

# CPO 2001 - INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Fall 2025)

## Course Day & Times:

- **Lectures:** Mondays / Wednesdays, 6<sup>th</sup> period (12:50pm-1:40pm)
- **Room:** CSE A101
- **Sections:** Various (Thursdays and Fridays – check your schedule)
- **Office Hours** (Kreppel):
  - Wednesday 11:00am-12:30pm (211 Anderson Hall)
  - Thursdays 2:00pm - 3:00pm & by Appt. via Zoom
  - TAs - see announcement.
- **Messages via Canvas ONLY for course related questions**
- **Final exam:** 12/11/2025 @ 12:30pm - 2:30pm in normal assigned classroom (CSE A101)

## 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 (ERCP) 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.

## 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 (except in the case of an *excused* absence).

**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](#).**

## Grading & Assessment

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class. Midterms and the final exam are taken in class, during class time. Students must bring a computer or tablet able to access the canvas site for the exams.

For the weekly InQuizative assignments students must "complete" the assignment by the due date to receive any credit for having attempted it. All students who complete the assignment will receive at least 50% credit for the quiz, even if the InQuizative score is less than 50%). Those who wish to receive full credit may answer questions until they receive the score they want (up to 100%).

- Midterms (20% each = 40%) – Multiple choice, T/F, Matching (*not cumulative*)
- Final Exam (35%) - Multiple choice, T/F, Matching (*cumulative*)
- Quizzes (10%) (via InQuizative – online textbook portal)
- Discussion sections, including attendance and participation (15%)

## Grading Scale

94.0% - 100% = A    90.0% - 93.99% = A-    87.0% - 89.99% = B+    84.0% - 86.99% = B

80.0% - 83.99% = B-    77.0% - 79.99% = C+    74.0% - 76.99% = C    70.0% - 73.99% = C-

67.0% - 69.99% = D+    64.0% - 66.99% = D    60.0% - 63.99% = D-    < 60.0% = E

*\*\*\*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed during the course of the semester. As much advance warning as possible will be provided to students. Changes can be made to the schedule, assigned reading or other aspects as deemed necessary. No changes will be made to grading scale or core UF policies, and no additional assignments will be included.\*\*\**

## REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

- O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) **ECP**
- O'Neill, P., and R. Rogowski, Essential Readings in Comparative Politics (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) **ERCP** - **this book is available ONLY in print form (hard copy)**
- O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) **CCP**

*Please note that earlier editions are NOT acceptable (I know they are less expensive). Unfortunately, earlier editions are substantively different enough that students will not be able to perform as well as they should on exams utilizing older editions. You are welcome, however, to use either E-books or Print versions (used copies of this edition are also fine).*

## 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 sub-designation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida.* Additional information on General Education courses at UF can be found [here](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

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

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Subject Area	Content	Critical Thinking	Communication
Social and Behavioral Sciences (general) from <a href="#">UF website.</a>	Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.	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	Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.
Comparative Politics (specifically)	Identify core elements of different political systems, including regime type, institutions, relevant historical facts, societal issues, and implications.	Differentiate between inductive and deductive reasoning, as well as causality versus correlation when determining relationships between events/actors/institutions and outcomes.  Apply core concepts to real world examples.	Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

### WEEK 0 (August 21 & 22) Sections only

- Introduction to sections – TA, assignments, etc.
- Brief introduction to some core concepts

### WEEK 1 (August 25 & 27) Introduction to the Course and Comparative Politics

- What is comparative politics?
- The comparative method

#### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 1 (intro)
- CCP Chapter 1 (intro)
- ERCP Chapter 1 (1) Lichbach and Zuckerman, (2) King, Keohane and Verba

### WEEK 2 (Sept. 1 (no class) and 3) The Origin and Role of States (start)

- What is a state?
- The 'modern' state
- Comparing states

#### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 2
- CCP Chapter 2 (UK)

### WEEK 3 (September 8 & 10) The Origin and Role of States (complete)

- What is a state?
- The 'modern' state
- Comparing states

#### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 2
- ERCP Chapter 2 (1) Herbst, (2) Rotberg
- CCP Chapter 3 (USA)

## **WEEK 4 (September 15 & 17) Nations, Nationality and Identity**

- Ethnic identity vs. national identity
- Citizenship

### ***Readings:***

- ECP Chapter 3
- ERCP Chapter 3 - (1) Fearon & Laitin; (2) Alesina & La Ferrara
- CCP Chapter 9 (India)

## **WEEK 5 (September 22 & 24) Political Economy**

- Systems of political economy
- Evaluating political-economic systems

### ***Readings:***

- ECP Chapter 4
- ERCP Chapter 4 - (1) Smith; (2) Acemoglu
- CCP Chapter 6 (Japan)

## **WEEK 6 (September 29 & Oct 1): Review and Midterm 1**

- Catch-up & Review
- Midterm I

## **WEEK 7 (October 6 & 8) Democracy and Democratic Regimes**

- Democracy and democratization
- Institutions and political systems (variations on a theme)

### ***Readings:***

- ECP Chapter 5
- ERCP Chapter 5 - (1) Schmitter and Karl; (2) Stephan, Linz and Yadav
- CCP Chapters 4 (France)

## WEEK 8 (October 13 & 15) Non-Democratic Regimes

- Origins and characteristics of non-democratic governance
- Types of non-democratic systems

### Readings:

- ECP Chapter 6
- ERCP Chapter 6 - (1) Levitsky and Way; (2) Geddes, Frantz and Wright
- CCP Chapters 10 (Iran) & 13 (South Africa)
- *\* Note homecoming on Friday - try to attend Thursday sections to cover cases*

## WEEK 9 (October 20 & 22) Political Violence

- Origins of political violence
- Types of political violence

### Readings:

- ECP Chapter 7
- ERCP Chapter 7 - (1) Skocpol; (2) Crenshaw
- CCP Chapter 8 (China) and Chapter 14 (Nigeria)

## WEEK 10 (October 27 & 29) Developed Democracies

- Core institutions
- Defining and understanding 'advanced democracies'
- New modes of sovereignty, identity and political values

### Readings:

- ECP Chapter 8
- ERCP Chapter 8 - (1) Duverger; (2) Acemoglu, et al
- CCP Chapter 5 (Germany)

## WEEK 11 (November 3 & 5): Review and Midterm II

- Catch-up & Review
- Midterm I

## WEEK 12 (November 10 & 12): Communism and Post-Communism

- Communism: ideal versus reality
- Post-communism – political, economic and social transformations

### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 9
- ERCP Chapter 9 - (1) Ekiert; (2) Hale
- CCP Chapter 7 (Russia)

## WEEK 13 (November 17 & 19): Developing Nations

- Defining and understanding 'less-developed' countries (origins and implication)
- Industrialization and democracy

### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 10
- ERCP Chapter 10 - (1) Collier and Gunning; (2) Acemoglu and Johnson
- CCP Chapter 11 (Mexico) and Chapter 12 (Brazil)

## WEEK 14 (~~November 24 & 26~~ - Thanksgiving)

## WEEK 15 (December 1 & 3): Globalization and review

- Defining 'globalization'
- Evaluating globalization
- Final thoughts, review for the final exam

### *Readings:*

- ECP Chapter 11
- ERCP Chapter 11 - (1) Ferguson, (2) Dryzek
- **No sections (reading days)**