

# COMPARATIVE POLITICS, POLS104

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, SPRING (2020, ONLINE)

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**Office Hours:** M/W 8:30-9:30 AM &  
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## COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

Welcome to our course! We begin our journey by exploring the nature of comparative politics, the nation-state, and democratic institutions by way of an in-depth analysis of the United Kingdom. As we continue on in our journey, we will compare what we have learned with communist nation-states through a detailed examination of China's unique social development, institutions, and political economy. Finally, we will complete our comparative journey with an investigation of Non-Western Nation-States by exploring political violence, the economic and social challenges of developing countries, and the impact of globalization on Mexico. By the time you have finished this course, you will have an improved understanding of Comparative Politics, the unique features of European democracies, Communist and non-western nations, and more!

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## TEXTS

- Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields & Don Share, *Cases & Concepts in Comparative Politics: An Integrated Approach*, ISBN: 0393631303
- All other course readings will be posted on Canvas

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## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to describe the major historical features of different nations, and explain their role in each nation's political development; for example, a European democracy, a Communist nation, and a different, non-western nation;
- describe and analyze the essential social, cultural, economic, and ideological factors contributing to the political systems of different nations; for example, a European democracy, a Communist nation, and a different, non-western nation;
- describe, compare and contrast the fundamental political institutions of different nations; for example, a European democracy, a Communist nation, and a different, non-western nation.

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## COURSE GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Course Exams	(70%)
Discussion Posts	(10%)
Reading Quizzes	(5%)
Institutions In Action (IIAs)	(15%)

**COURSE EXAMS (70%):** There are three course exams in this course. I will provide you with 3-5 essay questions in advance of the exam to review and consider how to best demonstrate what you have learned from the course. When you open the exam link, only one of these questions will be randomly selected (you will not all get the same question). Each Course exam will open the Wednesday before it is due, and you have until the following Sunday at 11pm to complete it. Once you start the exam you will have 45 minutes to complete it—not nearly enough time to write a quality essay, so the **only workable approach is to have thorough answers already prepared for each possible question in advance.** Strict plagiarism standards will be observed.

**READING QUIZES (5%):** Weekly reading quizzes will directly relate to the week's readings, lectures, and supplemental videos. All reading quizzes will open on the Monday before they are due and must be completed by the following Saturday at 11pm. **Quizzes cannot be reopened once closed,** so do not wait until the deadline! You will have the opportunity to **make one missed quiz up** at the end of the course, which will otherwise serve as extra credit.

**DISCUSSION POSTS (10%):** As members of a democratic society, it is important that we engage in deliberative exchanges. To help facilitate said exchanges, I will ask you to participate in weekly discussion via Canvas. Discussion forums will open the Monday of each new module—**initial topic replies are due the following Wednesday at 11pm** and **peer replies are due the following Saturday at 11pm.** I will ensure that our discussions are respectful, interactive, and enjoyable. Strict plagiarism standards will be used for these posts, so please be aware that you will need to show originality of thought. **Discussion posts cannot be made up,** so don't wait until the deadlines!

**INSTITUTIONS IN ACTION (15%):** Each chapter of your textbook includes a section called Institutions in Action. These assignments will connect what you are learning to real life examples and allow you to voice your views—I hope you will find them engaging! You will have the opportunity to **make up one missed IIA** at the end of the semester, which will otherwise serve as extra credit. Please note that all submissions made via Canvas are **subject to a plagiarism software inspection,** instances of plagiarism may result in a 0 for the assignment and/or further sanctions. **IIAs are due each Saturday at 11pm,** unless otherwise specified in our class schedule below. Please note you must submit this document as Word doc or PDF (Pages, Google Docs, and links cannot be accepted).

## COMMUNICATION

- **The best way to contact me is through Canvas email (do not use assignment comment option, as I may not respond).** I will generally respond to emails Monday – Friday between 7am – 5:30pm within 24 hours of receiving them. If you do not receive a response, resend, use my email or call my office: 760-355-6288.
- Email should be used to schedule online office appointments, for short questions clarifying assignments or specific lecture items. **In-depth questions about course readings or an entire lecture, etc. are not appropriate for e-mail.** Questions which are answered on the syllabus **will typically not receive a response**—for general questions, use the **Canvas Q/A forum** or **consult your peers first**.
- Scores of all assignments & exams will be posted on Canvas. If you wish to discuss your grade, please communicate via Canvas or schedule office hours with me

## DROP POLICY

- In distance education, coursework is used to determine your attendance (e.g. class discussions, completed assignments, etc.). Students who fail to submit substantive coursework by due dates, engage in regular & effective coursework (see class schedule) or **complete the first day assignment may be dropped from the class.**

## STUDENT CONDUCT & ONLINE NETIQUETTE

- In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Therefore, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from one another. Please **respect each other's opinions** and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments **of any kind**.
- Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Our rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

## LATE WORK POLICY

- Extensions will only be granted under extenuating circumstances. Excuses that may prove acceptable include: serious injury & family emergencies, serious accident, or the observance of a religious holiday. In order to be excused, you will need to email the original documentation. Unexcused late work may be accepted, but will incur a 1/2 grade penalty for each 24-hour period or part thereof.

