



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 359 L02
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
FALL 2020**

INSTRUCTOR: Chris W. J. Roberts

TELEPHONE: Cell (403) 870-9241

EMAIL: christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS (via ZOOM): Tuesdays 1200-1400 & Wednesdays 1230-1330 or by appointment (an appointment can also be a scheduled phone call)

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday and Thursday 0930-1045 – synchronous sessions via ZOOM. These will also be recorded and posted on D2L after class.

DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Sasha Chuchin (Email: alexander.chuchin@ucalgary.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This core comparative politics course will provide students with a thorough introduction to the comparative method in political science. This approach examines the interplay of historical and contemporary domestic and external forces on the politics (or political economy) of a given state or political community, deploying explicitly comparative strategies in an effort to analyze, understand, explain, and/or test hypotheses related to interesting comparative politics research puzzles and questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To instil specialized knowledge and pertinent vocabulary about the theories and concepts used in the study of comparative politics.
- To develop the analytical skills to integrate theory, method, and evidence to improve understanding and explanation of political phenomena, organization, institutions, conflict, and change.
- To enable students to devise appropriate comparative research designs (including generation of research questions, literature reviews, hypotheses, and assessments of alternative theories), to deepen political analysis, enhance research capability, and improve formal writing skills.
- To prepare students to undertake more advanced comparative, regional, and thematic courses in political science.
- To improve their research, verbal, and written analytical skills relevant to political science and the social sciences generally.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, 3rd Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).

The textbook is available in hard or digital versions from the UCalgary Bookstore.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY:

You will require a computer device with a stable internet connection to complete this course, with regular usage of D2L and ZOOM. As per the Fall 2020 university requirements, it is expected that students have both a video camera and microphone for class participation (e.g., asking questions, participating in discussions in class, etc.) and for ZOOM office hours, but you can also use the ZOOM chat function to participate in class. You will also need to ensure you have reliable access to TopHat via your smart phone and/or computer, an online app used for asynchronous homework questions as well as in-class, real-time surveys. The TopHat registration process (including course code) and usage will be explained in the first week of class.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
TopHat Quizzes & Surveys	15%	Regularly throughout the course, mostly as homework quizzes between classes related to readings, and sometimes as surveys during class. Note: once TopHat questions are closed, they cannot be reopened.
Country case study briefing book	20%	Research exercises & components due periodically throughout the course within a specific report template posted on D2L Dropbox in PDF (three iterations)
Mid-Term (1 hour plus 30 minutes technical time = 90 minutes)	15%	Thursday, Oct. 15th on D2L Quizzes (24 hour window, to be completed by end of regular class time)
Comparative Research Essay	30%	Due Saturday, Nov. 28th, 11:59pm on D2L Dropbox
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hour exam plus 1 hour technical time added = 3 hours)	20%	Scheduled by Registrar during the exam period.
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible.

TOPHAT QUIZZES & SURVEYS (15%)

TopHat is an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students. Using a lap-top, tablet, or smart phone, students answer questions in real-time in class or as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only (e.g., surveys), while most questions also generate points for correct answers. Questions will generally be available between classes as homework, related to recently completed

or upcoming assigned reading/topics. If by the end of the term your TopHat average is 90% or greater, you will receive 15/15 weighted points. This takes into account technical glitches and the occasional missed question.

COUNTRY CASE STUDY BRIEFING BOOK (20%)

In the second week of class, all students will be assigned a random country case study about which they will be expected to become the class expert. This will be used for TopHat surveys, Zoom class discussions, and incorporated into the comparative research essay. During the term, students will produce a short “Briefing Book” for that country, completing research exercises and components at different times during the class using various primary and secondary sources. Specific deadlines will be announced in advance for uploading three cumulative iterations in PDF to D2L Dropbox for grading.

MID-TERM (15%)

One mid-term exam will be done via D2L Quizzes. It will comprise multiple-choice/matching and true-false questions, and may contain short answers/exercises. It will be available for 24 hours but has to be completed by end of class time on Thursday, Oct 15th.

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY (30%)

Each student will submit a comparative research essay that follows specific guidelines that will be discussed in class and available on D2L. It will include your assigned country case plus additional cases. This is worth 30% and will be due on **Saturday, Nov. 28th, 11:59pm** (uploaded in PDF on D2L Dropbox). This will be 7-9 double-spaced pages (with a 10 page hard cap) plus title page and reference list, and will include both primary and secondary sources.

REGISTRAR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM (20%)

Scheduled by Registrar during exam period (Dec 12-23, 2020)

Two hour exam plus one hour extra technology time

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.

Note: To be eligible to pass the course, students need to pass the Country Briefing Book assignment, submit a Comparative Research Essay, and take the final exam.

Writing Statement:

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>.

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:

Late penalties of five percent (5%) will be applied to deadlines for the Country Briefing Book and Comparative Research Paper for each 24 hours past the respective deadline, including weekends.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, & READING LIST: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change) “Chapter” refers to Dickovick & Eastwood (2019) textbook		
DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	REQUIRED READINGS BEFORE CLASS
Week 1 Sept 8-11 <i>First class:</i> <i>Tuesday,</i> <i>Sept 8th</i>	Course Introduction / Why compare? Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage	Chapter 1
Week 2 Sept 14-18 Week 3 Sept 21-25	Compare how? <i>Country cases randomly assigned</i> The State: the central (but not only) unit of analysis Nationalism & National Identity	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
Week 4 Sept 28 - Oct 2	Constitutions & Constitutionalism Democracy & Democratization	Chapter 13 Chapter 8 Chapter 6
Week 5 Oct 5-9	Executives & Legislatures	Chapters 10 & 9
Week 6 Oct 13-16	Executives & Legislatures (con’t) Mid-Term: 24 hour window, to be completed by end of class on Thursday,	Chapters 10 & 9

	Oct. 15th (90 minutes including technical time of 30 minutes)	
Week 7 Oct 19-23	Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups <i>Tutorial on the Comparative Research Paper</i>	Chapter 11
Week 8 Oct 26-30	Race, Ethnicity, Gender Ideology, Religion, & Populism	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
Week 9 Nov 2-6	Political Economy & Development	Chapters 4 & 5
Week 10 Nov 9-13	Reading Break – No Classes	
Week 11 Nov 16-20	Authoritarian Regimes & Democratic Breakdown	Chapter 7
Week 12 Nov 23-27	Revolutions & Political Contention	Chapter 12 Comparative Research Paper: Due Saturday, Nov. 28th, 11:59pm On D2L Dropbox
Week 13 Nov 30 - Dec 4	Covid19 effects on constitutionalism, democratization, elections, democratic breakdown, authoritarian drift, authoritarian persistence, the economy and development	
Week 14 Dec 8	Course review	
	Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hour exam / 3 hour time limit given additional hour for technical issues)	TBA: Between December 12-23

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet via Zoom 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 (via ZOOM or by phone).

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. **Always include the course name (Poli 359) in the subject header of your email. Emails without a course name in the subject header will not receive a reply.** It is imperative that students regularly check their UofC email accounts

and D2L for course related information and announcements. If you have sent the instructor an email but have not received a reply within 24 hours, please resend.

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).

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>.

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.

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.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

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. 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].

Important Contact Information

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: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: 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/>.