



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 359 Lecture 01
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Winter 2022**

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Machacek

OFFICE: SS 721

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OFFICE HOURS: Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Mondays 3:00 – 3:50 pm or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 – 1:50 pm

DELIVERY METHOD: In-person

COURSE LOCATION: ENE 243

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce students to the theories, 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
Mid-Term I	20%	February 18 th
Mid-Term II	20%	March 18 th
Comparative Analysis Research Paper	30%	March 28 th
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar (April 19 – 29)
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
THE COMPARATIVE METHOD OF ANALYSIS		
Week 1 Jan. 10, 12, 14	Introducing Comparative Politics -Introduction of the course, overview of the syllabus and a discussion on the logic of comparison	Required: -Textbook Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan. 17, 19, 21	Theory & Method -Detailing the theories and methods used in comparative political analysis	Required: -Textbook Chapter 2
THE STATE AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS		

Week 3 Jan. 24, 26, 28	The State -Considering the past, present and future of the modern state from a comparative perspective	Required: -Textbook Chapter 3
Week 4 Jan. 31, Feb. 2 Feb 4	Government Institutions I: Legislatures & Executives -Surveying the similarities and differences across national legislatures and executive institutions Assignment Prep	Required -Textbook Chapters 9 & 10
Week 5 Feb. 7, 9, 11	Government Institutions II: Political Parties & Interest Groups -Comparing party systems and interest groups across political systems	Required -Textbook Chapter 11
Week 6 Feb. 14, 16 Feb. 18	Democratic & Non-Democratic Regimes -Overviewing the spectrum of political regimes and discussing democratization and democratic breakdown from a comparative perspective Mid-Term Exam I	Required -Textbook Chapters 6 & 7
Week 7 Feb. 20-26	READING WEEK No class	
POLITICAL ECONOMY & CONTENTIOUS POLITICS		
Week 8 Feb. 28 Mar. 2, 4	Political Economy -Interrogating the relationship between markets, the state and society from a comparative perspective	Required -Textbook Chapter 4
Week 9 Mar. 7, 9, 11	Development & the State in the Global South -Considering the different roles played by the state in development among Global South states	Required -Textbook Chapter 5
Week 10 Mar. 14, 16	Contentious Politics -Discussing the different	Required -Textbook Chapter 12

Mar. 18	forms and practices of contentious politics, from social movements to revolutions Mid-Term Exam II	
IDEAS & IDENTITY		
Week 11 Mar. 21, 23, 25	Ideology & Nationalism -Overviewing the patterns and politicization of ideology, religion and nationalism across political systems	Required -Textbook Chapter 13 & 15
Week 12 Mar. 28 Mar. 28, 30 Apr. 1	Paper Assignment Due Identity -Identifying similarities and differences in the politicization of race, ethnicity and gender across cases	Required -Textbook Chapter 14
COMPARATIVE POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
Week 13 Apr. 4, 6, 8	Comparative Politics & IR -Considering patterns in, and organizations of, international relations from a comparative perspective	Required -Textbook Chapter 16
Week 14 Apr. 11	Course Review & Final Exam Prep	-No required readings

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION I (20%)

This timed assessment will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on **Friday February 18th** and will be available for 24 hours. When you access the assessment, you will have the length of the class (50 minutes) to complete and submit it. This assessment will consist of **multiple-choice questions**. If you experience an issue that affects your ability to complete the assessment, which can include (but is not limited to) issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment, you will need to contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternate or (in the case of technical issues) extended time to write the assessment.

Further information regarding the content of the mid-term will be provided in class on **Friday February 11th**.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION II (20%)

The second mid-term exam will consist of **3-4 short answer questions**. Students will have the full 50 mins of class on **Friday March 18th** to complete the exam. This cumulative 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 second mid-term will be provided in class on **Friday March 11th**.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS RESEARCH PAPER (30%)

Students are expected to devise a comparative research design and conduct research on a select issue of a select case study. Students have the option of selecting their own topic (i.e. party systems, democratic transition, episodes of contentious politics) and country case study or can have a topic and case assigned by the instructor. Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue and case of choice by February 11th (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, hypothesis and brief literature review regarding the select issue and case. Students are expected to collect relevant information for their literature review and analysis through research of at least 10 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 Monday March 28th**.

The paper will be graded according to the student's research design and demonstrated knowledgebase and analysis of the select issue and case. 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 **Friday February 4th**.

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 Monday April 11th.

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). 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>.

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/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar) (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.

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-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031

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>

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.

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, 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, 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/>.