

**INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics<sup>1</sup>**  
**Spring 2024**

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm

Candler Hall 217

**Class Schedule**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

12:40-1:30 p.m.<sup>2</sup>

Sanford Hall 313

**Course Description**

This course offers students an immersive experience into the intricate world of political systems, governance, and global political dynamics. Through active learning techniques, including simulation exercises, quizzes, in-class discussions, and more, students will gain a robust understanding of the comparative method, political resource dynamics, and the nuances of democratic elections. This course promises not just theoretical knowledge but also practical insights that will empower students to critically analyze and understand the political landscapes of various countries and their systems around the world.

**Objectives**

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

- Recall, define, and understand foundational concepts of comparative politics
- Apply comparative methods to any set of countries under investigation
- Formulate a complete comparative research design

**Required Texts**

**Primary Textbook (CPITMC):** Dickovick, J. Tyler, Jonathan Eastwood, Robin M. LeBlanc, and Zoila Ponce de Leon. 2022. Fourth Edition. Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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<sup>1</sup> This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.

<sup>2</sup> Yellow indicates important times, dates, and deadlines

**Supplementary Readings:** Additional readings will be accessible via eLC. Ensure you review the course page weekly.

**Note:** All readings should be completed prior to the Monday class each week.

## **Assessment & Grading**

**1. Class Participation & Attendance (20%):** Active participation is expected in all three weekly sessions. While brief lectures will be conducted, most of the class time will be dedicated to group discussions and interactive learning activities. Attendance alone isn't sufficient; students should come prepared to engage in discussions on the readings. Attendance will be checked.

**3. Midterm Exam I (20%):** There will be a midterm exam testing students' grasp of foundational concepts on Wednesday 2/21. Format: multiple choice and short answer. The details will be announced later.

**4. Midterm Exam II (20%):** Another midterm exam toward the end of the semester (Wednesday 4/10) will assess students' understanding of more complex theories, mechanisms and case studies covered in the course. Format: short essay.

**5. Final Project (40%):** In the middle of the semester students will be asked to pick two countries for a comparative final project. This will be followed by a research design phase and peer review (worth 20%). The remaining 20% of the grade will come from the finished project. Students will choose between an analytical paper or a multimedia project (video, podcast, or scrollytell) as a medium of their project. The research design will be due by Tuesday, 3/12, 11:59 PM, which will be followed by peer reviews. Final projects are due by Monday, May 6 3:00 PM.

**Course grades will be assigned as follows:** 94-100% = A, 90-93% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 84-87% = B, 80-83% = B-, 77-79% = C+, 74-77% = C, 70-73% = C-, 67-69% = D+, 64-67% = D, 60-63% = D-, 0-59% = F.

## Other Issues

**1. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to tell me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services Office will be accommodated according to university policy. Contact Disabilities Services for more information.

**2. Instructor Availability:** I am available to meet with students by appointment if anyone cannot attend my posted office hours. Please email me to schedule a meeting.

**3. Classroom Behavior:** Students should behave professionally throughout the course. Disruptive behavior in discussion sections will not be tolerated. Laptops may be used to take notes in class, but not in a way that is disruptive to other students. Texting is never appropriate in class. Be respectful of other students' thoughts and opinions.

**4. Cheating and Plagiarism:** All course work must meet the standards put forth in the University of Georgia's Student Honor Code. See the Academic Honesty Policy for details on what is expected of you:

<https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Student-Honor-Code/>.

**5. Covid 19:** Information related to Covid 19 and how this will impact our course and the University of Georgia more generally can be found at the end of this syllabus.

## Course Schedule

**Week 1** (M 1/08, W 1/10, F No class) Foundations of Comparative Politics  
**CPITMC Chapter 1**

**Week 2** (M 1/15, W 1/17, F 1/19) The Comparative Method  
**CPITMC Chapter 1**

**Week 3** (M 1/22, W 1/24, F 1/26) Theories, Hypotheses, and Evidence  
**CPITMC Chapter 2**

**Week 4** (M 1/29, W 1/31, F 2/02) The Birth and Breakdown of States  
**CPITMC Chapter 3**

**Week 5** (M 2/05, W 2/07, F 2/09) The Road to Democracy  
**CPITMC Chapter 6**

**Week 6** (M 2/12, W 2/14, F 2/16) Democracy vs. Dictatorship: Definitions and Distinctions  
**CPITMC Chapter 7**

**Week 7** (M 2/19 Midterm I Review, W 2/21 Midterm I, F 2/23) Political Economy  
**CPITMC Chapter 4**

**Week 8** (M 2/26, W 2/28, F 3/01) Development  
**CPITMC Chapter 5**

**Week 9** (M 3/04, W 3/06, F 3/08) Spring Break—No classes

**Week 10** (M 3/11, W 3/13, F 3/15) Constitutions and Constitutional Design  
**CPITMC Chapter 8**  
T 3/12 Research Design Due

**Week 11** (M 3/18, W 3/20, F 3/22) The Challenges of Collective Decision-Making  
**CPITMC Chapter 9**

**Week 12** (M 3/25, W 3/27, F 3/29) Executives

**CPITMC Chapter 10**

**Week 13** (M 4/01, W 4/03, F 4/05) Political Parties and the Social Fabric

**T 4/02 Peer Review Due**

**CPITMC Chapter 11**

**Week 14** (M 4/08 – Midterm II review, **W 4/10 – Midterm II**, F 4/12) Revolutions and  
Contention

**CPITMC Chapter 12**

**Week 15** (M 4/15, W 4/17, F 4/19) Nationalism and Identity

**CPITMC Chapter 13 and Chapter 14**

**Week 16** (M 4/22, W 4/24, F 4/26) Ideology and Religion in Modern Politics

**CPITMC Chapter 15**

**Week 17 (M 4/29) Last Class of the Semester: CP & IR**

**CPITMC Chapter 16**

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

UGA adheres to guidance from the University System of Georgia and the recommendations from Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) related to quarantine and isolation. Since this may be updated periodically, we encourage you to review the latest guidance here. The following information is based on guidance last updated on December 29, 2021.

### **Face coverings:**

Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

### **How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?**

University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal. Learn more here .

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, click here.

In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here.

### **What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?**

Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and get tested. You can schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

### **What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19? (Isolation guidance)**

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, either through a PCR test, an Antigen test, or a home test kit, you are required to report it through the DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey. Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

As of December 29, 2021, when an individual receive a positive COVID-19 test: Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, should:

- Stay home for 5 days
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house and return to class.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

### **What do I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19? (Quarantine guidance)**

If you have been exposed (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24- hour period – unmasked\*\*) to someone with COVID-19 or to someone with a positive COVID- 19 test and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine)
  - You do not need to quarantine at home and may come to class.
  - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
  - If possible, get tested on day 5.
  - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
  - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that you may return to class but continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
  - If possible, get tested on day 5.
  - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

\*\* "Masked-to-masked" encounters are not currently considered an exposure; this type of interaction would not warrant quarantine.

You should report the need to quarantine on DawgCheck (<https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach ([sco@uga.edu](mailto:sco@uga.edu)) for assistance.

**Well-being, mental health, and student support**

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health: <https://well-being.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>

**Monitoring conditions:**

Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor's Office. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit [coronavirus.uga.edu](https://coronavirus.uga.edu).