Course Description

Comparative Politics, CP, is considered one of the four major sub-fields of political science. It examines the array of political systems we find in the world of the XXI century and the people of the societies in which these systems operate. It does so by comparing and contrasting them, and by attempting to find generalizations about how they function. As a social science endeavor CP works by applying the tools of the scientific method to empirical observations, or data, and the alternative ways in which this data can be studied. The ultimate aim is to formulate explanations that have been through the testable processes and can be accepted as part of a cumulative body of knowledge in social sciences. To accomplish this objective we will review information, ideas, and theories from the rich variety of political experiences to be found in our community of nations.

Academic Integrity

The University Policy on Academic Dishonest reads:

“Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

The Purdue student guide to Academic Integrity can be found at:

http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php I will comply with the procedures and recommendations of the Office of the Dean of Students. Specifically:

I will carefully proctor all exams and quizzes.

I will be attentive to whether or not your written submissions are your own work and whether, if you use somebody else’s work either directly or indirectly, you properly attribute credit to that person.
I report all conduct violations to the Office of the Dean of Students. The existence of evidence consistent with acts of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment at the minimum.

Student Services

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments, as prescribed by the Disability Resource Center. It is important that we talk about this at the beginning of the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (http://www.purdue.edu/drc) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will assist you if life stressors are interfering with you academic or personal success. See https://www.purdue.edu/caps/.

Course Caveat: I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus, schedule, and/or assignments contained therein at any time. You should also be aware that it is possible that the final exam could take place on May 9th, please do not make any travel arrangements before the date of the final is known.

Course Material:

Orvis and Drogus “Introducing Comparative Politics: concepts and Cases in Context” Third Edition

Course Assessment:

Your grade for the class is calculated on a points system. There are a total of 1,000 points available for the course. The distribution of these points is as follows.

In class written tests 2 x 200 points. Three written tests well be set over the course of the semester, these will be based mainly on the lectures. I will drop your lowest score when calculating your final grade.

Midterm 200 points, a midterm comprising of multiple-choice questions will take place on March 9th

Final Exam 250 points, this will be a comprehensive final. However, the questions covering the material before the midterm, will be selected from the midterm exam. The final will take place on 22nd April

Country News Report 75 points, towards the end of each lesson two students will present a short 5-7 min, presentation about recent political events in a specific country. More Details will be given and countries allocated on Wednesday 14th January.
**Attendance 50 points**, 2 points will be added to your score for every lecture you attend, you may however miss a maximum of two lectures and still receive the full attendance points.

**Active Participation 25 points**, I have an annoying habit of asking questions as the start and end of lectures, please be prepared to answer these questions, as I get upset and cry if I think nobody is listening to me. Participation may also be measured through occasional pop quizzes.

**Grading**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-97%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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**Approximate Class Schedule**

Jan 12\textsuperscript{th} Syllabus day

Jan 14\textsuperscript{th} What is Comparative Politics & Allocation of country assignments.

Read Chapter 1

Jan 19\textsuperscript{th} & 26\textsuperscript{th} No Class MLK Day

Jan 21\textsuperscript{st} & 26\textsuperscript{th} The Modern State

Read Chapter 2

News Reports 21\textsuperscript{st} United Kingdom & China

26\textsuperscript{th} South Africa & Iran

Jan 28\textsuperscript{th} & Feb 2\textsuperscript{nd} States Citizens and Regimes

Read Chapter 3

News Reports

28\textsuperscript{th} Canada & France

2\textsuperscript{nd} Somalia & India
Feb 4\textsuperscript{th} & 9\textsuperscript{th} States and Identity
Read Chapter 4
News Reports
4\textsuperscript{th} Mexico & Spain
9\textsuperscript{th} Zimbabwe & Pakistan
Feb 11\textsuperscript{th} & 16\textsuperscript{th} States & Markets
Read Chapter 5
News Reports
11\textsuperscript{th} USA & Italy
16\textsuperscript{th} Egypt & Russia
Feb 18\textsuperscript{th} Institutions in Democracy Part 1
Read Chapter 6
News Reports Brazil & Serbia

\textbf{Feb 23\textsuperscript{rd} TEST 1}

Feb 25\textsuperscript{th} Institutions in Democracy Part 2
News Reports
Ethiopia & Japan
March 2\textsuperscript{nd} & 4\textsuperscript{th} Participation and Representation
Read Chapter 7
News Reports
2\textsuperscript{nd} Argentina & Sweden
4\textsuperscript{th} Morocco & South Korea

\textbf{March 9\textsuperscript{th} MIDTERM}

March 11\textsuperscript{th} Authoritarian Regimes Part 1
Read Chapter 8
News Reports
North Korea & Panama
SPRING BREAK
March 23 Authoritarian Regimes Part 2
News Reports
Saudi Arabia & Cuba
March 25th & 30th Regime Change
Read Chapter 9
News Reports
25th Syria & Turkey
30th Nigeria & Vietnam

April 1st TEST 2
April 6th & 8th Globalization
Read Chapter 10
News Reports
6th Greece & Columbia
8th Ethiopia & Haiti
April 13th & 15th Public Policy
Read Chapter 11
News Reports
13th Algeria & Australia
15th Costa Rica & Bosnia

April 20th TEST 3
April 22nd FINAL