

POL2245E
Introduction to Comparative Politics
September 2019 – April 2020
Class: Mondays 8:30-11:30, W18

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

POL2245E will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, one of the main subfields of political science. Key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and debates within comparative politics will be examined. Numerous in-depth country case studies – including the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, India, Iran, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria – will be used to illustrate the material. Students will begin the course with an overview of the state and nation to provide a foundation from which to begin comparing different political systems and policies throughout the Global North and Global South. In considering various established democratic countries, emerging democracies, ‘backsliding’ democracies, quasi-communist states, postcommunist societies, and authoritarian regimes, students will become familiar with the comparative method. Sub-themes such as political economy, political violence, and globalization (amongst others) will be further used as tools through which to compare such polities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will not only have a strong grasp of the concepts and theories of comparative politics, but will also be able to critically analyze the differences and similarities between political regimes and policies around the world.

CLASS METHODOLOGY

POL2245 is a lecture and tutorial course. The first two hours of each class will involve a lecture delivered by the professor, while the last hour will focus on student-led discussions regarding that week’s readings. There will be a strong emphasis on class participation, and it is accordingly essential that students arrive to class prepared. Adequate preparation includes having completed weekly readings in advance, and being willing to discuss the reading and lecture material with fellow classmates. As the final exam will include reading, lecture, and discussion material, it is strongly advised that students take notes re. all three course components.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics: An Integrated Approach, by Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields, & Don Share, 2017.

The textbook is available from the UWO bookstore. All readings listed under the 'Lecture and Tutorial Schedule' are required readings, to be done in advance of class. Those readings not found in the textbook are provided under the 'Required Readings' tab found within the 'Resources' folder on the course website. At times additional readings about current topical events will be added to the required reading list. These will be particularly relevant for tutorial discussions. At least one week advanced notice will be given with regards to these readings, and students will be notified via the course website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Value:</u>	<u>Date Due:</u>
- Participation	Value 10%	Ongoing evaluation
- Seminar discussion	Value 10%	TBD
- First term quiz	Value 15%	Nov. 11
- Critical response papers 5 response papers in total (4% each)	Value 20%	Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Jan. 6, Jan. 20
- Research essay	Value 20%	March 16
- Final exam	Value 25%	During spring exam period

Participation:

Class participation will be graded on the basis of active participation in class. Please note that simply attending class does not achieve marks; students must participate in order to achieve credit. However – the professor will take into account the *quality* of one's contributions – not simply the quantity – when assessing participation in class.

Seminar discussion:

In groups of two, students will be required to lead one tutorial discussion. This should be approximately 10 minutes (each), followed by two discussion questions for the class. In the presentation, students should critically discuss one or two major points addressed in the week's readings. The presentation should highlight important questions identified by the author(s), with the students providing their own observations and critical analysis on such issues. Sign-up for presentation dates will take place in early September. Please note that late penalties do not apply to these assignments and no extensions will be granted.

Critical response papers:

Students will be required to write five critical response papers examining the assigned reading(s) for the relevant week. The papers should be roughly 500-600 words in length. The

purpose of the paper is not to summarize the readings. Rather, students should critically engage with two or three significant points addressed throughout the readings. No extra research/reading is required. Please note that late penalties do not apply to these assignments; they are due at the beginning of class, in person.

Research essay:

Students will be required to write a 2,500 word research essay. A list of possible research questions will be distributed at the end of the first term. The essay is to be based on a minimum of twelve academic sources (peer-reviewed journals, books, or book chapters), and is due March 16, 2020.

Formatting requirements for the essay are the following:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- double-spaced (except for footnotes and bibliography)
- 2.5cm margins
- pages numbered
- title page with student name, date, course title, and paper title
- footnotes and bibliography must be included
- Chicago Manual of Style citation format should be carefully and consistently followed throughout

Papers are due at the beginning of class, in person, on the specified due date. The late penalty for papers is 2 percent per working day (including if submitted late on the actual due date), and essays will not be accepted after 10 days past the submission deadline. In addition to submitting a hard copy of their papers, students will be required to submit an online copy to the course website, where it will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.com. All forms of plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously.

Please note: other than for serious cases of emergency, extensions will not be granted. Thus, having multiple work assignments due around the same time, employment responsibilities, or being out of town, do not constitute valid reasons for extensions. Extensions are very rarely granted.

