON – no exceptions.**
- Final (take home) project = **10%**
 - Will be discussed later in class.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	79-82%
C+	75-78%
C	72-74%
C-	69-71%
D+	66-68%
D	62-65%
D-	60-61%
E	Fewer than 60%

Course Schedule*

*This course schedule may be subject to change as needed. At times during the semester, we may be ahead/behind schedule, and so readings may be adjusted, dropped, or added to as necessary. I will notify you of all changes via email, and an updated syllabus will be provided if any changes occur.

Readings should be completed **before** the date indicated on the syllabus. For instance, on July 1st, students should have read Chapter 1 – Introduction from the *Essentials of Comparative Politics* textbook **before** class starts, as it will form the basis of lecture/discussion.

Week 1	July 1 (M)	ECP Chapter 1 – Introduction
	July 2 (T)	ECP Chapter 2 – States Watch: How this border transformed a subcontinent India & Pakistan
	July 3 (W)	Case: United States Watch: The roots of America's democracy problem
	July 4 (R)	Holiday

	July 5 (F)	Case: United Kingdom Watch: The Monarchy Worksheet 1 due at 12 noon
Week 2	July 8 (M)	ECP Chapter 3 – Nations and Society
	July 9 (T)	ECP Chapter 10 – Developing Countries
	July 10 (W)	Case: India
	July 11 (R)	Case: South Africa Watch: Why South Africa is still so segregated
	July 12 (F)	Quiz 1 (US and UK) and Quiz 2 (South Africa and India) and Worksheet 2 due at 12 noon
Week 3	July 15 (M)	ECP Chapter 5 – Democratic Regimes Watch: Whose Vote Counts, Explained Netflix Watch: How India runs the world's biggest election
	July 16 (T)	ECP Chapter 8 – Developed Democracies
	July 17 (W)	Case: France
	July 18 (R)	Case: Germany
	July 19 (F)	Quiz 3 and Worksheet 3 due at 12 noon
Week 4	July 22 (M)	ECP Chapter 6 – Non-democratic Regimes Watch (some lesser-known authoritarian rulers): 1) Lukashenko (Belarus) 2) Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov (Turkmenistan)
	July 23 (T)	ECP Chapter 9 – Communism and Post-communism
	July 24 (W)	Case: Iran
	July 25 (R)	Case: Russia
	July 26 (F)	Quiz 4 and Worksheet 4 due at 12 noon
Week 5	July 29 (M)	ECP Chapter 4 – Political Economy
	July 30 (T)	ECP Chapter 7 – Political Violence
	July 31 (W)	Case: Japan
	Aug 1 (R)	Case: Nigeria Watch: Boko Haram: A decade of terror explained - BBC Africa
	Aug 2 (F)	Quiz 5 and Worksheet 5 due at 12 noon
Week 6	Aug 5 (M)	ECP Chapter 11 - Globalization
	Aug 6 (T)	Case: China
	Aug 7 (W)	Case: Brazil
	Aug 8 (R)	Quiz 6 and Worksheet 6 due at 12 noon
	Aug 9 (F)	Final Project due at 1159 pm

Course Policies

Lecture Slides

I will post lecture slides on Canvas after each class meeting. The slides are meant as a guide and are in no way a substitute for lecture. My hope is that by providing slides you will not have to spend the entire class furiously note taking and can pay close attention to the lecture, ask questions, and participate deeply in class discussion. If, however, class participation or attendance wanes, I retain the right to end sharing lecture slides.

Late or Make-up Assignments

NO late or make-up assignments will be accepted without prior approval. If an assignment is submitted late without prior approval, it will receive a 0. Generally, at least one week in advance notice is required for assignment or exam extension request.

Make-up quizzes will be given only in cases of university-approved reasons for absence.

In accordance with university attendance policy, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. Please note that assignment deadlines for other courses will not be considered.

Grade adjustments

I do not under any circumstances round or adjust grades. This policy is not an attempt to be harsh but to hold all students in equal standing.

Contacting the Instructor

Students should use Canvas to contact me. Although you may email me at my UF email account, the university strongly encourages us to communicate via Canvas to avoid the potential of violations of student confidentiality protected by FERPA.

I strongly encourage students to visit my office hours, available by appointment, to discuss any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the course.

Email/Messaging Hours

You may email or message me via Canvas at any time that is convenient to you. I will respond within one business day between the hours of 8am and 5pm. If you do not receive a reply from me after 48 hours, please resend your message. Although I may sometimes reply outside of these designated hours, responses cannot be guaranteed after 5pm on weekdays, on weekends, or holidays. Please plan accordingly to have your questions answered in advance of assignment and exam deadlines.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have

neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones:

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.uf for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.