

BLO

2017-2018 Academic Year
Winter Session 2018



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 359.01
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Baron

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OFFICE: SS 744

EMAIL: baronm@ucalgary.ca (Please see **Proper use of Email** on page 5)

OFFICE HOURS: Tu 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

COURSE DAY/TIME: MoWeFr 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: ST 143

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this lecture-based core course is to provide students with a critical introduction to comparative method and its application to the study of liberal democratic, non-democratic, socialist, and post-colonial forms of state in a macro-regional context. Country-specific case studies will be employed to elaborate the comparison of institutions and systems, revolutions and revolutionary outcomes, post-authoritarian and post-socialist transitions, and patterns of development and underdevelopment, both within and between regions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to impart a facility in the specialized vocabulary, core concepts, and theoretical approaches needed to conduct comparative political analysis. In addition, it is structured to acquaint students with the historical patterns of state and region formation as well as the processes of social change implicated in the development and transformation of contemporary political systems. The course is also intended to provide students with the intellectual background necessary to undertake further studies in comparative politics at the senior level, and to help them enhance their skills in critical analysis, writing, and research.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Sixth Edition, (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2018).

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Midterm Examination	30%	Wednesday, March 7, 2018
Research Paper: Due via the D2L Dropbox (Research Paper Folder)	30%	Due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Cumulative Final Examination	40%	Scheduled by the Registrar
Total	100%	

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95-100)	B+ (80-84)	C+ (66-69)	D+ (54-57)
A (90-94)	B (75-79)	C (62-65)	D (50-53)
A- (85-89)	B- (70-74)	C- (58-61)	F (0-49)

EVALUATION OF COURSEWORK: WRITING

Students are advised that their writing skills (i.e. spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity of expression, citation, and organization) will be taken into account in the determination of grades for the Research Paper and the Cumulative Final Examination. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of TFDL). For details, go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

RESEARCH PAPER WRITING WORKSHOP

The instructor will be holding a **Research Paper Writing Workshop** in class on Friday, March 9, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. In preparation for this workshop, please read O’Neil – chapter 1 and the **Research Paper** section of this syllabus (pp. 3-4).

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

The Midterm Examination will be closed-book, multiple-choice in format, and written in class (ST 143) from 2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. It will consist of 50 questions and cover (1) all required readings for Parts A and B.1 (The Liberal Democratic Capitalist State), which are specified under **Lecture Outline & Required Readings** on pp. 5-6 of this syllabus, as well as (2) all lectures for the period Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to Monday, March 5, 2018.

Make-Up Midterm Exams: Make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances that are outlined in the University Calendar and supported by appropriate documentation (please see **Absence from a Mid-term Examination** below). **NOTE:** Make-up exams will be closed-book and may be given in a format different from that of the originally scheduled exam.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The two (2) hour Registrar-scheduled cumulative final exam will be closed-book and essay in format. It will cover all lectures, assigned readings, and supplementary materials for the period Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to Wednesday, April 11, 2018. The instructor will provide further details about the final exam in class only on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

Deferred Cumulative Final Exams: For information regarding final examinations, please see **Deferral of a Final Examination** below. **NOTE**: Deferred cumulative final exams will be closed-book and may be given in a format different from that of the originally scheduled exam.

RESEARCH PAPER

Students will write an analytical research paper on a topic that has been assigned by the instructor. **NOTE**: **Research Paper topics will be posted on D2L under “Research Paper Assignment” no later than Wednesday, January 24, 2018.** *Students are urged to begin their papers as soon as possible and to consult with the instructor should they have any questions or concerns, or encounter any difficulties in the course of conceiving, researching, or writing their papers.* **NOTE**: Research Papers that focus on Canada or cross-national comparisons that include Canada are not permitted. In addition, research papers with an International Relations focus are not permitted.

Research Paper Requirements: Papers must cite at least five (5) scholarly books (not including the textbooks for this or any other course) and five (5) scholarly journal articles, and must be written double-spaced in 12-point font with one-inch margins. The text of the paper must not exceed 3,600 words in length and should be no shorter than 3,000 words (roughly 10-12 typed double-spaced pages at 300 words of text per page). Endnotes/footnotes and bibliography are additional to the length requirement. Students are expected to use a single style of citation (i.e., MLA, APA) throughout their papers. Therefore, they should refer to a style manual (please see **Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct** below). **NOTE**: Citation of the Instructor and/or lecture notes is strictly prohibited.

Submission Requirements and Late Penalty: All Research Papers must be submitted to the instructor via the D2L Dropbox (Research Paper Folder) on the assigned due date. No other form of submission will be accepted. The penalty for late Research Paper submissions will be 5 percentage points per day including weekends and statutory holidays. **NOTE**: Late penalties will be waived only in extreme circumstances that are outlined in the University Calendar and supported by appropriate documentation.