Final exam:

The final exam will take place during the spring examination period, and the specific date will be set by the Office of the Registrar. It will cover the entire course: readings, lectures, and tutorials. It will be a combination of short answer questions and short essays.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

I am happy to meet with students during my office hours, both to discuss issues relating to the course, as well as your academic career more generally. If getting in-touch by email, please note that I will respond within two business days.

Students should check their UWO email account and OWL course site on a regular basis.

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Sept. 9	Introduction to POL2245E - No readings
Sept. 16	What is comparative politics? - O'Neil et al, Chapter 1
Sept. 23	The state - O'Neil et al, Chapter 2 <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Sept. 30	The nation - O'Neil et al, Chapter 3
Oct. 7	Political economy - O'Neil et al, Chapter 4 <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Monday – no classes - No readings
Oct. 21	Political violence - O'Neil et al, Chapter 5
Oct. 28	Continued political violence: revolution & terrorism in-depth - Readings TBD <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Nov. 4	Reading Week - No readings
Nov. 11	Quiz - No readings
Nov. 18	Continued political violence: intrastate conflict in-depth - Readings TBD
Nov. 25	Democratic regimes - O'Neil et al, Chapter 6 <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Dec. 2	Continued democratic regimes: United Kingdom & United States in-depth

- O'Neil et al, Chapters on United Kingdom & United States
- Jan. 6 Developed democracies
 - O'Neil et al, Chapter 7
Critical response paper due
- Jan. 13 Continued developed democracies: Germany & Japan in-depth
 - O'Neil et al, Chapters on Germany & Japan
- Jan. 20 Nondemocratic regimes
 - O'Neil et al, Chapter 8
Critical response paper due
- Jan. 27 Continued nondemocratic regimes: authoritarianism in-depth
 - Readings TBD
- Feb. 3 Communism and postcommunism
 - O'Neil et al, Chapter 9
- Feb. 10 Continued communism and postcommunism: Russia & China in-depth
 - O'Neil et al, Chapters on Russia & China
- Feb. 17 Reading Week
- Feb. 24 Developing countries
 - O'Neil et al, Chapter 10
- March 2 Continued developing countries: India & Iran in-depth
 - O'Neil et al, Chapters on India & Iran
- March 9 Continued developing countries: Mexico & Brazil in-depth
 - O'Neil et al, Chapters on Mexico & Brazil
- March 16 Continued developing countries: South Africa & Nigeria in-depth
 - O'Neil et al, Chapters on South Africa & Nigeria
Research essay due
- March 23 Globalization and the future of comparative politics
 - O'Neil et al, Chapter 11
- March 30 Wrap-up & exam review
 - No readings

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2019/2020

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf.

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the OWL class site, is <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and on the Huron website at www.huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility .

Academic Student Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising.

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science and at www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/management-and-organizational-studies .

Adding / Dropping Courses

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising or review the list of official

Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and at Western

Students who are stressed, emotionally distressed or in mental health crisis please refer to: huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/health-wellness for a complete list of options about how to obtain help, or email Huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca to access your wellness staff directly. Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

Huron is committed to providing a safe, welcoming campus for students, staff and faculty by providing confidential assistance to those who have personal safety concerns. Providing a safe and welcoming campus for students, staff and faculty is one of Huron's top priorities.

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) provides medical response to 9-1-1 calls on Main, Brescia and Huron campuses which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year. SERT is dispatched through the campus community Police Service (CCPS) to any medical emergency on campus at (519) 661-3300. For more information about SERT please visit: sert.uwo.ca/about-sert/about-sert/.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence

against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as per the Academic Calendar: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189 .

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for a detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.

Computer-Marked Tests/exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Clickers

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on “Special” Accommodation

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require academic accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

- (a) **Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca .**

University Senate policy, which can be found at, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf , requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

- (b) **Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been

notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult your Instructor directly.

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

The full Policy on Academic Consideration for student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs is available at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Please see section 4 below for more

details.

c. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;

d. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

e. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;

f. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;

g. Self-reporting **may not be used** for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.

h. students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form**, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Important Dates and Directory at Huron and Western

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron – Important Dates:** <https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- **Western – Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:** <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory>
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html>