

CPO 2001: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Instructor: Sarah Snowmann

Please contact through Canvas message

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Office Hours: Link on Canvas Homepage

Required Textbooks:

- O’Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics (ECP)
- O’Neill, P. and R. Rogowski, Essential Readings in Comparative Politics (ERCP)
- O’Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics (CCP)
- All other readings will be distributed through Canvas

Purpose of Course:

How does government work around the globe? How do countries handle similar issues, and how can we compare political systems? In this course, we will engage in thinking through these questions through a combination of lectures, online discussions, videos, and readings.

Ultimately, students should leave with a better understanding of how to engage in civic life, how to critically think about politics globally, and how to understand comparative politics. To find our own individual answers to these questions, we must engage in the course material. Students who do not read the assigned chapters, view the assigned lectures, and interact during the virtual discussions should not expect to understand comparative government or receive a good grade for this course.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Explain the basic historical, institutional, cultural, behavioral, and economic underpinnings of several case studies.
- Identify and understand the basic theories of comparative politics.
- Critically examine various socio-political institutions, structures, and processes
- Know how to effectively participate in political life as a global citizen.

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.”

Course Policies:

Modules:

The course will be organized into modules, with each week containing one module. These will contain lectures, videos, readings, and assignments. Students are required to read and watch all content within each module. Assignments for the week due on each Sunday, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time, apart from exams. Exams occur on the Friday of exam week, anytime the student selects between 12:01 AM until 11:59 PM Eastern Time.

Required Reading and Lectures:

For each module, students are required to first read the relevant textbook chapters and then watch the lectures. Exams contain questions about assigned readings and lectures, which means that there may be questions from a reading that is not covered in lecture, or vice versa.

Assignment Due Dates:

All quizzes and written assignments are due by 11:59 Eastern Time on the Sunday of each module. Each exam is only offered for one day (Exam 1: September 20, Exam 2: October 17, Exam 3: December 6), and the entire exam must be taken at once, in a single sitting. If you are not available on the day of the exam due to an excused absence, you will be given a retake in the same format (see make-up policy, directly below). Please communicate with the instructor in advance if you know you are unavailable on an exam day.

Make-Up Policy

Makeup exams will be given in the same format as the original exam for students with excused absences. **There will be no make-up exams for unexcused absences. Excused absences require documentation from a physician, government agency, court, university, or other documentation on a case-by-case basis.** If a student is seeking an excused absence for a missed essay, quiz, or other assignment, the documentation must indicate that the student is unable to perform their coursework for the entire week.

Grades

- 5 Quizzes (15%)
- 3 Current Event Reactions (15%)

- Country Report (20%)
- Exam 1 (15%)
- Exam 2 (15%)
- Exam 3 (20%)

Quizzes:

Timed quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover the assigned readings and lectures of the week. EG, the quiz during Week 3 will only cover readings assigned during Week 3. There are currently 5 (five) quizzes, but the total number of quizzes is subject to change at any time.

Writing Assignments:

There will be one country report to be written in the style of the Cases in Comparative Politics book. For this assignment each student must choose a country that has not been covered by the CCP book. Democratic or semi-democratic countries that have clear rules about how leaders are chosen are ideal options for this assignment. Essays must be between 3-4 pages (1,000-1,300 words) in length and submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF document in 12-point font, Times New Roman with 1” margins. UF students can download the entire Microsoft Office suite, including MS Word, free of charge at this link: <https://it.ufl.edu/services/gatorcloud-microsoft-office-online>

In addition to the country report, there are three current event discussion post. Please find a current news article that relates to the question of the week and the topic of the week. Write a short (300-350 word) discussion post on this topic to post in the discussions tab for your peers.

Exams:

There will be three (3) exams in the course. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice, true or false, and fill-in-the-blank. Exam 1 will cover weeks 1-5, Exam 2 will cover weeks 6-9, and Exam 3 will cover weeks 10-14. The exams are not cumulative.

