

Political Science 104

Comparative Politics

Political Science 104 | Spring 2018

CRN#: 21164

February 12, 2018 | June 8, 2018

Mon-Wed: 2:00 – 3:25pm | Room 411

Instructor information:

Ric Epps: Professor

Office: Room 1712

Office Hours: Monday, 1-2pm, Tuesdays, 1-2pm
and by appt.

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Please phone or email to arrange appointments

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course to the comparative study of politics. We will cover the basic concepts and issues of comparative politics. The discussion of the political institutions and processes will be integrated into the comparison of different political systems in the contemporary world. The course focuses on multiple types of political systems: industrialized democracies, post-communist regimes, and the third world. Through this course students are expected to develop a familiarity with the politics of major countries in the world, to understand important topics in the comparative study of politics, and to be able to analyze some of the current political development in different countries.

In this class, we will explore some of the classic questions that have occupied scholars in this field, including:

- Why are some countries democracies and other countries autocracies? How do countries become one or the other?
- Why are some countries poor and other countries wealthy? What can poor countries do to develop their economic potential?
- How do different societies embed their particular values and priorities in their institutional “rules of the game,” and what consequences do these choices have for their citizens?

To start to unravel some of these issues, the class will explore some of the “greatest hits” of comparative politics and use these theories to understand the dynamics of some contemporary case studies from around the world. We will also draw on readings, debates, simulations, and discussions to deepen our understanding of these topics

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS

O'Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (W.W. Norton, 6th edition, 2018).

Recommended Resources for Additional Exploration

Simulation Research Documents

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Access

If you do not have access to a computer off campus, there is a computer lab on campus you can use to participate in the course. Most public libraries also have computers with internet access that you can use for free.

Computer Requirements

You will need to have an up-to-date browser, operating system, and some additional software on your computer to take this class. Check this Distance Education page for hardware & software requirements. Some of the documents in this course will be available to you in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it by going to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week you will need to complete the following:

- Read the weekly Chapter(s) as required.
- Participate in class discussions
- Watch Chapter Videos.
- Review Chapter PowerPoints.
- Take the weekly quizzes: **Quizzes (O'Neil) 1-5 by 11pm, the night before Exam 1.**
Quizzes (O'Neil) 6-11 by 11pm, the night before Exam 2.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the semester. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Writing Assignment, Quizzes, and Exams. (See below). This course requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete all required assignments. Please be sure to assess that you have access to a necessary device).

Quizzes = 215 points

Simulations (2 x 50) = 100 points

Exams (2 x 100) = 200 points

Total = 515 Points

Grade Score Breakdown:

460 – 515 = A range, 400 – 459 = B range, 340 – 399 = C range, 300 – 339 = D range, Below 300 = F

Simulation Assignments

Students will be divided into groups to create and facilitate an original debate simulation on topics of Comparative Politics. All students will be assigned a specific (country) group for the simulations. The simulations will cover a specific issue in which each group will play the role, and support the respective position of their represented country. Each group will select a group leader who will be responsible for coordinating and submitting all group activities and assignments, they will also be the primary group liaison to the professor. We will work directly with all group leaders to deal with any group issues and/or problems. In conjunction with the simulations, each group will be required to do a PowerPoint presentation and submit a detailed analysis of their country and the issue, and all pertinent research data and analyses concerning the issues discussed. I

will provide more details in class.

Quizzes

Students are required to complete weekly chapter quizzes for the O'Neil textbook. The quizzes directly relate to the chapter content and are utilized to help you prepare for the course exams.

Exams

There will be two exams. Each will be a combination of multiple choice, true/ false, fill-in's, identifications, and/or short answers. The exams are designed to test your familiarity with the lecture/discussion materials, reading assignments, and your independent ability to apply what you have learned.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

Email

In this course, we will use the Inbox feature (located on the left-hand side, titled "Inbox") to send email for private messages. You can either check your messages in the CANVAS system or set your notifications to your preferred method of contact. Please check your messages regularly. When submitting messages, please do the following:

- Put a subject in the subject box that describes the email content with your name, week and message subject. For example YOURNAMEWK2ASSIGNMENT.
- Send email only to "Inbox" and not my personal email account.
- Do not send messages asking general information about the class, please post those in the QUESTION FORUM.
- Do not submit your assignments by messenger.
- Make certain to check your messages frequently.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive to class on time, with all electronic devices turned off and put away. Since participation in classroom work and discussion is an important part of this course, students missing more than three class sessions will have **10 points deducted** from their total points for each unexcused absence thereafter. Students who are consistently late will have to meet with me. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences.

LEAVING CLASS: Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the **entire class session**. Students leaving the class early, without obtaining approval from the instructor prior to the start of class, will be counted absent for the day.

