

POLS 150: Introduction to Comparative Politics Summer 2019

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Location: ONLINE

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Note: If you have questions about the course, post them to the Q&A discussion forum in Blackboard. Professional and courteous etiquette is expected at all times on discussion boards. If you have personal matters that are private in nature, email is the best way to reach me. See the section below on email etiquette and expectations for further details. This syllabus is subject to change.

Scope and Purpose:

- ✓ Why are some societies ruled by authoritarian leaders and others have democratic systems?
- ✓ Does the political culture of a particular society influence the type of political system such as an authoritarian or democratic regime? Do social cleavages, such as religious or ethnic divisions, prevent the development of democratic institutions?
- ✓ Do inherited (previous) political institutions influence the democratization process in a particular country? That is, how difficult is the political and social transition from a dictatorship to a democracy?
- ✓ Can citizens be “satisfied” with their government even though they live under an authoritarian regime?

The above questions are some examples of the issues we address in comparative politics. This course will introduce students to a variety of methods and country case studies that comparative political scientists examine to answer these questions. In this class, we will study state institutions, political culture and the societies (including popular opinion). The goal of this course is to introduce students to comparative politics.

Grading: Grading is based on your introduction, a syllabus quiz, weekly reading quizzes, weekly newspaper assignments, four map quizzes, one six to seven-page paper, and a reflection paper.

Points:

- ❖ *Introduction Exercise:* 20 points
- ❖ *Syllabus Quiz:* 20 points
- ❖ *Reading Quizzes (7 @ 30 points each):* 210 points
- ❖ *Map Quizzes (4 @ 25 points each):* 100 points
- ❖ *Newspaper Assignment (5 @ 20 points each):* 100 points
- ❖ *Final Paper:* 100 points
- ❖ *Reflection Paper:* 50 points

Total Points: 600

Grade Scale

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | Below 60% |

Readings: The textbook below is *required*. You should be able to purchase this textbook from the book store (I have placed this on order at the bookstore) or online. Reading your textbook is critical for success in this course. There is no lecture portion, therefore you are responsible for reading and getting the most out of this course. Failing to read the textbook will likely lead to failing to get the most out of the course and a lower grade.

Stephen Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, 4th Edition (CQ Press, 2018) ISBN: 9781506375465

*I also recommend the e-book option. You can rent this textbook on Amazon—far cheaper than purchasing new or used.

In addition, I may send additional news or short articles that apply to the lesson for the week throughout the summer.

Introduction: Week one, a prompt will be posted on the discussion board that introduces yourself to your classmates. As this is an online course, this will be the time to introduce yourself to your classmate and your instructor. Introductions will be posted to a thread on Blackboard. Introductions are due **Monday June 10th at 11:59pm (CST)** and are worth 20 points.

Syllabus Quiz: Week one, you will complete a syllabus quiz. The purpose of this quiz is to ensure that you have read through and understand the syllabus. This quiz will be on Blackboard and is worth 20 points. The quiz must be completed by **Monday June 10th at 11:59pm (CST)**.

Map Quizzes: Identifying where counties are located in important regions and the neighboring countries are an important part of comparative politics. Therefore, we will have four map quizzes. Each quiz will ask questions about key countries in a particular region. All the map information can be found in the Map folder on Blackboard. The quizzes will be timed and will be taken online via Blackboard. These quizzes will be due **Mondays by 11:59pm (CST)**. The Mondays that these quizzes are due will be detailed below in the schedule. Each quiz will be worth 25 points.

Weekly Reading Quizzes: Each week, students will be quizzed on the readings assigned that week. These quizzes will be due on **Mondays by 11:59pm (CST)**. Reading quizzes will be completed via Blackboard and include multiple choice and short answer questions. These quizzes are not timed but have only one attempt. Each quiz will be worth 30 points.

