

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Shane P. Singh
Office: 305 International Affairs Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00PM–2:00PM
Email: singh@uga.edu
Phone: (706) 542-6705

Teaching Assistant: Gabriela Greilinger
Email: gabriela.greilinger@uga.edu

Course Webpage: UGA eLearning Commons

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20PM–3:35PM

Class Location: 125 Jackson Street Building

Goal of the Course: This course introduces the comparative study of politics and government. By the end of the course, students should understand why comparing regimes, political institutions, political processes, political actors, political behavior, and public policy across countries is useful. In addition, students should understand how researchers study politics and government across countries using the tools of scientific inference. This course is also intended to provide an overview of domestic political structures around the world. Thus, students should become familiar with the basic varieties of political institutions and processes.

Required Readings:

Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2025. Second Edition. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press.

Some journal articles and web resources, which are freely available to you online or in the library.

Student Responsibilities:

Readings: Students are required to do the readings for each class period. I expect everyone to finish the readings for each class ahead of time.

AI Response Evaluations: There will be two reports in which students will critique responses to a question about comparative politics provided by artificial intelligence. More details will be provided in handouts available on eLC.

Country Case Study (Honors Option Only): Students who elect to take this course for Honors credit will produce a case study, which they will present at the end

of the semester. The presentations should be similar to the case studies that I present in class. More details will be provided in a handout available on eLC.

Exams: There will be two required in-class exams (a midterm and a final). The format of each exam will be announced ahead of time. The final exam is non-cumulative.

Participation/Quizzes: I expect students to be attentive and to contribute when appropriate. There will also be a small number of short, unannounced quizzes that will cover recent readings and course material. Your completion of/performance on these will help me assess your participation grade. I also strongly encourage students to read articles from national and international news sources that are pertinent to class material. Though I will not take attendance, being present is important; you need to be in class to participate and to take the quizzes!

Grades:

Participation/Quizzes:	10%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
AI Response Evaluation 1:	15%
AI Response Evaluation 2:	15%

There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Grade Scale:

>=93%:	A
90-92.99%:	A-
87-89.99%:	B+
83-86.99%:	B
80-82.99%:	B-
77-79.99%:	C+
73-76.99%:	C
70-72.99%:	C-
60-69.99%:	D
<60%:	F

Policy on Laptops and Phones: The use of phones during class is prohibited, but students may use their laptops to take notes or to refer to the readings. Students may not, however, browse the web or use social media. Students caught doing so will lose participation points.

Late/Missed Assignments: Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Make-up exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

Inclusiveness and Accessibility: In this course, I will strive to create an inclusive and accessible online environment. Regarding disabilities, in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center, I will work with students who need special accommodations or academic support. For more information, visit the Disability Resource Center's website at: <https://drc.uga.edu>.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and 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 for students seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Academic Integrity: The academic honesty policy of the university is supplemented (not replaced) by an Honor Code which was adopted by the Student Government Association and approved by the University Council May 1, 1997, and provides: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." All students agree to abide by this code by signing the UGA Admissions Application.

I encourage you to use AI tools to explore the field and help you study. However, you must take full responsibility for any AI-generated materials you incorporate in your course assignments. Information must be verified, ideas must still be attributed, and facts must be true. You may not pass off content written by AI as your own.

Readings and Course Schedule: *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

WEEK 1

8/14: Introduction and Overview of Comparative Politics

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 1, pages 1–8 and 19–20; Chapter 2, pages 21–30

WEEK 2

8/19: The State

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 4, pages 69–84

8/21: Democracies

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 10, pages 272–275

WEEK 3

8/26: Nondemocratic States

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 8, pages 210–226

8/28: The Determinants and Promotion of Democracy

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 5, pages 104–111; Chapter 6, pages 136–146 and pages 158–164

WEEK 4

9/2: Legislatures

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 13, pages 390–397

9/4: Governments in Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 10

WEEK 5

9/9: Constitutions and Judicial Power

Discuss AI Response Evaluation 1; Handout on eLC

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 13, pages 397–403

9/11: Electoral Systems

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 11, pages 313–335

WEEK 6

9/16: Federalism

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 13, pages 379–390

9/18: Nationalism

no reading

WEEK 7

9/23: Case Study: Australia

Ghazarian, Zareh. 2024. The Australian Party System. In B. Galligan & W. Roberts (Eds.), *Australian Politics and Policy: 2024*. Melbourne University Press.

<https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/aust-politics-policy/chapter/the-australian-party-system/>

9/25: Case Study: India

Vaishnav, Milan, and Caroline Mallory. 2024. “A Guide to India’s 2024 Elections.”

<https://carnegieendowment.org/features/india-elects-2024?lang=en>

WEEK 8

9/30: Midterm Review

AI Response Evaluation 1 Due

10/2: Midterm Exam

WEEK 9

10/7: Political Parties

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 12, pages 344–356

10/9: No Class

WEEK 10

10/14: Party Systems

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 12, pages 356–371

10/16: Political Behavior 1 (Voter Turnout)

Stockemer, Daniel. 2017. “What Affects Voter Turnout? A Review Article/Meta-Analysis of Aggregate Research.” *Government and Opposition* 52 (4): 698-722.

WEEK 11

10/21: Political Behavior 2 (Vote Choice)

no reading

10/23: Social Movements and Revolutions

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 7, pages 175–193

WEEK 12

10/28: The Welfare State

no reading

10/30: Development

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 5, pages 126–127

WEEK 13

11/4: Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexual Orientation

Discuss AI Response Evaluation 2; Handout on eLC

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 11, pages 330–331 (Box 11.1); Chapter 14, pages 420–426

11/6: Political Culture

Clark, Golder, and Golder, Chapter 6, pages 165–170

WEEK 14

11/11: Globalization

Peterson Institute for International Economics 2024. “What Is Globalization?”
<https://www.piie.com/microsites/globalization/what-is-globalization>

11/13: Case Study: Argentina

Sendra, Mariana, and Hugo Marcos-Marne. 2024. “Is Milei a Populist? People and Market in the New Radical Right in Argentina.” *Contemporary Politics* 30 (5): 639-55.

WEEK 15

11/18: Case Study: The European Union

McBride, James. “How Does the European Union Work?” 2022.
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-does-european-union-work>

11/20: Honors Case Study Presentations

In today’s class, students taking the course for Honors credit will present their country case studies.

WEEK 16

11/25: Final Exam Review

AI Response Evaluation 2 Due

11/27: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

FINALS WEEK

12/4: Final Exam, 3:30PM–6:30PM