Course Description
This class is an introduction to the study of comparative politics, one of the four major subfields of political science. The logic of comparative politics forms the basis for all of political science. Comparative politics examines the world’s political systems by comparing and contrasting them and by looking for generalization about how and why they function. This course will focus on major concepts and ideas in comparative politics and introduce you to the major theories and methods of comparative politics. We will use some case studies to further clarify and apply these concepts.

The course will cover a wide range of issues, including the state, democracy and democratization, authoritarianism, strategies of economic development, and postcommunism. We also will discuss some debates in comparative politics that have been important in the policy-making community in recent years, such as the role of the state in the economy, how to pursue economic development, and the effort to promote democracy in the world.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the features of comparative politics, critically analyze fundamental concepts in political science and comparative politics, identify major points of variation across political systems, compare between different regime types and their effect on political, economic, and social outcomes, and think critically, analytically, and systematically about politics.

Readings
There is one required book for this course. All assignments are to be read before class on the day they are assigned, and you should bring them to class for reference and discussion.

The required book:


These books are recommended, though you are not required to buy them:

The Kotkin book is available at the bookstore and very cheap on Amazon (find it here). I will also put it on reserve at the library. The O’Neil books are available at the bookstore, but the publisher’s website has package offers that allow you to get the required book, or all three books, at a cheaper price than buying them separately. Ebooks are also available from the publisher. Chapters from the recommended books will also be available as .pdf files.

**Articles:**
There will be a considerable amount of reading outside the main textbook. We will read a good number of journal articles, and I will make most of the readings from the recommended books available online. I expect everyone to print off the online readings and have them in class; aside from it being easier to consult a paper copy of an article, it is also more effective to read and take notes on paper than on a computer.

**NB:**
Any additional readings from journal articles and other sources will be posted on NB, a website that allows students to read, comment on, and ask questions about readings. Follow the link above to see the FAQ and learn about how the site works. The subscribe link for our course page is here; I will also post it on blackboard and invite users via email.

Readings are also available from the library at lib.purdue.edu. You are not expected to purchase articles. Each Purdue student has a library account through which they can access the required articles. Start from the Purdue Libraries homepage and in the search box type in the journal or article name and follow the links. Students are responsible for accessing readings that are not in the books.

Unless otherwise specified, readings listed are required. Recommended readings are not required but are listed for your further reference and to help you gain a better understanding of an issue, or if you are simply interested in a topic and would like to read more than we do in class.

**Course Requirements**
**Attendance and participation:**
Missing three classes in a semester is excessive. Attendance is required, and you cannot earn attendance or participation points for a class in which you are not present, nor can you submit any assignments if you are not in class. Advanced notice of an absence is appreciated as a professional courtesy (though you must be present in class to submit assignments). Absences will only be excused for death of a family member or a documented health issue; notes from PUSH are not acceptable.
It is important that you arrive on time. Coming in late is disruptive; similarly, you are expected to stay for the entire period. On or before the first day of class, you should evaluate whether you can commit to being in class every session. If your schedule makes it likely that you will frequently miss class or leave early, you might think about finding a class more compatible with your schedule. Points will be awarded for daily attendance; students must be on time to get attendance points on a given day.

**Absence for death of family member:** In March 2011, Purdue University instituted a Grief Absence Policy for Students. Please note that this policy requires you to contact the Office of the Dean of Students to request that a notice of your leave be sent to instructors. You then must
provide documentation of the death or funeral service attended to the ODOS. Upon receipt of proper documentation, the ODOS will request the instructor excuse the student and provide an opportunity to earn equivalent credit. I WILL NOT excuse a grief absence if you do not first request a notice from the ODOS AND provide ODOS with documentation. Purdue’s new Grief Absence Policy for Students is available online at https://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/griefabsencepolicyforstudents.php.

Participation points are earned through attendance and in-class participation, such as taking part in class discussion or asking thoughtful questions. Students are expected to attend every class and come prepared to discuss the day’s readings.

Assignments:
Reading questions: Thoughtful and careful assessment of the readings is expected; informed and knowledgeable participation is required. Students should bring the day’s readings (or thorough notes) to class with them. On several days, students will bring typed discussion questions to class; I will collect those questions on a random basis. There are many types of “good” discussion questions, but ones that stimulate debate, facilitate learning of the material, or raise (and even try to resolve) inconsistencies in the readings are particularly helpful. On occasion, students will engage in self- or peer-evaluation exercises during class.

Exams: Rather than having a single final exam that becomes the main focus and can significantly affect one’s grade, there will be five exams during the semester. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, definitions, short answer, and essay questions.