CELL PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Cell phones and electronic devices **must be turned off and put away during class**, with the exception of laptops or tablets for note taking purposes **only**. Students violating this policy during a class period will receive one warning, after which, they will be asked to leave the class, and **there will be a full letter grade deduction from their FINAL GRADE**.

Also, students caught doing non-course related work during class will get one warning; a 2nd offense will result in **one full letter grade deduction** from your final grade.

MAKEUP AND LATE WORK: The scheduled dates of all exams and written assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted or permitted without my prior approval. Also, if you miss an exam you must provide documentation to explain your absence—I will decide if a makeup will be allowed.

CLASSROOM ETTIQUITE

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a college instructor.

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink is prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

WEBSITE AND TECHNICAL TOOLS

The Canvas learning management system will be used to deliver the online course. Students need consistent and reliable access to the Internet, preferably using the Chrome, Firefox or Safari web browsers. Students without reliable Internet access should contact their counselor to create a plan to access the course daily.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Online courses require a considerable amount of time. You are expected to follow the pacing guidelines outlined by your teacher. You are not required to log-in to the course at a set interval, time, or day.

However, to be successful in the course, you should plan to spend near five hours per week actively engaged in the class. The amount of time you spend on coursework will vary depending on your skill level and knowledge in a variety of areas. While on vacation or other activities, you are expected to adhere to your instructors pacing guidelines. **MAKEUP AND LATE WORK:** The scheduled dates of all exams, quizzes, and written assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted without my prior approval.

NETIQUETTE

What is netiquette? Simply stated, it's network etiquette -- that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Classes with an online component require the use of good netiquette.

Many online courses use discussion forums. Here are four tips for good netiquette in an online discussion.

1. It's typically a good idea to address the person you're responding to by name, just as if you were speaking to them face-to-face. It's also a good idea to sign your posting. This will make your online discussion more personal, and remind you to be polite!
2. Use care when interacting online, since you don't have the ability to gauge a person's reaction or feelings as you do in a face-to-face conversation. Particularly, humor and sarcasm should always be used very carefully and where needed, labeled as such.
3. It may be ok to disagree with someone depending on your professor's direction for the assignment if you give good reasons for doing so. Remember that people are perfectly entitled to debate both sides of a course idea or topic, and that reasoned argument is an important part of a college education. Your response should never ever attack someone personally. You can disagree with someone, and they with you while remaining respectful.
4. Identify your sources if you use quotes, references, or resources. Your work must always be distinctively your own writing unless you have indicated otherwise.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Plagiarism is defined as taking and presenting, as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind

when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.

- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment.
- Communicating test information with another person during an examination.
- Allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment.
- Using a commercial term paper service.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES- DSPS (Disabled Student Programs and Services)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSPS office is located in [Building 2100](#), telephone [760-355-6313](#) if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre -paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a full-time mental health counselor. For information click here. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in [Room 2109](#), telephone [760-355-6310](#).

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please click here to refer to the IVC General Catalog available online.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials by clicking here.

ACCESSIBILITY

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

SPRING 2018 COURSE CALENDAR: Assignments and Topics

Week #1 Feb. 12 - 16

ASSIGNMENTS: Introduction to Course

TOPICS: Buy textbook(s): Essentials of Comparative Politics 7th ed. O'N

****Week #2 Feb. 19 – 23 (President's Day- Mon. 2/19- NO CLASS)**

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 1: Introduction

Week #3 Feb. 26 – Mar. 2

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 2: States

Week #4 Mar. 5 - 9

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 3: Nations and Society

Week #5 Mar. 12 - 16

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 4: Political Economy

Week #6 Mar. 19 - 23

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes

****Week #7 Mar. 26 - 30**

ASSIGNMENTS: **Exam 1 (Chp's 1 – 5)**

TOPICS: Read Chapter 6: Nondemocratic Regimes

****SPRING BREAK!!!! Apr. 2 – 6 (No Class)**

Week #8 Apr. 9 - 13

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 7: Political Violence

Week #9 Apr. 16 - 20

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 8: Advanced Democracies

Week #10 Apr. 23 - 27

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapter 9: Communism and Post-Communism

****Week #11 Apr. 30 – May 4**

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

Exam 2 (Chp's 6 – 11)

ASSIGNMENTS: O'Neil: Essentials of Comparative Politics

TOPICS: Read Chapters 10 & 11

- Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries
- Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics

****Week #12 May 7 – 11**

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation 1

Week #13 May 14 - 18

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation 1

Week #14 May 21 - 25

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation 1

Week #15 May 28 – Jun. 1 (Memorial Day- Mon. 5/28- NO CLASS)

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation 2

****Week #16 Jun. 4 - 8 Finals Week (Turn in Simulation Projects)**

ASSIGNMENTS: Simulation 2