



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 359 L01
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

INSTRUCTOR: Chris W. J. Roberts

TELEPHONE: Cell (403) 870-9241

OFFICE: SS 702

OFFICE HOURS: In-person office hours are cancelled. Emails will be responded to as quickly as possible, but it may be best to schedule a phone or ZOOM call to discuss research papers, etc.

EMAIL: christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca / TA Raj Lakhan: neeraj.lakhan1@ucalgary.ca

COURSE D2L: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1400-1515 (No in-person classes beginning Tuesday, March 17th through to the end of term)

COURSE LOCATION: KNB 126

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

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

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class Participation/TopHat	10%	Periodically throughout the course
Two Mid-Terms	15% 22%	Mid-Term 1: Thursday, Feb. 13th Original Mid-Term 2: Tuesday, March 17 th Revised Mid-Term 2: Thursday, March 19 th (via D2L Quizzes)
End-of-Term Quiz	13%	Tuesday, April 14 th – Will be completed on D2L Quizzes starting at 2:00pm
Comparative research essay (using assigned case study country & guidelines)	Original 30% Revised 40%	Due Monday, April 27 th at 5:00pm (on D2L Dropbox)
Total	100%	

CLASS PARTICIPATION INCLUDING TOPHAT (10%)

Due to the size of this class, student participation grades will be accumulated via TopHat, 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, sometimes, as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only, while other questions also generate points for correct answers. In the second week of class, all students will be assigned a random country case study that will be used for TopHat, in-class discussions, and incorporated into the comparative research essay.

TWO MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS (15% & 22%=37%)

Two mid-term exams will be done in class. The first will be on Thursday, Feb. 13th and the second on Thursday, March 19th via D2L Quizzes. They will comprise multiple-choice/matching and true-false computer-scored questions, may contain short answers/exercises, and be scheduled for 70 minutes.

END OF TERM QUIZ (13%)

As in-person final exams have been cancelled, there will be an end-of-term D2L Quiz at 2pm on the last day of class (Tuesday, April 14th).

Note: The first mid-term exam was closed book with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook, electronic devices, etc.). Students need to take both mid-terms, the end-of-term quiz, and submit the essay in order to pass.

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY (40%)

Each student will submit a comparative research essay that follows specific guidelines that will be discussed in class and available on D2L before Reading Break. This is worth 40% and will be due on Monday, April 27th (uploaded in PDF by 5pm on D2L Dropbox). This will be at least seven double-spaced pages plus title page and reference list, and will include both primary and secondary sources.

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+ (95+)	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)

LATE PENALTIES:

Late penalties of ten percent (10%) will be applied to your comparative research essay for every 12 hours past the 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 January 14 & 16	Course Introduction / Why compare? Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage	Chapter 1
Week 2 January 21 & 23	Compare how?	Chapter 2
Week 3 January 28 & 30	The State: the central (but not only) unit of analysis Nationalism & National Identity	Chapter 3 Chapter 13
Week 4 February 4 & 6	Constitutions & Constitutionalism Democracy & Democratization	Chapter 8 Chapter 6

Week 5 February 11 & 13	Tuesday, Feb. 11 th : Recap: Comparative Method & the State; Comparative Research Essay assignment Thursday, Feb. 13 th - Mid-Term 1	Recap of Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 13 70 minutes
Week 6 February 17-21	READING BREAK	No Classes
Week 7 February 25 & 27	Executives Legislatures	Chapter 10 Chapter 9
Week 8 March 3 & 5	Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups Race, Ethnicity, Gender	Chapter 11 Chapter 14
Week 9 March 10 & 12	Political Economy & Development	Chapters 4 & 5
Week 10 March 17 & 19	Mid-Term 2 will be shifted to Thursday, March 19 th (There will be no other online activities this week. Focus on preparing for the mid-term and keep working on your research paper.)	D2L Quizzes
Week 11 March 24 & 26	Authoritarian Regimes & Democratic Breakdown	Chapter 7
Week 12 March 31 April 2	Revolutions & Political Contention	Chapter 12
Week 13 April 7 & 9	Ideology, Religion, & Populism Comparative Politics & International Relations	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
Week 14 April 14	Tuesday, April 14 th – End of Term Quiz will be completed on D2L Quizzes starting at 2:00pm	
	Comparative Research Essay Due	Monday, April 27 th 5:00pm on D2L Dropbox

Due to the COVID19 shutdown of in-person classes, the course schedule is modified starting this week. Course instruction will change (using Zoom, videos, PPTs, D2L etc.) for the rest of term. TopHat questions will continue to be made available at specific times to earn participation points.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or 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. **Always include the course name (Poli 359) in the subject**

header of your email. If you cannot make it to office hours, please request a one-on-one meeting outside of these hours. 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.

Students may use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course, though there will be times when you'll be asked to turn the technology off. No recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is permitted without prior approval of the instructor, with exceptions of course made in the case of approved accommodations. Please be considerate of others and switch off all phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing social media is extremely disruptive to others, and your own performance will also suffer.

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>

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.

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.

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-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

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 Tower Room 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, 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:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>