Extra credit option: Throughout the semester, I will give unannounced one-question quizzes based on the previous class. Answers will be short – anything from a few words to a sentence – and written on note cards. The quizzes will be worth two points. These quizzes will be the only way to earn extra credit in this course, and they cannot be made up if you miss a class in which one is given, regardless of the reason for your absence.

Correspondence and submission:
Email is the best way to get in touch with me. Address all class-related emails to my phusom@purdue.edu address. Be sure to include your name and class in the email. You may not get a response if the email is sent through Blackboard or if you do not include “POL 130” in the subject line and your name somewhere in the email. I will always try to respond to your email messages within 24 hours; if I do not respond within 24 hours, please simply send your message again. On weekends (Friday evening to Monday morning), I will try respond to messages within 48 hours. Always send emails from your official Purdue email account. This is the official form of communication at Purdue, and I will not respond to emails sent from anything but a Purdue email address. Please do not try to catch me after class to talk about grades or other issues; instead use my office hours or schedule an appointment with me.

Late Policy:
No late work will be accepted. Any assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day it is due, and students must be present to submit an assignment.
Exam make-ups are rare and will only be scheduled in extreme circumstances, such as a documented health issue or a documented grief absence, as described above. These circumstances require advanced arrangements with me; make up exams will not be given if you have not contacted me before the exam.

Grades:
- I will not discuss grades until 24 hours after you have received them. Please schedule an appointment to discuss your grades. Because it is a violation of FERPA to discuss grades via email, under no circumstances will I discuss grades other than by appointment. All emails asking about grades will be referred to this syllabus.
- After you have received a graded assignment, you have two weeks to discuss it with me. After this two-week window, your grade is set and will not be reconsidered. In general, grades are changed only due to a miscalculation. It is your responsibility to keep graded work, and I encourage you to hold onto any graded work until the end of the semester.
- Final grades will not be rounded, and I will not use a curve.
- For all work, the Purdue University Student Code of Conduct is in effect. Every assignment, quiz, and exam must be your own work. Students who cheat or copy will fail the course and be turned in to the Dean of Students.
- Moreover, your grades are your responsibility, not mine. If you are doing poorly I am always available to help you outside of class. It is your responsibility, however, to seek help as soon as you know your grades are not as good as you want them to be. DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to ask how you can improve your grade. By that point there will be little you or I can do to help improve the situation.

Grades will be awarded based on the following scale and without rounding:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>59-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Point Allocation:
- Assignments: 25%
- Participation: 25%
- Exams: 50%

**Academic Honesty**
Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Purdue has strong policies against academic dishonesty. Anyone engaging in academic dishonesty will be reprimanded and subject to disciplinary action which can result in a minimum of a ZERO on an assignment but may include failure of the course or expulsion from the university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Plagiarism
  - Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
  - Paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
• Collaborating with another person and claiming the work solely as your own.
• Using one’s own work from another course or from a previous semester. Any work you submit must be original to this course and this semester.

• Other forms of academic dishonesty
  o Signing attendance sheets for other students.
  o Cheating on a quiz.
  o Padding a reference page.

All cases of academic dishonesty, as described above, could be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.

All exams and assignments in this course require your own original work. The work you produce in this course must be original and unique for this particular course. Students are advised to become familiar with Purdue’s Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities to resolve questions about this matter. The following publication from the Office of the Dean of Students may prove helpful as well: [http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php).

**General Course Policies**

*Computers* are a temptation; you are free to use them (though I reserve the right to change this at any time), but you should tilt the screen down when you are not taking notes. Students using computers must sit in the front quarter of the classroom.

Packing up your belongings early is distracting to other students and makes it difficult for me to convey important information about assignments and due dates at the end of class. Please wait until I have concluded the session before you begin packing your things.

*Phones or other electronic devices must be silenced and put away during class.* Failure to follow this policy will result in the loss of participation points for the day. During in-class exams, students may not use any electronic devices, including cell phones, PDAs, I-pods, dictionaries, or any other electronic equipment. *Students who are found to be using any electronic device will automatically fail the exam.*

**Miscellany**

I reserve the right to change this syllabus, schedule, and course grading policies. Students will be notified in advance when possible. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances.

**Student Services:**
For additional help with classroom activities and assignments and with issues in general, students should contact the Learning Center, Writing Lab, Online Writing Lab (OWL), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and the Adaptive Learning Programs (ALPs) lab. The ALPs lab has assistive technology designed specifically to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Adaptive Programs of the Office of the Dean of Students. Please meet with the instructor if you require accommodations; reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.
Course Schedule and Readings
We will tentatively plan on covering the following broader topics in this course:

1. Comparative politics
2. States and political economy
3. Political regimes
4. Regime change / democratization
5. Postcommunism
6. Diffusion and networks
I, ________________, have read the syllabus for POL 141-003, and I understand the course policies and expectations.

Signature: _____________________________________________________________

Date: __________________