

CPO2001: Comparative Politics Introduction

Summer 2025 | 3.00 credits

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: MTWRF (9:30 AM - 10:45 AM)

Class location: AND 0034

Instructor:

Name: Prajakta Gupte, PhD Candidate

Office Building/Number: AND 010

Email: prajakta.gupte@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, 11 am – 12 noon

Course Description

Classification of political systems according to institutional and developmental characteristics. Causes and costs of political stability and instability. Comparison will relate to contemporary political institutions and processes in specific countries.

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.

Prerequisites

General Education Designation: Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)

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 (S)** is a sub-designation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida. These courses provide instruction in 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.

Secondary General Education Designation: International (N)

International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or

social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

All General Education area objectives can be found [here](#).

Course Materials

- O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics ECP (6th Edition or beyond)
- O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics CCP (6th Edition or beyond)

Materials will be available through the following means:

Available in bookstore

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

In this course we will:

- We will study methodological concepts such as inductive and deductive reasoning, and causality and correlation, when analyzing relationships among events, actors, institutions, and outcomes.
- The course explores topics such as ethnic conflict, political violence, democratic and authoritarian regimes and political economy.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Identify core elements of different political systems, including regime type, institutions, relevant historical facts, societal issues, and implications.
- Apply core concepts to real world examples.

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#).

Graded Components

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.

Participation (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.
 - Arriving at class having read the material thoroughly.
 - Providing relevant insights that would help move the discussion forward.

Quizzes (10% x 5 = 50%):

- There will be **five in-class** quizzes.
- 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% x 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 1159 pm - no exception.**

Final (take home) project (10%):

- Your final project for this class requires you to DESIGN YOUR OWN COUNTRY the way case studies are structured in the blue textbook.

TOTAL: 100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5

Letter Grade	Number Grade
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

See the UF Catalog's "[Grades and Grading Policies](#)" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

IV. Calendar

Date	Topic	Readings	Work Due
June 30 (M)	Introduction	ECP Chapter 1	
July 1 (T)	States Watch: How this border transformed a subcontinent India & Pakistan	ECP Chapter 2	
July 2 (W)	United States Watch: The roots of America's democracy problem	CCP	
July 3 (R)	United Kingdom Watch: The Monarchy	CCP	
July 4 (F)	Holiday		
July 7 (M)	Nations and Society	ECP Chapter 3	
July 8 (T)	Developing Countries	ECP Chapter 10	
July 9 (W)	South Africa Watch: Why South Africa is still so segregated	CCP	
July 10 (R)	India	CCP	
July 11 (F)	Quiz 1	US, UK, South Africa and India	Worksheet 1 and 2
July 14 (M)	Democratic Regimes Watch: Whose Vote Counts, Explained Netflix Watch: How India runs the world's biggest election	ECP Chapter 5	
July 15 (T)	Developed Democracies	ECP Chapter 8	
July 16 (W)	France	CCP	
July 17 (R)	Germany	CCP	
July 18 (F)	Quiz 2	France and Germany	Worksheet 3
July 21 (M)	Non-democratic Regimes Watch (some lesser-known authoritarian	ECP Chapter 6	

	rulers): 1) Lukashenko (Belarus) 2) Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov (Turkmenistan)		
July 22 (T)	Communism and post-communism	ECP Chapter 9	
July 23 (W)	China	CCP	
July 24 (R)	Russia	CCP	
July 25 (F)	Quiz 3	China and Russia	Worksheet 4
July 28 (M)	Political Economy	ECP Chapter 4	
July 29 (T)	Globalization	ECP Chapter 7	
July 30 (W)	Japan	CCP	
July 31 (R)	Mexico	CCP	
August 1 (F)	Quiz 4	Japan and Mexico	Worksheet 5
August 4 (M)	Political Violence	ECP Chapter 11	
August 5 (T)	Iran	CCP	
August 6 (W)	Nigeria Watch: Boko Haram: A decade of terror explained - BBC Africa	CCP	
August 7 (R)	Quiz 5	Iran and Nigeria	Worksheet 6
August 8 (F)			Final Project

V. University Policies and Resources

Attendance policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students requiring accommodation

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

In-class 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 guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without 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.

Procedure for conflict resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr. Ben Smith (bbsmith@ufl.edu, (352) 514-9916). Be prepared to provide documentation about the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1261).

Resources available to students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352-392-1575](tel: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](tel:352-392-1575) for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call [352-392-1161](tel: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](tel:352-392-1111) (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call [352-733-0111](tel: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](tel:352-273-4450).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Teaching Center](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).