Grading Scale:

A =93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ =87-89; B =83-86; B- =80-82; C+ =77-79;

C =73-76; C- =70-72; D =60-69; F =0-59

Course Schedule

Module	Readings	Weekly Assignment
August 22-23 Week 1: Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus 	Quiz 1
August 26-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1, ECP 	

Week 2: Intro to Comparative Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1, CCP • Chapter 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lichbach and Zuckerman ○ King, Keohane and Verba 	
September 3-6 Week 3: The State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 2 • CCP Chapter 2 (UK) 	Quiz 2
September 9-13 Week 4: The State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERCP Chapter 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weber ○ Herbst ○ Rotberg • CCP Chapter 3 (USA) 	
September 16-20 Week 5: Nationality and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 3 • CCP Chapter 3 (India) • 	Exam 1: September 20
September 23-27 Week 6: Political Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 4 • ERCP Chapter 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith ○ Acemoglu • CCP Chapter 6 	Current Event Reaction 1: What recent events around the globe have involved political economic issues? Please link a reputable news source.
September 30- October 4 Week 7: Democratic Regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 5 • ERCP Chapter 5 • ERCP Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lijphart ○ Stepan, Linz, and Yadav • CCP Chapter 4 (France) 	Quiz 3
October 7-11 Week 8: Non-Democratic Regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 6 • ERCP Chapter 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linz and Stepan • CCP Chapter 10 (Iran) • CCP Chapter 13 (South Africa) 	Current Event Reaction 2: What are some current events occurring in non-democratic states? Link a reputable news article in your discussion board post.
October 14-17 Week 9: Political Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 7 • ERCP Chapter 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skocpol • CCP Chapter 14 (Nigeria) 	Exam 2: October 17
October 21-25 Week 10: Advanced Democracies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 8 • CCP Chapter 5 (Germany) 	

October 28- November 1 Week 11: Advanced Democracies, Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERCP Chapter 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iversen and Soskice ○ Duverger 	Quiz 4
November 4-8 Week 12: Communism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 9 • ERCP Chapter 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marx and Engels • CCP Chapters 7 & 8 (Russia and China) 	Current Event Reaction 3: What are some recent events in the post-communist world that might tie back to communist histories? Link a reputable news article in your discussion board post.
November 12-15 Week 13: Developing Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 10 • ERCP Chapter 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collier and Gunning ○ Clark ○ Acemoglu and Johnson 	Quiz 5
November 18-22 Week 14: Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECP Chapter 11 • CCP Chapter 12 (Brazil) 	Country Report
December 2-4 Week 15: Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Final Exam 	Final Exam: December 4

Disclaimer: Several articles from news sites are linked as weekly reading. The usage of these texts does not indicate endorsement of the author, nor does it indicate endorsement of the policy proposals therein. These texts are being used to spark conversation and thoughtful engagement with the textbook. Furthermore, this syllabus represents the instructor’s current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

UF Policies:

Controversial Material in Classrooms

People learn best when they are encouraged to ask questions and express their diverse opinions on course content, which may include images, texts, data, and theories from across the disciplines. This is especially true in courses that deal with provocative or contemporary issues. UF offers many such courses, in which students encounter concepts of race, color, sex, and/or national origin. We teach these important issues because understanding them is essential for anyone who seeks to make economic, cultural, and societal contributions to today’s complex world. With this in mind, we do not limit access to, or classroom discussion of, facts, ideas, and opinions—including those that some may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or even offensive. In response to challenging material, students and instructors are encouraged to ask honest questions and thoughtfully engage one another’s ideas. But hostility, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, and provocation for provocation’s sake have no place in a classroom; reasonable people disagree reasonably. These guidelines can help instructors and students as they

work together to fulfill the mission of the University of Florida, which includes the exploration of intellectual boundaries, the creation of new knowledge and the pursuit of new ideas.

Registration of Student Complaints

If students have concerns about classroom issues, disagreements or grades, their first point of contact is the classroom instructor whose contact information appears on the syllabus. If the problem cannot be resolved, the student should email the next departmental contact: in classes with TAs, this is the instructor of record, in classes without TAs, this may be the departmental course coordinator or the department chair. Their contact information can be found on the syllabus or on the program's website at <https://polisci.ufl.edu/>. That email should include a clear description of the student's concern, and any supporting documents. Most concerns are resolved at this level. If a resolution cannot be reached at the departmental level, the student will be referred to the Office of the UF Ombuds <https://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. Information about accommodation letters and testing accommodations can be found at <https://disability.ufl.edu/> (look for the "Accommodation Letters" and "Accommodated Testing Request" buttons). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodations. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the exams if you wish receive accommodations for those assignments and exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, so students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Honesty Policy

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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record audio/video of class lectures for: personal educational use, a complaint to the university, or as evidence in a civil or criminal proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Publication or transmission without written permission of the instructor is prohibited, which includes sharing with other students or online uploads to third party sites. The

permission to record class lectures does not extend to activities that involve student presentations or discussions.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:
<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), [or http://www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>