

Introduction to Comparative Politics
Poli 2053
1230-120pm MWF
284 Lockett Hall

Instructor : James Gilley
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Office Hours: 10-noon MWF
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Course Description

This General Education course is designed to introduce students to the subfield in Political Science of Comparative Politics. This field examines the domestic political institutions that make up the governments of the world. This course will introduce students to several useful tools and concepts that can be used to examine the governments of foreign countries. These tools will also be applied in several national case studies, allowing the students to see those concepts in action throughout the world today. Students should also gain an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance and an understanding of the diversity of cultures across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks. As this is an introductory course, no prior Political Science instruction is necessary to succeed.

Course Requirements

The graded work for this class falls into 5 categories: Exams, Quizzes, Papers, Participation and LDAGs.

- 1) Exams: There will be two exams given in this class: March 4th and 6th in class and Tuesday May 5th at 1230pm. The midterm will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The final will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The format will be multiple choice, short answer, and an essay.
- 2) Quizzes: There will be one quiz each week. These will be taken through Tophat. These quizzes will cover current events and material from the reading for the week. Current events questions will be drawn from bbcnews.com and reuters.com. These quizzes will make up 15 percent of your final grade.
- 3) Plan of Government Paper: The paper for this class will require you to read a work of fiction from a list to be provided later and create a plan of government for the government featured in that book. This will allow students to demonstrate understanding of the concepts of constitutional engineering and the relationship between institutions and culture in a context that is not reliant on the constraints of the modern world. This paper will be worth 15 percent of the final grade.

- 4) Participation: Participation will be measured through participation in the class twitter feed. Students will be required to tweet approximately once a week @LSUPoli2053. Participation will make up 10 percent of the final grade.
- 5) Let's Design a Government Group Assignments : Each Student will be placed into a group who's job it is to design a government given certain parameters. These groups will produce a report and mock constitution for each government. Three of these will be completed throughout the semester. The first two will be worth 5% each, the final paper will be worth 10%.

Makeups will only be available for medical emergencies with a physician's note and participation in University Sponsored of military affiliated events with official notice provided in advance.

There will be several bonus opportunities will be presented throughout the semester. Further details as they emerge.

The grading for this class is on the 10 point scale (at bear minimum).
100-90= A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59-0 = F

Required Texts

There are two texts required for this class:

Essentials of Comparative Politics by Patrick H O'Neil. W.W. Norton 2013. ISBN 978-0-393-91278-4 (also available as an ebook nortonebooks.com) referred to as RED

Cases in Comparative Politics by Patrick H O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share. W.W. Norton. 2013. Referred to as BLUE

These two texts are sold in a package together, with a 50% off the casebook. The ISBN for this package is 978-0-393-91432-0.

These texts should be available at all local college bookstores.

Any additional readings will be posted to the moodle page

All students will be required to purchase a tophat.com license for this class.
All students are required to make a twitter account and follow @LSUPoli2053.

Students must also read BBCnews.com and Reuters.com for their current event quizzes on a daily basis.

This course requires students to have some electronic device capable of tweeting and accessing tophat. This includes a laptop, cellphone or tablet. If this becomes a disruption, however, access to these devices will be shut down for the day, thus making gaining participation impossible.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all incidents of suspected plagiarism will be automatically referred to judicial affairs. All students must know and abide by LSU's Plagiarism policy found at <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/plagiarism.htm>

Schedule

Week 1:Jan 14-16: Introduction, What is Comparative Politics, What is the State?

Readings: Red : Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2:Jan 19 (No Class) -23: Leadership Selection

Readings : Red : p 147-155, p 168-172

Week 3:Jan 26-30: Democracies

Readings : Red: Chapters 5 and 8

Week 4 :Feb 2-6: Non- Democracy.

Readings: Red: Chapter 6 and 9. BOOK SELECTIONS DUE BY NOW

Week 5:Feb9-13: Political Culture and Ideology

Readings : Red : Chapter 3 (LDAG 1 Due)

Week 6:Feb 12-20 : NO CLASS : MARDI GRAS AND ISA

Week 7: Feb 23-27:Political Economy

Readings : Red : Chapter 4,10 and 11

Week 8 :Mar 2-6: Midterm review and Midterm

Readings: None, but do revise. Please.

Week 10:Mar 9-13: The United Kingdom

Readings : Blue: Chapter 2

Week 11:Mar 16-20: France (LDAG 2 Due)

Readings : Blue: Chapter 4

Week 12:Mar23-27: Germany

Readings : Blue : Chapter 5

Week 13Mar30-Apr1: Russia

Readings : Blue : Chapter 7

APRIL 3-12: Spring BREAK

Week 14:Apr 13-17: China

Readings : Blue : Chapter 8

Week 15:Apr 20-25: Iran

Readings : Blue : Chapter 10

Week 16: Singapore and Switzerland? (LDAG 3 Due)

Readings : TBD

Week 17:May 5th: Final Exam, 1230pm. In 127 Coates Hall

Exam Review: 2pm May 3rd, meet outside Stubbs Hall, Quad-side