



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

*POLI 359 L01 (Spring 2018)*  
*Introduction to Comparative Politics*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Andrew R. Basso  
**EMAIL:** [abasso@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abasso@ucalgary.ca)  
**OFFICE:** SS 749  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 3:00pm-4:00pm and by appointment  
**COURSE TIME:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00pm-2:45pm  
**COURSE LOCATION:** ST 127

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the study of Comparative Politics, a field that is defined by examinations and comparisons of domestic politics across countries. A primary goal of this course is to give students the tools to critically examine important areas of Comparative Politics and create their own understandings of key approaches, theories, concepts, debates, and cases. Another central focus of this course will be an introduction on *how* to compare cases across spatial and temporal differences.

Part I of this course deals with core comparative politics concepts and theories, including the comparative method, the state, the interrelationships between structure and agency, and state formation. Part II delves into types of governance (democratic and non-democratic), the roles of political parties and interest groups in various contexts, and the interrelationships between the legislative and executive branches. Part III explores identity politics and political violence, including colonialism and Indigenous issues, revolutions and social change, violence used by state and non-state actors, and human rights movements.

After this course, students will be able to competently converse about the key themes explored during the semester and will be given a base of knowledge readily applicable to other courses in Political Science. Students will also be able to analyze complex interrelationships and competing explanations for a variety of similar political phenomena.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Dickovick, J. Tyler and Jonathan Eastwood, eds. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases, Second Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

## **COURSE COMPONENTS, WEIGHTS, AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Mid-Term</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>Class 7 (6 June 2018)</b>
<b>Research Paper</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>Class 11 (20 June 2018)</b>
<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>TBD (28 to 30 June 2018)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## **COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS\***

*\*Please Note: This schedule is tentative and may change if the need arises*

### **Part I: Core Elements**

#### *Class One: The Comparative Method*

- 14 May 2018
- Readings:
  - o Chapters 1 and 2

#### *Class Two: The State*

- 16 May 2018
- Readings:
  - o Chapter 3
  - o Nigeria and Mexico Profiles

*\*Please Note: There is no class on Victoria Day (Monday, May 21, 2018)*

#### *Class Three: Institutions*

- 23 May 2018
- Readings:
  - o Chapter 16
  - o Russia Profile

### **Part II: Governance**

#### *Class Four: Development and Ideology*

- 28 May 2018
- Readings:
  - o Chapters 5 and 15
  - o Iran Profile

#### *Class Five: Democratic Governance*

- 30 May 2018
- Readings:
  - o Chapter 6
  - o Germany Profile

#### *Class Six: Non-Democratic Governance*

- 4 June 2018
- Readings:

- Chapter 7
- China Profile

*Class Seven: Legislatures and Executives*

- **Mid-Term**
- 6 June 2018
- Readings:
  - Chapters 9 and 10
  - Japan Profile

*Class Eight: Political Parties and Interest Groups*

- 11 June 2018
- Readings:
  - Chapter 11
  - United States Profile

Part III: Identity and Violence

*Class Nine: Identity Politics and Nationalism*

- 13 June 2018
- Readings:
  - Chapter 13
  - Brazil Profile

*Class Ten: Revolution and Social Movements*

- 18 June 2018
- Readings:
  - Chapter 12
  - United Kingdom Profile

*Class Eleven: Extraordinary Violence*

- **Research Paper Due**
- 20 June 2018
- Readings:
  - Chapter 14

*Class Twelve: Bureaucratic Violence*

- 25 June 2018
- Readings:
  - France and India Profiles

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION (25%)**

The mid-term will be written in the regular course classroom (ST 127) and will begin at the start of **Class 7 (6 June 2018)**. Students will write a 75-minute mid-term examination of all course content in **lectures and assigned readings to Class 6**. No study aids or notes will be permitted during the mid-term examination. Please refer to the grading rubric below for questions on grade

distribution. Further instructions on the mid-term will be provided during course lectures.

### **RESEARCH PAPER (35%)**

Students will write a research paper of **at minimum 3,000 words** (excluding citations and bibliographic entries) on **any issue that is related to the study of Comparative Politics and approved by the instructor** either in-person or via email. The quality of writing, engagement with academic sources, originality of ideas, and quality of argument will all be significant determinants of grades earned. The research paper is due at the end of day on **Class 11 (20 June 2018 at 11:59pm)** and will be submitted via D2L.

Papers must have proper bibliographic entries and citations. Please see below for quick and easy style guide links. All papers **must at minimum cite 8 academic sources** (peer-reviewed books and articles). Additional sources beyond these 8 academic sources are encouraged and may include, but are not limited to: periodical publications, government reports, intergovernmental and non-governmental publications, newspaper articles, and non-peer reviewed websites. A Wiki citation of any sort will not be accepted and papers that do cite Wiki will be penalized. The goal of a research paper is to engage with existing literatures to formulate original arguments.

Papers will be submitted electronically through the course website. Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Please refer to the late penalties section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade deductions. Please refer to the quality of writing section for questions on the importance of good writing. Further information about the nature and specifics of the research paper will be provided during course meetings.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)**

The date of the final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar and it will be written on campus between 28 and 30 June 2018. Students will write a 3 hour final examination on course content covered in lectures and assigned readings from **Class 1 to Class 12**. No study aids or notes will be permitted during examination hours. Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Further instructions on the final examination will be provided during course lectures.

### **WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

## **CITATION STYLE GUIDE**

Accepted citation styles include Chicago, APA, Harvard, and MLA. Failure to comply with these minimum standards will result in penalized literature reviews. Please refer to the citation links below for quick access to four different style guides.

Quick and Easy Citation Style Links:

- Chicago
  - o [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
- APA
  - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Harvard
  - o [https://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/downloads/citation/Harvard\\_Complete.pdf](https://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/downloads/citation/Harvard_Complete.pdf)
- MLA
  - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## **GRADE SCALE**

The following grade scale will apply universally to all course components. The instructor is responsible for marking all course materials.

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

## **LATE PENALTIES**

Late submission of literature reviews will result in a 5% loss of assignment grade per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Literature reviews submitted 7 days after the due date will not be accepted unless documented emergencies arise or extensions are granted.

## **CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email their instructor and attend office hours. Meetings outside of normal office hours are possible depending on the instructor's schedule. Do not miss appointments without reasonable prior notice.

## **PROPER USE OF EMAIL**

Students are expected to follow proper email etiquette when emailing their instructor or fellow students. This includes writing an appropriate subject line, addressing the email properly, and ensuring that spelling and grammar are correct. The instructor will answer proper emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.

## **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Seminars may not be recorded using any audio or video devices unless consent by the instructor is explicitly given. Photography is prohibited unless instructor consent is given. All materials presented are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be reproduced or utilized without expressed consent of the instructor. Special accommodations will absolutely be made with proper documentation from the Student Accessibility Services.

## **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot attend office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours. Meetings outside of office hours are subject to the instructor's availability. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments unless reasonable prior notification of unavailability is given.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and turn off all cellphones/smartphones and non-essential electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Internet is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination:**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) 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.

### **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>.

### **Appeals:**

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with

the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

Student 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. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

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 [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)