

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will be introduced to Comparative Politics, the study and practice of comparing different political systems and units in the world and throughout time. At the heart of our studies, we will be comparing factors and qualities of political systems. In order to accomplish this, we will open the “black box” of domestic politics to investigate the differences and similarities within societies, and we will use our findings to ask what implications our new knowledge has on politics and policy-making. In order to address puzzles involving political liberalization, political and social conflict, wealth and prosperity, economic and political inequality, and the establishment of political and social order after revolutions or regime changes, we apply methods from Comparative Politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend regularly and to have read the assigned materials prior to class meetings. Course updates will be posted to eLC. Students are encouraged to keep up with the news and pay attention to analyses of events related to developments in international politics. *The Economist* and *Bloomberg News* are good options in this regard.

COURSE READINGS

- 1) There is one required book for this course; both can be purchased at the UGA Bookstore. The books may also be available for purchase at online retailers. Do note that the course readings all come from the Fifth edition.
 - a. O'Neil, *Patrick H. Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th Edition [Referred to as *Essentials* on the reading list].
- 2) Additional readings [eLC] will be posted in the “Readings” folder via the ELC link.

GRADE COMPONENTS

Attendance Policy – Students should attend class regularly and are permitted three (3) absences (*excused* or *unexcused*) for the semester. Each *unexcused* absences beyond this will result in participation grade deductions.

Participation -- 15%

In order to attain good participation grades, students should: engage in respectful class discussions fairly frequently by providing active contributions, show up to class on time, and be prepared to participate in class discussions if called upon. There may be periodic *pop quizzes* throughout the semester. Quiz questions may show up on future exams.

Group Presentation 15%

Students will present on a question in comparative politics.

Term Paper 20%

Students will (independently) complete a comparative term paper for the course. The paper will be developed over the term, with various sections due at checkpoints during the semester.

Simulations 15%

MIDTERM EXAMINATION -- 15%

The exam will cover material from the first half of the course. Questions are T/F and multiple choice.

FINAL EXAMINATION -- 20%

The final is cumulative. Questions are T/F and multiple choice.

GRADING SCALE

93-100 = A	73-76 = C
90-92 = A-	70-72 = C-
87-89 = B+	67-69 = D+
83-86 = B	63-66 = D
80-82 = B-	60-62 = D-
77-79 = C+	0-59 = F

Students who have questions about the grading scale/policies should refer to the grading policy file on eLC first, and then make an appointment with the instructor or attend office hours.

Withdrawals from the course before the midterm withdrawal deadline will receive a WP; withdrawals after the deadline will receive a WF.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All academic work must meet the standards contained in a “Culture of Honesty”(http://www.uga.edu/honest/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm). You are responsible to inform yourself about those standards. Don’t Cheat. Students caught cheating will receive a failing grade. Disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated against you. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Period.

GRADING APPEALS

If you believe an exam or assignment has been graded wrongly, you can appeal your grade in writing within 48 hours of the assignment or exam being returned. Comparisons to other students’ graded work will not be accepted as evidence for the complaint. The written statement must provide the specific reasons for reconsideration as well as the student’s assessment of the particular grade the assignment deserves. The original copy of the graded assignment must be submitted with the letter. When the appeal has been submitted according to these guidelines, the assignment will be regraded. The new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade. It will be final.

CLASS POLICIES

Make sure your cell phones are turned off before class. Computer use in class is at the discretion of the instructor.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS

Make-ups are offered for University excused absences. It is students’ responsibility to contact the instructor immediately with conflicts or issues regarding test dates. Students who are ill or experience an emergency of some kind on the date of an examination must contact me within 24 hours noting the absence and have proper documentation (doctor’s note, etc) when returning to class.

DRC ARRANGEMENTS

Students with documented disabilities receive accommodations through the University DRC. Contact the instructor if this applies.

Dix, Fall 2017, 5

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus details the instructor's expectation of students. It should also be viewed as a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Should deviations become necessary, the instructor may announce them over email.

COURSE READING SCHEDULE AVAILABLE THROUGH ELC.