

SPRING 2017 COURSE SYLLABUS

PSC 211-1002: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the major theories, concepts, and methodologies of comparative politics. Through various readings and discussions, students will gain an understanding of topics such as political institutions, regime types, elections, political culture, and development in countries throughout the world.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students should have the ability to:

1. Identify and analyze important concepts of comparative politics, including:
 - a. Regime types and measurements of democracy
 - b. Regime transitions
 - c. Elections and electoral systems
 - d. Party systems
 - e. Parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems
 - f. Institutions and actors
 - g. Political culture, development, and social cleavages
2. Read, understand, and critique scholarly works in comparative politics
3. Formulate their own research ideas and begin the research process

Learning Outcomes

This course supports the following University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs):

1. **Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning:** Integrate basic principles of the social sciences and develop skills and a desire for lifelong learning;
2. **Inquiry and Critical Thinking:** Be able to identify problems, articulate questions, and use various forms of research and reasoning to guide the collection, analysis, and use of information related to those problems;
3. **Communication:** Communicate effectively in written and verbal modes;
4. **Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness:** Develop a knowledge of multicultural societies and an awareness of one's place in and effect on them;
5. **Citizenship and Ethics:** Participate knowledgeably and actively in the public life of our communities and make informed, responsible, and ethical decisions in one's personal and

professional lives.

Required Texts

1. Clark, William, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder. 2012. *Principles of Comparative Politics, Second Edition*. Congressional Quarterly Press.
2. Articles and additional readings uploaded to the course WebCampus

Classroom Behavior

1. Arrive to class on time. Pop quizzes will take place at the start of class.
2. Your cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc. must be off/on silent mode and out of sight. Use of any of these devices will result in you being asked to leave the class and your pop quiz points will be forfeited for the day.
3. Do not engage in side-bar conversations. Disruptions may result in your being asked to leave the class and will negatively affect your pop quiz points.
4. Treat this class, myself, and your peers professionally.
5. Recording devices are strictly prohibited. This also includes taking photos of slides or other materials presented in class.
6. No food or beverages are allowed, with the exception of water.
7. Always maintain a courteous and respectful manner. The topics may get heated, but students are expected to engage each other and the instructor in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the university.
8. Late assignments will not be accepted except in cases of extreme emergency. This is limited to the illness of the student or the illness or death of an immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, sibling, or grandparent). Documentation is required and the student is expected to notify the instructor within a week.

Grading

Midterm and final grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

93 - 100:	A	80 - 82.99:	B-	60 - 69.99	D
90 - 92.99:	A-	77 - 79.99:	C+	0 - 59.99	F
87 - 89.99:	B+	73 - 76.99:	C		
83 - 86.99:	B	70 - 72.99:	C-		

Graded Areas

Students will be graded on the following items. Due dates can be found on the schedule on page 5 of the syllabus. Rubrics for the assignments can be found on the course website and will be discussed during class.

1. **Exams:** There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Both exams will be online. Details about each exam will be given out as the exam dates get closer. See the course schedule on page 5 for the midterm date. The date of the final will be announced later in the term.
2. **Research Project:** The research project is a multi-step project that will require students to turn in components of the research project throughout the semester. The components include: a comparative politics research question, a list of references related to the research

question, an annotated bibliography, and an abstract regarding the student's intended research project. The purpose of the project is to expose students to the research process and to encourage them to think about salient topics within comparative politics. A more detailed rubric will be handed out in class when the project begins. See due dates on the course schedule on page 5.

