

### POLI 359 (L01) Introduction to Comparative Politics

Pre/Co-Requisites: None	
<b>Instructor:</b> Mark Machacek	<b>Lecture Location:</b> SB 146
Phone:	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> Monday & Wednesday 9:00 – 11:45
<b>Email:</b> mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca	<b>Office Hours:</b> Virtual office hours Tuesday 14:30 – 15:30 or by appointment
<b>Office:</b> SS 721	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">http://d2l.ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Instructor Email Policy:</b> Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00	

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce students to the theories, concepts, methods and focus areas of Comparative Politics and to develop students' skills in formulating a comparative research design and conducting comparative analysis. Students will learn how to analyze patterns and variations of political institutions and processes across various country case studies and relate these issues to the Canadian context.

The course will begin with an introduction to the logic of comparison and the main theories, methods and analytical tools employed in the study of Comparative Politics. It will then turn to detailing the comparative study of the state, particular government institutions and regime types. The remainder of the course will review the comparative study of other main areas of focus in Comparative Politics, including political economy, contentious politics, identity, ideology and international relations.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The objectives of this course are to:

- Demonstrate the logic of comparative analysis;
- Introduce and interrogate the main concepts, theories and methodologies of Comparative Politics;
- Acquaint students with some of the key areas of focus in the study of Comparative Politics;
- Strengthen skills in comparative analysis, research and academic writing

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Engage in informed discussion with a generalized knowledgebase on issues related to state and government institutions and the patterns and variations of political systems around the world;
- Apply comparative methods to a range of political institutions and processes;
- Develop a comparative research design, including a research question, thesis and analytical framework;
- Conduct effective research, comparative analysis and writing

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Dickovick, Tyler, Eastwood, Jonathan & MacDonald, David B (2020) *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases, Canadian Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hard copies of the textbook are available and the University of Calgary Bookstore. E-text versions can be purchased using this link: <https://redshelf.com/app/ecom/book/1508687/comparative-politics-1508687-9780199026555-j-tyler-dickovick-jonathan-eastwood-david-b-macdonald>

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	30%	<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Comparative Analysis Paper</b>	40%	<b>June 5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar (June 19 – 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
<b>THE COMPARATIVE METHOD OF ANALYSIS</b>		
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Topic 1: Introducing Comparative Politics</b> Overview of the course syllabus and an introduction to the comparative method  <b>Assignment Prep</b>	Required Textbook Chapter 1
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Topic 2: Theory &amp; Methodology</b> Discussing theory and surveying the methods used in comparative political analysis	Required Textbook Chapter 2
<b>THE STATE &amp; GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Topic 3: Democratic &amp; Non-Democratic Regimes</b> Overviewing the spectrum of political regimes and discussing democratization and democratic breakdown from a comparative perspective	Required Textbook Chapers 6 & 7
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Topic 4: The State</b> Considering the past, present and future of the modern	Required Textbook Chapter 3

	state from a comparative perspective	
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 5: Government Institutions I: Constitutions &amp; Legislatures</b></p> <p>Reviewing patterns and differences across national constitutions and legislative institutions</p>	Required Textbook Chapter 8 & 9
<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Victoria Day No Class</b>	
<b>May 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 6: Government Institutions II: Executives &amp; Judiciaries</b></p> <p>Surveying the similarities and differences across national executive and judicial institutions</p>	Required Textbook Chapters 10
<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 7: Government Institutions III: Political Parties &amp; Interest Groups</b></p> <p>Comparing party systems and interest groups across political systems</p> <p><b>Mid-Term Exam</b></p>	Required Textbook Chapter 11
<b>POLITICAL ECONOMY &amp; CONTENTIOUS POLITICS</b>		
<b>May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 8: Political Economy, Development &amp; the Global South</b></p> <p>Interrogating the relationship between markets, the state and society and discussing the politics of the Global South from a comparative perspective</p>	Required Textbook Chapters 5 & 12
<b>June 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 9: Contentious Politics</b></p> <p>Discussing the different forms and practices of contentious politics, from social movements to revolutions</p> <p><b>Assignment Due</b></p>	Required Textbook Chapter 12
<b>IDENTITY &amp; IDEAS</b>		
<b>June 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Topic 10: Identity</b></p> <p>Identifying similarities and differences in the</p>	Required Textbook Chapter 14

	politicization of race, ethnicity and gender across cases	
<b>June 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Topic 11: Ideology</b> Overviewing the patterns and politicization of ideology, religion and nationalism across political systems	Required Textbook Chapter 13 & 15
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Course Overview &amp; Final Exam Prep</b>	No required readings

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

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION (30%)**

The mid-term exam will consist of **3 short answer questions**. Students will have 60 mins at the beginning of the scheduled class to complete the exam on **Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>**. The exam will cover all the material in the required readings and lectures. It will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. Further information for the mid-term will be provided in class on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**RESEARCH & COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PAPER (40%)**

Students are expected to devise a comparative research design (using either the most-similar or most-different systems design) and conduct research on a select issue using two case studies. Students are expected to select their own topic (i.e. comparing political institutions, democratic transitions, episodes of contentious politics, etc.) and country case studies. Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue and cases of choice (not mandatory, but strongly recommended for the student’s benefit).

The paper is expected to be **6-7 pages** long (double-spaced, 12-point font) and include a research question, a breakdown of their chosen comparative method and a brief literature review regarding the select issue. Students are expected to collect relevant information for their literature review and analysis through research of at least 12 sources (i.e. academic journals, books, reports, news articles). Papers are to be submitted in the **D2L Dropbox** (Word document) no later than **11:59 pm on Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>**.

The paper will be graded according to the student’s understanding of the issue (in terms of causes and outcomes), research design and comparative analysis of the cases. It will also be graded according to the quality and application of research, writing proficiency, paper organization, proper citation and formatting. Further information for the comparative analysis research paper will be provided in class on Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)**

The in-person final examination will be **2 hours long** and will be **scheduled by the Registrar**. It will be **closed book** (with no additional study aids) and will consist of **3-4 short answer questions**. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. Further information for the final exam will be provided in class on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

For the written assignment, late submissions will receive a grade penalty of 5% for each day they are late. The 5% per day penalty will also be applied to weekend days.

### **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 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**

#### **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](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](mailto: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.

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/student-accommodation-policy>

**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.

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### **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](mailto: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.

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### **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: [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/>.