Weekly Newspaper Assignments: Each week, you will choose one of the concepts that are the focus of your reading and find a newspaper article relating to that concept for that given week. These concepts could be related to one of the case studies outlined in your chapter or a central

idea throughout the chapter. There are 11 countries you can choose from and cannot be from a list other than these eleven countries. These countries are the cases for the textbook and are the following: Brazil, China, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The assignment is a one paragraph single spaced typed analysis of a particular article from one of the following sources the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* (magazine), *US News and World Report*. In your brief analysis, you will identify country problems or issues related with either “inherited institutions”, “social cleavages” or “political culture” (this will be explained via PowerPoint/document before the first assignment is due). This is a cause and effect analysis. The issue is the outcome (or effect) and “inherited institutions”, “social cleavages” or “political culture” are one of the possible causes. There is more the one case, but which one has the greatest influence. The newspaper assignments will be due the week we cover the particular concept you are focusing on. For example, newspaper assignment about States and Identity is due the second week, Democracies and their institutions is due the third week and so on. Let’s say you are writing about a democracy for week 3. You should outline why it highlights the concept of the week (maybe the article is about elections in Britain) and how that election had results that are related to inherited institutions, social cleavages, or political culture. The assignments are designed to help you construct your paper. Newspaper assignments are due on **Sundays by 11:59pm (CST)**. Each newspaper assignment is worth 20 points. An example will be posted on Blackboard to help guide you.

Reflection Paper: Reflection papers are due **Friday July 26 by 11:59pm (CST)**. These papers are for students to reflect on the course and anything they’ve learned from it. It’s also a useful avenue to provide thoughts on what worked and didn’t work in this course. An outline for these reflection papers will be available via Blackboard. The reflection papers are worth 50 points.

Paper: One six to seven page paper is designed to connect the course content and text with current events. You will choose ONE of the following three questions on consolidated democracies or transitional democracies. (1) Consolidated democracy question: *Is it change (or lack of change) in political culture, the social cleavages or government institutions that generates the greatest challenge for democracy in _____?* You will choose one of the consolidated democracies for your paper including Britain, France, Japan or India. (2) Transitional democracy question: *Is it political culture, social cleavages or inherited institutions that has the most significant influence on the current problems facing the consolidation of democracy in _____?* You will choose one of the transitional democracies for your paper including Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria or Pakistan. (3) Authoritarian regime question: *Is it political culture, social cleavages or inherited institutions that has the most significant influence on the current problems facing democratic political reform of authoritarian regimes in _____?* You will choose one of the authoritarian regimes for your paper including Iran, China or Somalia (failed state).

This is a cause and effect analysis. The outcome (or effect) is the challenge or problem facing the democracy, and “inherited institutions”, “social cleavages” or “political culture” are one of the possible causes. There is more the one case, but you need to show which one has the greatest influence. Moreover, you need to clearly define and identify a specific problem or challenge as well as clearly define “inherited institutions”, “social cleavages” or “political culture”.

The paper will use the text and at least two current (2014-2019) news reports from one of the following sources the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* (magazine), *US News and World Report* or *The Atlantic* (see Useful Web Pages below). Remember, these are NOT descriptive papers. You will be graded on how well you answer the questions. In your paper, make sure you clearly demonstrate why *you think* one explanation is better than the other. For example, if you think the inherited institutions have a stronger negative influence on the democratic consolidation in Russia than political culture, and then explain why. In your explanation, be sure to use the text and at least two current (2014-2019) news reports (articles) to support your argument. A rubric for grading will be provided. Questions on your papers can be directed to me via email or on the Q&A portion of the discussion board. The research paper is due **Tuesday July 23, 11:59pm (CST)**. The research paper is worth 100 points.

Disabilities: Any student who has a disability that may influence class participation or assignments taking should contact the instructor at the earliest possible date so that accommodations can be made.

