

CPO 2001 - INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Spring 2025)

Course Day & Times:

- **Lectures:** Mondays / Wednesdays, 8th period (3:00pm - 3:50pm)
- **Room:** CSE A101
- **Sections:** Various (Thursdays and Fridays – check your schedule)
- **Office Hours** (Kreppel):
 - Wednesday 4pm – 5:30pm and Thursday 3pm-4pm (211 Anderson Hall)
 - By Appt. [Zoom](#)
 - TAs - see announcement.
- **Messages via Canvas ONLY for course related questions**
- **Final exam:** 4/30/2025 @ 3:00PM - 5:00 PM - in regular assigned classroom

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 required for this course. During lectures the professor may occasionally provide insider information for exams and otherwise incentivize regular attendance. Attendance and participation grades in sections will be determined by the section instructor and may vary between sections.

Repeated absences will unquestionably affect your performance on exams since these are based on class lectures, section discussions, as well as readings. 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). According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and 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.”

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Click [here](#) to read the university attendance policies. For further information about the University of Florida's attendance policy, please see the current [Undergraduate Catalogue Links to an external site..](#)

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with university policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the university policies are.

If you have doubts, we please discuss with the professor immediately (after the infringement is too late). Please refer to the current [Undergraduate CatalogueLinks to an external site.](#) for more information on the Student Honor code. Students who have questions about these policies should contact the undergraduate advisement center for additional information.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)Links to an external site.](#) in the Dean of Students Office so that special arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs. It is your responsibility to do so at the beginning of the semester and to communicate directly with the professor during the first week of classes (or as soon as the disability occurs). Please consider in advance any potential requirements for a successful completion of the course.

Online 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 [here](#). 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/>.

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 share or 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 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.***

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 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 (UF Standard) (note that grades are NOT rounded up or down)

94% - 100% = A 90% - 93% = A- 87% - 89% = B+ 84% - 86% = B
80% - 83% = B- 77% - 79% = C+ 74% - 76% = C 70% - 73% = C-
67% - 69% = D+ 64% - 66% = D 60% - 63% = D- < 60% = 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 as noted above. ****

REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

- O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics(8th Edition) **ECP**
- O'Neill, P. and R. Rogowski, Essential Readings in Comparative Politics(5th Edition) **ERCP**
- this book is available ONLY in print form (hard copy)
- O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics(8th 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 UF website Links to an external site.	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 1 (January 13 & 15) 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 (January 20 & 22) The Origin and Role of States

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

Readings:

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

WEEK 3 (January 27 & 29) The Origin and Role of States (continued)

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

Readings:

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

WEEK 4 (February 3 & 5) 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 (10 & 12) 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)

February (February 17 & 19): Review and Midterm 1

- Catch-up & Review
- Midterm I

WEEK 6 (February 24 & 26) 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 7 (March 3 & 5) 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 8 (March 10 & 12) 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 9 (March 17 & 19): Spring Break

WEEK 10 (March 24 & 26) 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 12 (March 31 & April 2): Review and Midterm II

- Catch-up & Review
- Midterm I

WEEK 13 (April 7 & 9): 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 14 (April 14 & 16): 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)

WEEK 15 (April 21 & 23): 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
- CCP Chapter 12 (Brazil)