



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

***POLI 359-L1***  
***INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS***  
***Spring 2019***

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ricardo Vernet  
**TELEPHONE:** (403) 542-1498 (Cell)  
**OFFICE:** SS 713  
**EMAIL:** ricardo.vernet@ucalgary.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 11:00 am- 12:00 pm  
**COURSE DAY/TIME:** Tue/Thu 12:00 pm - 2:45 pm  
**COURSE LOCATION:** ST 126  
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This lecture-based course introduces students to the main concepts, themes, and approaches in the subfield of comparative politics. Students will engage with some of the most important questions that drive comparative political research. Why have some countries developed strong states, and others weak ones? Why does democracy emerge in some countries, but not in others? Why does authoritarianism persist in some countries, but not in others? Why are some countries more prone to violence than others? The course will attempt to answer some of these questions by comparing countries in different regions of the world.

The course is structured around some specific themes in comparative politics. Part I presents some of the most important elements in the subfield such as concepts, methods, theories, etc. In part II, the discussion focusses on development and political regimes. Part III explores the institutions of government. Part IV takes on issues of contentious politics and political ideology. In part V, the course concludes with a discussion of the intersection between comparative politics and international relations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students should become familiar with the broad themes in comparative politics. The emphasis on case comparison should also provide students with a deeper understanding of politics in different parts of the world.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Dickovick, J. Tyler and Jonathan Eastwood. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

\* Please note that additional reading materials may be posted on D2L throughout the term

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Midterm	25 %	May 28, 2019
Research Paper	35%	June 13, 2019
Final Exam	40%	TBA
Total	100%	

**COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:**

**Part I: Foundations of Comparative Politics**

Topic One: Introduction, Concepts, Comparative Method

- May 7, 2019
- Chapters 1 & 2

Topic Two: The State

- May 9, 2019
- Chapter 3

**Part II: Development, Democracy & Authoritarianism**

Topic Three: Development

- May 14, 2019
- Chapter 5

Topic Four: Democratic Regimes

- May 16, 2019
- Chapter 6

Topic Five: Authoritarian Regimes

- May 21, 2019
- Chapter 7

**Part III: Institutions of Government**

Topic Six: Constitutions

- May 23, 2019
- Chapters 8

Topic Seven: The Executive & the Legislature

- May 28, 2019
- *Midterm Exam (Beginning of Class)*
- Chapters 9 & 10

Topic Eight: Political Parties & Interest Groups

- May 30, 2019
- Chapter 11

**Part IV: Politics & Society**

Topic Nine: Revolutions & Contention

- June 4, 2019
- Chapter 12

Topic 10: Nationalism and National Identity

- June 6, 2019
- Chapter 13

Topic 11: Ideology and Religion

- June 11, 2019
- Chapter 15

**Part V: Conclusion**

Topic 12: Comparative Politics & International Relations

- June 13, 2019
- Chapter 16
- *Paper due at 11:59 pm on D2L*

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

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

The midterm exam will be held during class time on May 28. Students will have one hour to write the exam, and it will cover all course materials (lectures and textbook) up until topic 6. The midterm will consist of multiple choice questions. No study aid will be permitted during the midterm. Further information will be provided to students as the midterm approaches. The midterm is worth 25 percent of the final grade.

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will write a research paper of approximately 2500 words, excluding the bibliography and the title page. The essay must discuss at least one broad theme covered in the course. Students must make a clear argument and defend it using evidence drawn from at least eight academic sources. The evaluation will be based on the content as well as the style of the paper. Research questions will be posted on D2L early in the term. *Students who wish to write on different questions are required to seek the approval of the instructor.* **The essay is due on D2L on June 13, 2019 at 11:59 pm. No hard copies will be accepted.** The essay is worth 35 percent of the final grade.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final exam is scheduled by the registrar office and will be held on campus between Wednesday June 19 and Friday June 21. The exam will consist of short answer and multiple choice questions. The exam is cumulative and will cover all course materials, including lectures and textbook from Topic One to Topic Twelve. Information about the final exam will be provided to students at the end of the term. No study aids will be permitted during the final exam. Students will have two and a half hours to write the final exam. The exam is worth 40 percent of the final grade.

**GRADE 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**

Students must submit all assignments by the deadline. Unless students are granted an extension, late submissions will be deducted 5 percent per day including week-ends. Assignment submitted 7 days after the due date without an extension will not be accepted and will receive a grade of “Zero”.

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Except in cases where a student has permission through the Student Accessibility Service Center, students are prohibited from recording all course materials unless they have received consent of the instructor. Students are also prohibited from reproducing course materials without the consent of the instructor. Students who require special accommodation during lectures are encouraged to speak to the instructor.

### **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

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.

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.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

### **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.

### **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 meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; 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)

**Campus Mental Health Resources:**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>  
Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>