E-Mail: I will communicate with you through e-mail to answer questions regarding assignments and the course. All e-mail will receive a response within 24 hours. Professional e-mail communication is an important skill that will last beyond the class and college experience. Emails should have your *full name and should be from your KU email*. Keep in mind how you want to present yourself through e-mail. This is an online class so effective communication is critical. For more information of professional e-mails see <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>. Further information is below on course policies and expectations.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations for Students:

It takes great effort to be a successful online student. You have to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to keep yourself on schedule with reading, assignments, paper, etc. You do have to devote time from your busy family and work schedule to work on the course so you will not fall behind.

Communication channels are always open between me, you, and among us. It is very important that we keep connected and interact with one another. If you have questions, please feel free to use email or discussion boards to contact me, or your classmates. Learning takes place in a community.

It is extremely important that students take ownership of their learning for this online course, and to demonstrate their ownership, students are expected to be full participants throughout the duration of this course. Active participation is paramount to the success of this course. The following describes how attendance will be counted, and specific methods of participation are described.

1. Students are expected to check their e-mail and read the Announcements on Blackboard daily.
2. Students are expected to submit their assignments online through Blackboard.
3. Students are required to post a brief introduction at the beginning of this course.
4. Students are expected to respect one another and allow for plenty of time for proper

feedback on papers (if made at the request of the student or the instructor).

Expectation for the Instructor:

Just as I have my expectations of you, the following is what I will do (as a minimum) to ensure communication conducive to efficient online teaching and learning.

1. I will check my email daily.
2. I will respond to course related questions within 24 hours.
3. If I find those questions relevant and important to others, I will post them on the Announcement.
4. I will post announcements and reminders once per week, or more frequently, if needed.
5. I will give feedback on submitted assignments within one week.

Online Communication Netiquette:

Small group discussion board posts and emails are the primary communication channels in this online course. Primarily, those tools are text-based. Pay attention to the following when you are communicating with your instructor and/or peer students in online courses:

1. Check before you post. Always check whether a similar question to yours has been posted and answered on the discussion board to avoid duplicated messages and responses.
2. Use a descriptive subject line. When creating a new message or replying a message, use a descriptive subject line that reflects the content of your message. It can help readers catch the key concept even before reading your message. This makes the discussion more efficient.
3. Write in short paragraphs. If you have lots to say, break it down using smaller segments. This makes things easier for the readers.
4. Do not write in all uppercase. ALL CAPS MEANS YOU ARE SHOUTING although you may not mean it.
5. Use emotional symbols (:-, :-), :-(, :-), :-p, etc.) to indicate the tone of voice. It is often hard to tell the emotion of a text-based message. Use emotional symbols to give your message a little social touch. :-)
6. Do not edit or change the message content once someone has already responded to you. If you have something to add or change, simply add a follow-up message.
7. Respect others. Like all communication and discussion occasions, use your professionalism and talk to others with respect. Unprofessional messages will be removed.
8. People in this course may come from places around the world, so be respectful to other cultures and languages. Be careful with sarcasm.

Late Work Policy: No late work will be accepted past 3 days. You'll lose 25% each day. Once past the third day, you will not receive credit. So, 1 day late (75% credit), 2 days late (50% credit) 3 days late (25% credit), 4 days and beyond (no credit). In the rare event accommodations are needed, you must notify me beforehand (this does not mean after the fact) and receive written consent that I have given you an extension.

Blackboard: This course will use Blackboard (<https://courseware.ku.edu/>). I will post the lecture outlines, assignments, and other materials on Blackboard. If you are not familiar with this web site or you need more information please see this following website for any help: <https://blackboard.ku.edu/students/resources>. Any other questions can also be directed to KU IT

or to me via email. All interactions on Blackboard are expected to be professional and courteous. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures at the discretion of the instructor.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is taken very seriously in this course. The instructor will employ the latest software and other techniques to detect instances of academic dishonesty. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through Safe Assign. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade in the course. In addition, they may be subject to additional university penalties.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Each week, lecture notes and/or PowerPoints will be posted for reference to supplement reading your textbook. Use these lecture notes and PowerPoints as a guide when reading your textbook.
- Additional reading materials may also be posted to supplement your textbook that include articles about the countries that week and important information relevant to that country.

