



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 673 (L01)
Comparative Politics: Theories and Methods
Fall 2021**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Susan Franceschet
EMAIL: sfrances@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1:30-3pm (via Zoom); or by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: Thursdays 12-2:45pm
DELIVERY METHOD: In-person
COURSE LOCATION: SS 729
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: n/a

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course provides an advanced survey of the main topics, theories, and debates in the field of Comparative Politics. The course is intended for graduate students at both the M.A. and Ph.D. level and is particularly useful for those writing a field of study exam in comparative politics. The course covers both the classic topics and debates as well as those that have emerged more recently. Given the breadth of the field of comparative politics, the course does not exhaustively cover all the topics in the field. Instead, it provides a selected survey of some of the main themes that define the discipline of comparative politics, past and present. Upon completing the course, students will have a better understanding of the intellectual development of the field of comparative politics and the main debates surrounding the field's theories, approaches, and methods.

COURSE WORK AND DUE DATES

This is a seminar course that demands a high level of participation from students. All students must come to class with a firm grasp of the material in the week's readings and be prepared to participate actively in the discussion. Reading guides and a set of questions will be distributed before each class, and students should come to class with a set of answers prepared. At the beginning of each class, students must submit a 2-sentence summary of each of the readings, followed by two discussion questions based on the combined set of readings.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

There is no textbook for the course. Required materials (book chapters, articles, media, podcasts, and videos) will be available electronically either through the Taylor Family Digital Library or in other open access venues or posted to D2L.

WRITTEN WORK

Each student will write **five** short analytical papers (1500 words maximum) based on the weekly readings. Papers must be submitted by 12pm Friday the day after the readings are discussed in class.

The papers should not simply summarize the various readings for the week, but instead, should draw out the common themes, locate them in the context of the field of comparative politics, and evaluate their contributions both to the specific topic as well as the broader debates in comparative politics.

The following questions should be used to organize and structure the discussion in the papers:

- 1) What are the main themes and issues raised in the readings?
- 2) Why are these issues important for the study of comparative politics?
- 3) What are the main lines of agreement and disagreement among the authors?
- 4) Which ideas/arguments do you find particularly compelling and why?

Most important, students must avoid simply repeating the content of each reading. The main task is to identify common themes or omissions, sources of controversy, and, where relevant, the practical dimensions of the readings.

Please note that papers and classroom participation are evaluated on the basis of both **content and style**. In other words, clarity, precision, grammar, and proper spelling all help to determine your grade. Good papers are clear, well-organized, and precise, while also advancing thoughtful and original perspectives on the topic. Participation in class will be evaluated according to **quality not quantity**. Comments and questions that are reflective, thoughtful, and demonstrate clear understanding of the arguments and evidence in the readings will be more favorably evaluated than comments that are not as clearly grounded in the readings.

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK:

Papers must be submitted electronically to the dropbox on D2L **in Word format** (do **not** submit a PDF). Each essay should have a file name as follows: "FirstName LastName Essay # (for example, Rachel Wong Essay 3). It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

Grades for the course will be distributed as follows:

Participation	15 %
Papers (5 x 17 %)	85 %
Total	100 %

Note: There is no final examination in the course

LATE PENALTIES

Late papers will be penalized at a rate of **3%** per day.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

Below is a list of the topics we'll be covering in the course. A schedule of dates and required readings will be posted on D2L by September 7th.

Studying Comparative Politics
Concepts, Case Studies, and Methods
Theoretical Approaches to Comparative Politics: Game Theory and Rational Choice
Theoretical Approaches to Comparative Politics: Institutions as Explanations
The State in Comparative Politics
Regimes I: democracy
Regimes II: authoritarianism
Race and ethnicity in comparative politics
Elections, representation, and party systems
Gender in comparative politics
Collective action, protests, and social movements

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+ (95-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (88-94)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-87)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during their 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. All meetings will be held virtually.

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, to be held virtually.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course, but please considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the internet 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 (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=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-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/>.