

POLI 359 L01 – Introduction to Comparative Politics

Pre/Co-Requisites: None	
Instructor: Chris W. J. Roberts	Lecture Location: ST 135
Phone: (403) 870-9241	Lecture Days/Time: M-W-F 1300-1350
Email: christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca	Profile: https://profiles.ucalgary.ca/chris-w-j-roberts
Office: SS 702	Office Hours: Tue Noon-1300 / Wed 1500-1600
Instructor Email Policy: Always put Poli 359 in the subject line or your email will not be answered. If you have not received a reply within 24 hours, please resend.	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This core comparative politics course will provide students with a thorough introduction to the comparative method in political science. This approach examines the interplay of historical and contemporary domestic and external forces on the politics, institutions, and political economy of a given state or political community, deploying explicitly comparative strategies in an effort to analyze, understand, explain, and/or test hypotheses related to interesting comparative politics research puzzles and questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To instil specialized knowledge and pertinent vocabulary about the theories and concepts used in the study of comparative politics.
- To develop the analytical skills to integrate theory, method, and evidence to improve understanding and explanation of political phenomena, organization, institutions, conflict, and change.
- To enable students to devise appropriate comparative research designs (including generation of research questions, literature reviews, hypotheses, and assessments of alternative theories), to deepen political analysis, enhance research capability, and improve formal writing skills.
- To prepare students to undertake more advanced comparative, regional, and thematic courses in political science.
- To improve their research, verbal, and written analytical skills relevant to political science and the social sciences generally.
- Ultimately, to promote better understanding of the implications of different formal and informal institutions (“the rules of the political game”) on political mobilization, competition, and outcomes.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

J. Tyler Dickovick, Jonathan Eastwood, and David B. MacDonald, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, 1st Canadian Edition (Oxford University Press, 2020). The textbook is available in hard or digital versions from the UCalgary Bookstore.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
TopHat Quizzes & Surveys	15%	Regularly throughout the course, (1) as homework between classes related to readings, and (2) as questions or surveys during class. Note: once TopHat questions are closed, they cannot be reopened.
Mid-Term Exam	20%	Wednesday, Oct. 21 st
Country Case Briefing Book Part 1 Part 2	10% 25%	Each student will get one randomly assigned country case study. Part 1 will comprise research to complete a template provided. Part 2 will add research and comparative analysis following a detailed framework provided in class and on D2L. Part 1 will be due on Oct 14 th , and Part 2 will be due on Nov 25 th (uploaded to D2L Dropbox).
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hour exam)	30%	Scheduled by Registrar during the exam period between Dec 10-21.
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Sept 6-9 (First class is Wed, Sept. 7 th)	Course Introduction/Why Compare? Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage	Chap 1, "The Comparative Approach: An Introduction"
Week 2 Sept 12-16	Compare how?	Chap 2, "Theories, Hypothesis, and Evidence" <i>Country case study countries will be randomly assigned on Friday, Sept. 16th</i>
Week 3 Sept 19-23	The State: the central (but not only) unit of analysis & nationalism	Chap 3, "The State" Chap 13, "Nationalism and National Identity"
Week 4 Sept 26- 30 [AF1]	Constitutionalism and Democracy: institutionalizing the rule of law is an ongoing challenge Friday: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (no class)	Chap 8, "Constitutions and Constitutional Design" Chap 6, "Democracy and Democratization" <i>We'll look at various indicators that attempt to measure democracy and constitutionalism</i>