Week 1: Introduction & The Modern State (June 4th)

Readings:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: The Modern State
- Read the Syllabus

Assignments:

- *No Map Quiz Due*
- *No Newspaper Assignment Due*
- Syllabus Quiz DUE
 - Monday June 10th 11:59pm (CST)
- Reading Quiz #1 DUE
 - Monday June 10th 11:59pm (CST)
- Post in Discussion Board an introduction to your classmates
 - DUE by Monday June 10th at 11:59pm (CST)

Week 2: States, Citizens, and Regimes & States and Identity (June 11th)

Readings:

- Chapter 3: States, Citizens, and Regimes
- Chapter 4: States and Identity

Assignments:

- Map Quiz #1 DUE
 - Monday June 17th 11:59pm (CST)
- Reading Quiz #2 DUE
 - Monday June 17th 11:59pm (CST)
- Newspaper Assignment #1 DUE
 - Sunday June 16th 11:59pm (CST)

Week 3: Governing Institutions in Democracies and Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies (June 18th)

Readings:

- Chapter 5: Governing Institutions in Democracies
- Chapter 6: Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies

Assignments:

- *No Map Quiz Due*
- Reading Quiz #3 DUE
 - Monday June 24th 11:59pm (CST)
- Newspaper Assignment #2 DUE
 - Sunday June 23rd 11:59pm (CST)

Week 4: Contentious Politics & Regime Change (June 25th)

Readings:

- Chapter 7: Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence, and Revolution
- Chapter 9: Regime Change

Assignments:

- Map Quiz #2 DUE
 - Monday July 1st 11:59pm (CST)
- Reading Quiz #4 DUE
 - Monday July 1st 11:59pm (CST)
- Newspaper Assignment #3 DUE
 - Sunday June 30th 11:59pm (CST)

Week 5 Authoritarian Institutions (July 2nd)

Readings:

- Chapter 8: Authoritarian Institutions
- Brooker Chapter: Theoretical Approaches (On Blackboard)

Assignments:

- Map Quiz #3 DUE
 - Monday July 8th 11:59pm (CST)
- Reading Quiz #5 DUE
 - Monday July 8th 11:59pm (CST)
- Newspaper Assignment #4 DUE
 - Sunday July 7th 11:59pm (CST)

Week 6: Political Economy of Wealth (July 9th)

Reading:

- Chapter 10: Political Economy of Wealth

Assignments:

- Map Quiz #4 DUE
 - Monday July 15th 11:59pm (CST)
- Reading Quiz #6 DUE
 - Monday July 15th 11:59pm (CST)
- Newspaper Assignment #5 DUE
 - Sunday July 14th 11:59pm (CST)

Week 7: Political Economy of Development (July 16th)

Reading:

- Chapter 11: Political Economy of Development

Assignments:

- *No Map Quiz Due*
- *No Newspaper Assignment Due*
- Reading Quiz #7 DUE
 - Monday July 22nd 11:59pm (CST)

Week 8:

- No Readings

Final Paper DUE Tuesday, July 23rd 11:59pm (CST)
Submit Via Blackboard

Reflection Paper DUE Friday, July 26th 11:59pm (CST)
Submit Via Blackboard

Useful Web Pages:

BBC World Service

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/>

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

US News and World Report

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm>

World Values Survey

<http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>

Human Development Reports

<http://hdr.undp.org/>

World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

CIA Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Globalis

This is an interactive world atlas where you decide what is to be displayed on the map.

<http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/>

IDEA

Created in 1995, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization with member states from all continents, has a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide.

<http://www.idea.int/index.cfm>

IDEA: Very good section on Women and Politics

<http://www.idea.int/gender/>

Gender Action

Gender Action to promote women's rights and gender equality in developing countries

<http://www.genderaction.org/index.html>

World Music and Box Office Ratings Charts

<http://allcharts.org/>