3. **Country Project:** Each student will be assigned a country at the start of the semester. Your task is to assess your country through the lens of each of the concepts we discuss in this course. For example, you will need to tell the class about your country's regime type. This part of your grade is comprised of an online component as well as an in-class participation component. A more detailed rubric will be handed out in class when the project begins. See the course schedule on page 5 for due dates of the online components.
4. **Pop Quizzes and Participation:** Pop quizzes will begin at the start of class and are designed to test students' understanding of the material that should have been prepared for that day's course. In other words, the pop quizzes will be related to the required readings for that class period. Participation points will be awarded for participating in group and classroom discussions and will be related to the readings as well as to knowledge regarding the country a student is assigned for the country project.
5. **Note on Extra Credit:** I reserve the right to offer (or not offer) extra credit assignments throughout the semester. Any extra credit opportunities will only be awarded to the class as a whole, and there are no special case extra credit opportunities or individually assigned extra credit assignments. Additionally, any opportunities for extra credit will only be announced in class and will not be considered after the specified deadline.

Your midterm and final grades will be comprised of the following areas:

Graded Item	Points	Percent of Grade
Exams (midterm & final)	500	50%
Research Project	250	25%
Country Project	150	15%
Pop Quizzes\Participation	100	10%
Total	1,000	100%

Course Schedule

CGG: Clark, Golder, and Golder Textbook

WC: Reading uploaded to WebCampus

Week/Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments Due
Week One	What is Comparative Politics?	
January 17	Course Introduction	
January 19	"In Quite a State" (WC) Chapter 1 (CGG) Chapter 4 (CGG)	
Week Two	Democracy and Democratic Regimes	

January 24	Chapter 5 (CGG)	
	"What Democracy Is...and Is Not" (WC)	
January 26	Chapter 11 (CGG)	Country Post #1
Week Three	Authoritarian and Totalitarian Regimes	
January 31	Chapter 10 (CGG)	
February 02	"Sources of Popular Support for Authoritarian Regimes" (WC)	
Week Four	Hybrid Regimes	
February 07	"Thinking About Hybrid Regimes" (WC)	
February 09	NO CLASS (APSA T&L Conference)	
Week Five	Regime Transitions	
February 14	Chapter 8 (CGG)	
February 16	"Oil, Islam, and Women" (WC)	
	"What is Democratic Consolidation?"	
Week Six	Thinking About Comparative Research	
February 21	Chapter 2 (CGG)	
February 23	NO CLASS	Exam 1 (Online)
Week Seven	Electoral Systems	
February 28	Chapter 13 (CGG)	Research Topic Due
March 02	Chapter 13 (CGG)	Country Post #2
Week Eight	Party Systems	(Midterm Week)
March 07	Chapter 14 (CGG)	
March 09	Chapter 14 (CGG)	Country Post #3
Week Nine	Parliamentary and Presidential Systems	
March 14	Chapter 12 (CGG)	Bibliography
March 16	Chapter 12 (CGG)	Country Post #4
Week Ten	Federalism and Veto Players	
March 21	Chapter 15 (CGG)	
March 23	Chapter 15 (CGG)	Country Post #5
Week Eleven	Development	
March 28	Chapter 6 (CGG)	
	Chapter 9: Skim (CGG)	
March 30	"Modernization: Theories and Facts" (WC)	Annotated Bibliography

Week/Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments Due
Week Twelve	Political Culture	
April 04	Chapter 7 (CGG)	
April 06	Chapter 7 (CGG)	Country Post#6
SPRING BREAK	(NO CLASS)	
Week Thirteen	Comparative Politics and the Environment	
April 18	“National Capacity to Protect the Environment” (WC)	
April 20	“Democracy and the Environment in Latin America and Eastern Europe” (WC)	Country Post #7
	“Democracy and the Environment: An Empirical Assessment” (WC)	
Week Fourteen	The Future of Comparative Politics	
April 25	“Comparative Politics and International Relations” (WC)	Research Abstract
April 27	“Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics” (WC)	
Week Fifteen	Wrap Up	
May 02	Review for Final	
May 04	No Class - Study for Final	
Week Sixteen		(Finals Week)
May 09	Final Exam Dates TBA	
May 11		

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus and schedule

University Policies

Academic Misconduct— Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)— Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy— Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The **Academic Success Center (ASC)** provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.