

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

<b>Pre/Co-Requisites:</b> None	
<b>Instructor:</b> Mark Machacek	<b>Lecture Location:</b> ST 126
Phone:	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> Monday & Wednesday 09:00 – 11:45
<b>Email:</b> mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca	<b>Office Hours:</b> Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Monday & Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 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> 09:00 – 17:00 Monday - Friday	

#### **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 and methods employed in the study of Comparative Politics. It will then turn to detailing the comparative study of the state, 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 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, hypothesis and analytical framework;
- Conduct effective research, comparative analysis and writing

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

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 at 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</b>	30%	May 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Comparative Analysis Paper</b>	40%	June 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar (June 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> )
Total	100%	

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

### **COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
<b>THE COMPARATIVE METHOD OF ANALYSIS</b>		
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Introducing Comparative Politics</b> -Introduction of the course, overview of the syllabus and a discussion on the logic of comparison	Required: -Textbook Chapter 1
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Theory &amp; Method</b> -Detailing the theories and methods used in comparative political analysis	Required: -Textbook Chapter 2
<b>THE STATE AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The State</b> -Considering the past, present and future of the modern state from a comparative perspective  <b>Assignment Prep</b>	Required: -Textbook Chapter 3
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Government Institutions I: Legislatures &amp; Executives</b> -Surveying the similarities and differences across national legislatures and	Required -Textbook Chapters 9 & 10

	executive institutions	
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Government Institutions II: Political Parties &amp; Interest Groups</b> -Comparing party systems and interest groups across political systems	Required -Textbook Chapter 11
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Victoria Day (no class)</b>	
<b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Democratic &amp; Non-Democratic Regimes</b> -Overviewing the spectrum of political regimes and discussing democratization and democratic breakdown from a comparative perspective	Required -Textbook Chapters 6 & 7
<b>POLITICAL ECONOMY &amp; CONTENTIOUS POLITICS</b>		
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Political Economy</b> -Interrogating the relationship between markets, the state and society from a comparative perspective	Required -Textbook Chapter 4
<b>Mid-Term</b>		
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Development &amp; the State in the Global South</b> -Considering the different roles played by the state in development among Global South states	Required -Textbook Chapter 5
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Contentious Politics</b> -Discussing the different forms and practices of contentious politics, from social movements to revolutions	Required -Textbook Chapter 12
<b>IDENTITY &amp; IDEAS</b>		
<b>June 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Identity</b> -Identifying similarities and differences in the politicization of race, ethnicity and gender across cases	Required -Textbook Chapter 14
<b>Assignment Due</b>		
<b>June 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ideology &amp; Nationalism</b>	Required

	-Overviewing the patterns and politicization of ideology, religion and nationalism across political systems	-Textbook Chapter 13 & 15
<b>COMPARATIVE POLITCS &amp; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>		
<b>June 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comparative Politics &amp; IR</b></p> <p>-Considering patterns in, and organizations of, international relations from a comparative perspective</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Overview &amp; Final Exam Prep</b></p>	<p>Required</p> <p>-Textbook Chapter 16</p>

*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 to complete the exam during the regular class time on **Monday May 30<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 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS RESEARCH 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 have the option of selecting their own topic (i.e. party systems, democratic transition, episodes of contentious politics) and country case studies or can have a topic and cases assigned to them by the instructor. Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue and cases of choice by May 25<sup>th</sup> (not mandatory, but strongly recommended for the student's benefit).

The paper is expected to be **6-8 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 Wednesday June 8<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 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)**

The cumulative final examination will be 2 hours long and will be scheduled by the Registrar. It 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 15<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 telephone or 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**

#### **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](https://www.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](https://www.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/current/i-2.html>

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

“A student may request a 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/registrars](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrars) (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/current/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](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>). 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.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities.

### **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-ow.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031)

### **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**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) 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/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **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](http://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](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] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower, MT 116..

### **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/>.