



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

**POLI 359 L01—Introduction to Comparative Politics
Winter 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Franceschet
Email: sfrances@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3 pm, **or by appointment**
Office: Social Sciences Tower 736, phone 403.220.5931
Class Time and Location: T/Th 9:30-10:45 am KNB 126

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Comparative Politics is concerned with themes and problems central to the study of politics. Students of comparative politics seek answers to questions like, “why are some countries democratic and others not?” “Why are some countries afflicted by poverty, civil wars, or dictatorship?” “Do women participate in politics differently than men?” and “how do identities like race, ethnicity, and religion shape politics?”

This course introduces students to Comparative Politics, beginning with an historical overview of the development of the field, followed by an introduction to the key concepts that comparativists use: state, nation, citizenship, and democracy. The course then moves on to examine some key themes and questions, using a variety of country-case studies to ground our inquiries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The course aims to improve student’s understanding of politics in countries outside of Canada. Students will learn about different types of political systems, their historical origins, and the main political challenges facing citizens and states in different parts of the world.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Oxford University Press, 3rd Edition. 2019. Available at bookstore.

Additional readings will be available electronically through the Taylor Family Digital Library, or through D2L.

In some cases, topics and course readings may be adjusted. Please consult D2L announcements regularly.

COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION:

This is a lecture course, but active student participation is encouraged. Course work includes one written assignment (instructions and evaluation criteria will be posted on D2L), two in-class mid-term tests, and a take-home final exam. The mid-term will include multiple choice and short answer questions. Study aids

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are not permitted. The final take-home exam (essay format) will be distributed on the last day of class (April 11th) and must be submitted (on D2L) by noon on **Wednesday April 17th**.

Please note that written work (including tests and exams) is evaluated according to content and style. In other words, clarity, precision, grammar, and proper spelling all help to determine your grade.

Grades for the course will be distributed as follows:

Written Assignment (DUE April 2 nd)	30%
Mid-term Test I (February 7 th)	15%
Mid-term Test II (March 19 th)	20%
Final take home exam (DUE April 17 th)	35%
Total	100

GRADING SCALE:

A+	95-100	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	57-59
A	88-94	B	73-76	C	63-66	D	50-56
A-	80-87	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	F	0-49

LATE PENALTIES

Students must submit written assignments electronically through D2L. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day. Assignments submitted after **April 11th** will **not** be graded.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

*Please note that a precise schedule for lecture topics and assigned reading will be posted on D2L by the first day of class. *Topics are subject to change.*

I	Introduction: What is comparative politics?
II	How to do comparative politics? Concepts, evidence, cases, and the comparative method.
CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS	
III	Knowing the Basic Concepts (Part 1): What are the historical origins of states and nations? What’s the difference between states and government?
IV	Knowing the Basic Concepts (Part 2): What are Regimes? What makes a democracy different from a dictatorship? What are the varieties of authoritarianism?
COMPARING POLITICAL SYSTEMS: UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND GERMANY	

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V	The Basics of Political Institutions: Constitutions, elections, and representation
VII	Why Are Fewer Women Than Men Elected? Does it Matter? Gender and political representation
VII	Politics and Political Institutions in the United States
VIII	Politics and Political Institutions in the United Kingdom
IX	Politics and Political Institutions in Germany
THE POLITICS OF COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES	
X	Why Race, Ethnicity, and Religion Matter in Comparative Politics
XI	Race and Politics in the United States
XII	Religion and Politics in Iran

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). 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).

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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/n-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.

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>.

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.

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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 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

Campus Mental Health Resources:

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