



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 359 Lecture 01  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Spring 2021**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Evgeniia (Jen) Sidorova  
**EMAIL:** evgeniia.sidorova@ucalgary.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 12:30 pm via Zoom/or by appointment  
**COURSE DAY/TIME:** MW 09:00 - 11:45  
**DELIVERY METHOD:** Web-Based  
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*Do you ever wonder how transnational social movements get started? Or how economic development can differ so much from one country to the next? Or what the relationship might be between world religions and conflict across the globe?*

The course introduces the central concepts, problems, and approaches that comprise the field of comparative politics. Emphasis may also be placed on key analytical challenges, competing methods, and basic governance systems in selected parts of the world.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The course is aimed to teach students how:

- To understand three main elements in comparative politics: methods, theories and evidence;
- To conduct political analysis through the application of theories, hypotheses and evidence;
- To compare and contrast political systems, institutions of government, politics, and society and culture in many countries by using the comparative approach;
- To analyze case studies (countries) by applying systematic approach to political economy, institutions, and social change.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

Dickovick, James Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood. *Comparative politics: Integrating theories, methods, and cases*. Canadian Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020.

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

This course requires a laptop with a stable internet connection.

## COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation	15	Regularly throughout the course, mostly as homework quizzes every Friday
Midterm exam	20	Wednesday May 26th
Research paper	35	Monday June 14th
Final exam	30	Scheduled by the Registrar
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 Monday May 3rd	Intro to the class The comparative approach: an introduction	Dickovick, James Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood. <i>Comparative politics: Integrating theories, methods, and cases</i> . Canadian Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020 (D&E) - Chapter 1
Week 1 Wednesday May 5th	Theories, hypotheses and evidence The state	D&E – Chapter 2  D&E – Chapter 3
Week 2 Monday May 10th	Political economy Development	D&E – Chapter 4 D&E – Chapter 5
Week 2 Wednesday May 12th	Democracy and democratization	D&E – Chapter 6
Week 3 Monday May 17th	Authoritarian regimes and democratic breakdown	D&E – Chapter 7
Week 3 Wednesday May 19th	Constitutions and constitutional design	D&E – Chapter 8
Week 4 Monday May 24th		Victoria Day – no lecture
Week 4		<b>Midterm exam</b>

Wednesday May 26th		
Week 5 Monday May 31st	Legislatures and legislative elections	Midterm review D&E – Chapter 9
Week 5 Wednesday June 2nd	Executives	D&E – Chapter 10
Week 6 Monday June 7th	Political parties, party systems, and interest groups	D&E – Chapter 11
Week 6 Wednesday June 9th	Revolutions and contention Nationalism and national identity	D&E – Chapter 12 D&E – Chapter 13
Week 7 Monday June 14th	Race, ethnicity and gender Ideology and religion in modern politics	D&E – Chapter 14 D&E – Chapter 15 <b>Research paper is due</b>
Week 7 Wednesday June 16th	Comparative politics and IR Case study: Comparative analysis of wildlife co-management regimes in Russia, Canada, and the US	D&E – Chapter 16
FINAL EXAMS (scheduled by the Registrar)		June 21st – June 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021

**\*Please note that this schedule is subject to change**

### **ESSAY/RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will be required to write one major research essay on a subject of their own choosing (suggestions will be provided) and is due on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This paper (2500 words, double-spaced) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of comparative politics. The paper will be evaluated in terms of both its academic and writing content. It is to be submitted online through Dropbox on d2l or by email (Evgeniia.sidorova@ucalgary.ca)

### **PARTICIPATION**

The course expects students to participate in TopHat quizzes (10 questions per week). The participation is asynchronous. TopHat quizzes will be assigned every Wednesday as homework.

### **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

The exams will be in multiple-choice format and will be delivered online through d21's platform. Students are required to complete 40 multiple choice questions. This will be available on d21 for 24 hours before Wednesday May 26th. Students are required to complete this exam within 60 minutes (1 hour) and submit via d21.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

This exam will be set up on D2L Quizzes and be a range of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions cumulative for the whole course though weighted towards the second half of the course. The exam will be available for 24 hours but close at the end of the Registrar scheduled time slot. Once the exam is started, there will be a time limit of three hours in total, with extended time for those with approved accommodations, but you have to start with enough time to finish before the end of the official time slot.

### **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**

Late penalties for written work: five percent (5%) per every day late, including weekends.

### **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. All meetings will be held virtually.

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, to be held virtually.

## **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>

### **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>.

## **Reappraisals**

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor**, who will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/archives/2020/i-2.html> for additional information.

With regard to reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades) [I think we should use the terminology in the calendar here], I suggest the following:

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“In the reappraisal of a final grade, the only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar) (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/archives/2020/i-3.html>.

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

### **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031)

### **Copyright Legislation**

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

### **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)**

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.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [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].

### **Important Contact Information**

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: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@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**

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:

*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/>.