Week 5 Oct 3-7	Constitutionalism & Democracy (con't) Executives & Legislatures	Chap 10, "Executives" Chap 9, "Legislatures & Legislative Elections"
Week 6 Oct 11-14	Thanksgiving Holiday Monday (no class) Wed-Fri: Executives & Legislatures (con't)	Country Briefing Book – Part 1 Due Friday, Oct 14th, 11:59pm on D2L Dropbox
Week 7 Oct 17-21	Mon: Finish Executives & Legislatures Wed, Oct. 19th: Mid-term Fri: Start Political Mobilization	Chap 11, "Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups"
Week 8 Oct 24-28	Political Mobilization (con't)	Chap 14, "Race, Ethnicity, Gender" Chap 15, "Ideology and Religion in Modern Politics"
Week 9 Oct 31 – Nov 4	Politics & the Economy	Chapter 4, "Political Economy" Chapter 5, "Development"
Week 10 READING BREAK	No classes	
Week 11 Nov 14-18	Contentious Politics	Chap 7, "Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown"
Week 12 Nov 21-25 <i>(Canada's 1st game at World Cup Nov 23!)</i>	Contentious Politics (con't)	Chap 12, "Revolutions and Contention" Country Briefing Book – Part 2 Due Friday, Nov 25th, 11:59pm on D2L Dropbox
Week 13 Nov 28- Dec 2	Globalization & Politics	Chap 16, "Comparative Politics & International Relations"
Week 14 Dec 5-7	Course Review/Final Exam Prep	
Exam Period Dec 10-21	Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hours)	Date, Time, Location TBA

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

TOPHAT QUIZZES & SURVEYS (15%)

TopHat is an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students. Using a

lap-top, tablet, or smart phone, students answer questions in real-time in class or as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only (e.g., surveys), while other questions also generate points for correct answers. Some questions will be available between classes as homework, related to recently completed or upcoming assigned reading/topics. Other questions or surveys will be done during class. If by the end of the term your TopHat average is 92% or greater, you will receive 10/10 weighted points. This takes into account technical glitches and the occasional missed question. Once TopHat questions are closed after a deadline or put into “review” mode, they cannot be reopened.

MID-TERM EXAM (20%)

One 50-minute, closed book mid-term exam will be taken in class on Wednesday, October 19th. It will comprise a mix of multiple choice, true-false, and matching or identification questions.

COUNTRY BRIEFING BOOK ASSIGNMENT: Two parts (10% & 25%)

On Friday, Sept. 16th, students will be assigned a random country case study about which they will be expected to become the class expert. During the term, students will answer TopHat survey questions about their country and provide examples during class discussions. Following specific parameters provided in class and on D2L, students will prepare two iterations of a “Country Briefing Book”. Part 1 (10%) will be completed via research exercises in class plus additional primary and secondary research sources to fill out a supplied template. Part 2 (25%) will complete the research template plus an additional comparative research analytical component. By the end of Part 2, the cumulative assignment will be approx. 8-12 pages.

There will be a 5% per every 24 hours late penalty, including weekends, for each part.

Rubric for Part 2:

- Research: 8 – Good mix of primary and secondary sources, properly cited
 - Execution: 5 – Covers style, spelling, grammar, punctuation, & attn to detail (proofread!)
 - Structure: 3 – Title page/map; great title; template followed
 - Thinking: 9 – Have you applied a comparative method to answer a puzzle related to your case?
- 25% of final grade***

FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)

Final Exam	Yes
Length	2 hours
Format	Registrar scheduled between Dec 10-21
Type	Multiple-choice, T/F, matching (computer scored)
Aids	Closed book

Note: To be eligible to pass the course, students need to take the mid-term, submit at least Part 2 of the country briefing book assignment, and take the final exam.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

There will be a 5% per every 24 hours late penalty, including weekends, for each part of the country briefing book assignment.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students are advised that they will be examined on all lectures as well as on all required reading from the textbook. Because lectures do not repeat the required readings verbatim and because students will be examined on whatever is discussed in class, students are advised that regular attendance in class is highly recommended.

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours. **Given the volume of emails received, always put POLI 359 in the subject line or your email will not be answered.** If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please resend. It is imperative that students regularly check their UCalgary email accounts and D2L for course related information and announcements.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Recording of lectures is permitted for accommodation purposes. Any other use of recording constitutes Academic Misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Both the student and the instructor must sign the appropriate form(s) to facilitate recording lectures.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

POLI 359(L01)

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.