Grading Criteria for Research Papers: Papers will be graded according to the following criteria:

Research Topic: Has the student written clearly and unmistakably on **ONE** of the assigned research topics posted on D2L under Research Paper Assignment?

Research: Has the student made appropriate use of scholarly sources? Students must demonstrate that they have undertaken a comprehensive search of the relevant literature. Students must cite at least five (5) scholarly books (not including the textbooks for this or any

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other course) and five (5) scholarly journal articles in their papers. **NOTE**: Citation of the Instructor and/or lecture notes is strictly prohibited.

Analytical Content: Has the student taken a position/made an argument on a problem/debate in the literature? Is the student's position/argument consistent throughout the course of the paper? Has the student drawn appropriate examples to support their position/argument? Does the student refrain from merely repeating or describing what they have read in the literature?

Thesis Statement: Is the student's argument stated clearly and succinctly in the introductory paragraph/section of the paper?

Theoretical and Conceptual Sophistication: Has the student appropriately and consistently applied the specialized vocabulary, concepts, and theoretical tools specific to comparative politics and their research topic? Has the student appropriately and consistently applied comparative method throughout their analysis?

Organization and Clarity of Expression: Is the paper organized such that each section/paragraph builds upon the previous one in a logical fashion? Has the paper been carefully conceived, written, and proofread such that the points raised therein are readily identifiable and comprehensible to the reader? Please see section on **Evaluation of Coursework: Writing** above.

Authorship, Bibliography, and Citations: Does the paper conform to the regulations governing "intellectual honesty" as outlined in the University Calendar (refer to **Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct** below)? Does the paper apply an acceptable style for the referencing of sources in both the text and bibliography?

Structure: Is the paper structured in conformance with standard essay format (i.e., title page, introduction with thesis statement, body, conclusion, (foot)notes/endnotes, and bibliography)?

Length, Font, and Margins: Does the paper comply with the length, font, and margin requirements?

Title Page: Has the student provided a title page that clearly indicates the title of the paper, the student's name and UCID#, the name, number, and section of the course (Poli 359.01), the instructor's name (Mark Baron), and the submission date (Wednesday, March 21, 2018)?

CLASS PREPARATION

Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters before class, and be prepared for class discussion. Students are advised that lectures do not repeat the assigned readings verbatim. On the contrary, they are drawn from a variety of sources including the instructor's own educational background, research interests, and teaching experience. **Thus, students are forewarned that regular attendance is highly recommended as they will be required to demonstrate proficiency in all the material covered in lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, and supplementary course materials (i.e. videos) in all of their coursework. This means that all reading assignments are examinable whether they have been discussed in class or not, and**

that students will be held accountable for whatever is said in class by both the instructor and their peers. Students who expect to have difficulty attending regularly are strongly urged to consult with the instructor immediately as no make-up lectures or video showings will be arranged for missed classes.

RECORDING OF LECTURES

Recording of lectures is permitted for accommodation purposes or for individual private study at the discretion of the instructor. 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.

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR

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

PROPER USE OF EMAIL

Email is commonly used by students to communicate with their instructor. However, it does limit the effectiveness of the communications and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions, especially those requiring an explanation of concepts covered in this course or some personal concerns. Therefore, email use is to be restricted to making appointments with the instructor or informing him of emergencies. **The instructor will not answer detailed questions concerning the course curriculum or exams over email. In addition, all matters regarding Research Papers (including extensions) must be discussed with the instructor in person. The instructor will not discuss the specifics of the Research Paper over email nor will he approve Research Paper topics over email.**

LECTURE OUTLINE & REQUIRED READINGS (tentative and subject to change as circumstances warrant)

PART A: THEORY AND METHOD IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

1. Introduction to Comparative Political Analysis: Comparative Method, the Purposes of Comparison, and the Boundaries of the Subfield
Required Reading:
O'Neil – chapter 1
2. Comparative Political Economy of State Formation: Theoretical Debates on the Definition, Analysis, and Historical Development of the Modern State
Required Reading:
O'Neil – chapters 2, 3, and 7 (pp. 205-212 and 217-232)

PART B: COMPARATIVE PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIZATION

1. The Liberal Democratic Capitalist State
Required Reading:
O'Neil - chapters 4 (pp. 97-114, 116-118, and 126-132), 5, and 8
2. Nondemocratic State Forms
Required Reading:
O'Neil - chapter 6
3. Socialist State Forms and Post-Socialist Transitions
Required Reading:
O'Neil - chapters 4 (pp. 114-116), 7 (pp. 212-217) and 9
4. The Post-Colonial State
Required Reading:
O'Neil – chapters 4 (pp. 118-126) and 10

PART C: CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ON THE COMPARATIVE SUBFIELD

1. Comparative Politics in an Era of Globalization
Required Reading:
O'Neil – chapter 11

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 can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations:

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at 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/.

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 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. You can also visit 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, 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: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca