

Political Science 2245E Section 550
Huron University College
Comparative Politics
Course Outline

Type: Full Course (Essay) Sept. 10/18 to April 8/19

Prerequisite: Pol. Sci. 1020E (former 020E)

Room: W112

Time: Mondays 8.30-11.30am;

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson Office: V125 Ext: 248 (please call only during office hours); Home E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

Office Hours: Mondays 11.30am-1.30pm

Required Reading: (available at U.W.O. bookstore – you may purchase a used copy)

1/Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph. Introduction to Comparative Politics. 7th Ed. (Cenage, Boston: 2016.)

Learning Objectives:

Students should have definitional knowledge and understanding of comparative political science, a foundational knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of comparative analysis and approaches, a preliminary knowledge and understanding of the political systems of several important nation-states, a preliminary knowledge and appreciation of political science in the context of other disciplines, and an ability to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the core substantive learning objectives of Political Science 2245E.

Structure: Political Science 2245E is an introductory course in the field of comparative politics. The course will focus on theories of comparative politics and then go on to look at several nation-states in terms of how they compare along several dimensions of political life. It may prove difficult at times to keep to the schedule below but every effort will be made to follow it. **Note the times of the Opinion Questions.** The readings and lecture notes do not always perfectly match but both are vital.

Note: All Opinion Questions have a question component only. All will be online (OWL). You must print off these (or access online) and bring to the classes designated above. If you miss the Opinion Questions dates above (for any reason), **you do not have to go to Academic Counselling or show me proof why you missed any Opinion Question.** Booklets will be provided for the Opinion Questions. For Opinion Questions, the length should be 1-2 double-spaced pages.

All written work must be done in the class times below. However, you may do up to 4 opinion questions on your own time. You may e-mail these or print them off. The due date for these is Monday, April 8/19 by 11.30am.

Mon. Sept. 10: Course outline and essay workshop

Mon. Sept.17: Intro to comparative politics Ch.1 **opinion question #1**

Mon. Sept. 24: comparative method Ch.1

Mon. Oct.1: comparative approaches Ch.1 **opinion question #2**

Mon. Oct. 8: holiday

Mon. Oct.15: United Kingdom Ch.2 **opinion question #3**

Mon. Oct. 22: UK con't

Mon. Oct. 30: UK con't **opinion question #4**

Mon. Nov.5: **mid-term test 1 hour** 8.30-9.30am in class

Mon. Nov.12: France Ch.3 **opinion question #5**

Mon. Nov. 19: **essay due** in class (at start)

Mon. Nov.26: France con't: **opinion question #6**

Mon. Dec.3: France con't

Term 2

Mon. Jan.7: Germany Ch.4

Mon. Jan.14: Germany con't

Mon. Jan. 21: Germany con't **opinion question #7**

Mon. Jan.28: Russia Ch.13

Mon. Feb. 4: Russia con't

Mon. Feb. 11: Russia con't **opinion question #8**

Mon. Feb.18: holiday

Mon. Feb.26: Mexico Ch.10

Mon. March 4: Mexico con't

Mon. March 11: Mexico con't **opinion question #9**

Mon. March 18: Nigeria Ch.12

Mon. March 25: Nigeria con't

Mon April 1: Nigeria con't **opinion question #10**

Mon. April 8: exam prep (or lecture make-up if necessary)

Final Exam: (room and date TBA) - essay format

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 40% (TBA)

Mid-term: 15% (Monday, Nov.5/18; in class)

Essay: 40% (15-18 pages, double-spaced; due Monday, November 19/18)

Opinion questions: 5% in total (0.5% each)

POL.SCI. 2245E ESSAY

Length: 15-18 pages double-spaced

Due date: **Monday, November 19/18** (hand it in at start of class)

See essay instructions sheet on OWL for more information.

Essay questions/ thesis statements

1/ Examine any two countries along some political dimension and compare to create a thesis statement. For example, the German Senate (Bundesrat) is more reflective of German provincial concerns than the Canadian Senate is reflective of Canadian provincial concerns.

GENERAL COURSE RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

The following rules are to be taken very seriously. They will be strictly enforced. Every student must be treated fairly; the rules below will ensure that all students will be treated in a just manner. If you follow the rules and suggestions laid out here, you will have a much better chance of doing well in the course. If you break the rules, you will suffer certain consequences.

1/ Do not be disruptive in class. After one warning, you will be asked to leave. Continual behavioural problems may lead to more severe consequences (eg. removal from the course).

2/ Come to class on time.

3/ Ask questions intelligently. The prof will let you know when questions can be asked (i.e. later in the lecture). Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show 'interest', to 'stick out' etc.). Questions should contribute to the lecture. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline.

4/ All grade values in the course outline are 'set in stone'. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curve. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

5/ All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

6/ Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Profs assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the prof that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

7/ All essays must be handed to the instructor in-class on the due date.

8/ All late papers must be handed into the essay drop-off box outside the office of the Arts and Social Sciences Administrative Assistants' office, Rm A226.

9/ The late penalty is 2% per working day (weekends do not count). **In all cases, the stamped date is the date which will be considered definitive when assigning late penalties. There is no exception to this rule.**

10/ The instructor has never lost a paper and will not accept that as an excuse. If you leave a paper in the drop box, you are advised to email the instructor to ensure that the paper has come into his possession. In other words, YOU are responsible for your paper up to and until the INSTRUCTOR has determined that he is in possession of it. Do not let other students hand in your papers unless you are willing to take the risk that it might not get to its destination.

11/ Emailed papers will only be accepted if you have been given *specific permission* by the instructor that this is acceptable. If you seek such permission you should make the request to the instructor. This option is only for the most rare and unusual circumstances and is subject to the complete discretion of the instructor.

12/ As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE (eg. doctor's note) which is shown to Academic Counselling.** Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. **Academic Counselling must approve your request before I will.**

13/ If an extension is warranted, the prof and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

14/ I take all marking very seriously and I am unwilling to change a grade unless I have made a real error (eg. marked you down for a statement which is not wrong; marked you down for a grammatical error which is not wrong). Subjective feelings are not a valid basis for an appeal (eg. "I think you are too hard on me"; "I have never had a mark this low"). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

All appeals must be put into writing. I may take a day or more to make my decision. I do not discuss with students about their papers on the day I hand them back.

15/ If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the prof strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

16/ If you are absent for any of the graded assignments, you MUST seek accommodation from Academic Counselling in order to be accommodated.

17/ Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

18/ I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 2 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 80% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.