## MISSING ASSIGNMENTS, GRADE CHALLENGES & SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

- You are responsible for any work lost or late due to technical problems.
- Missing assignments and requests to re-grade must be reported/requested **within one week of the assessment being graded.** Grade challenges must be accompanied with detailed explanation & evidence justifying the request.
- My lectures & all course materials are protected by copyright and may not be reproduced or distributed without my written consent. Please be advised that this syllabus is “subject to change,” any changes will be announced via Canvas.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

WEEK #	TOPIC & LEARNING OBJECTIVES	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Week #1</b> 2/18	<b>Introduction to Our Course</b>	Syllabus	<b>Complete Discussion # 1 by 11 pm Weds. to avoid being dropped</b>  <b>Get 10/10 on syllabus quiz to open next module</b>
<b>Week #2</b> 2/24	<b>What is Comparative Politics?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe comparative politics &amp; differentiate it from other areas of study like international relations.</li> <li>2. Explain the methods political scientists use when trying to understand politics around the world &amp; discuss the 7 major challenges they face.</li> <li>3. Discuss the role &amp; importance of institutions in political life.</li> <li>4. Compare freedom &amp; equality &amp; consider how politics reconciles the two across countries.</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts, Chapter 1</i>	<b>Discussion #2 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b>  <b>Reading Quiz &amp; IIA #1 Sat by 11 pm</b>
<b>Part I: Democratic Nation-States: United Kingdom</b>			
<b>Week #3</b> 3/2	<b>The United Kingdom &amp; The State</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the political history and political development of the United Kingdom</li> <li>2. Examine the unique features of the United Kingdom's political regime, &amp; society</li> <li>3. Explain the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics.</li> <li>4. Discuss the origins of political organization &amp; key differences</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts, pp. 202- 231 &amp; Chapter 2</i>	<b>Discussion #3 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b>  <b>Reading Quiz &amp; IIA #2 Sat by 11 pm</b>

	<p>between state, regime &amp; government.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the rise of the modern state.</li> <li>Analyze how states can vary in autonomy &amp; capacity, &amp; how this can shape their power.</li> </ol>		
<b>Week #4</b> 3/9	<p><b>Democratic Regimes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define democracy &amp; explain its essential components.</li> <li>Discuss the various explanations concerning why democracy has emerged in some cases &amp; not in others.</li> <li>Distinguish among parliamentary, presidential &amp; semi-presidential democracies.</li> <li>Evaluate the differences between plurality, majority &amp; proportional electoral systems.</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 6	<p><b>Discussion #4 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Reading Quiz &amp; IIA #3 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<b>Week #5</b> 3/16	<p><b>Developed Democracies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the characteristics of developed democracies</li> <li>Analyze how political, economic, and social institutions differ within them.</li> <li>Analyze how developed democracies have faced challenges to sovereignty &amp; the rise of postmodern values</li> <li>Evaluate the challenges faced by the developed democracies' postindustrial economics institutions.</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 7	<p><b>Discussion #5 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Reading Quiz &amp; IIA #4 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<b>Week #6</b> 3/23	<b>***Course Exam #1***</b>	Study Guide	<b>Course Exam #1 Due Sunday by 11 pm</b>
<b>Part II: Communist Nation-States: China</b>			

<p><b>Week #7</b> 3/30</p>	<p><b>China, Nations and Society</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the political history and political development of China</li> <li>2. Examine the unique features of China’s political regime, &amp; society</li> <li>3. Understand the components of ethnic identity &amp; the ways that national identity binds people together.</li> <li>4. Distinguish citizenship &amp; patriotism in their relationship to the state.</li> <li>5. Distinguish political ideologies, attitudes, &amp; culture regarding the goal of politics.</li> <li>6. Define political culture and analyze its influence on society</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, pp. 444 – 479 &amp; Chapter 3</p>	<p><b>Discussion #6 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Quiz #5 &amp; IIA #5 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Week #8</b> 4/6</p>	<p><b>Political Economy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how states are involved in the management of markets &amp; property.</li> <li>2. Discuss how states provide public goods &amp; related debates</li> <li>3. Distinguish between political-economic systems in how they reconcile freedom &amp; equality.</li> <li>4. Show Compare different political-economic systems through human development, wealth, &amp; inequality.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, Chapter 4</p>	<p><b>Discussion #7 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Quiz #6 &amp; IIA #6 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Week #9</b> 4/13</p>	<p><b>***BREAK***</b></p>		
<p><b>Week #10</b> 4/20</p>	<p><b>Nondemocratic Regimes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contrast authoritarian &amp; totalitarian regimes.</li> <li>2. Analyze competing theories for the emergence &amp; perseverance of nondemocratic regimes.</li> <li>3. Contrast authoritarian &amp; totalitarian regimes.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, Chapter 8</p>	<p><b>Discussion #8 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Quiz #7 &amp; IIA #7 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>

	4. Analyze competing theories for the emergence & perseverance of nondemocratic regimes.		
<b>Week #11</b> 4/27	<b>Communism and Postcommunism</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the foundations of communist ideology.</li> <li>2. Describe how communist systems sought to eliminate inequality.</li> <li>3. Analyze the effects of state control over markets &amp; property.</li> <li>4. Compare how postcommunist states have transformed their political, economic &amp; social institutions.</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , Chapter 9	<b>Discussion #9 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b>  <b>Quiz #8 &amp; IIA #8 Sat by 11 pm</b>
<b>Week #12</b> 5/4	<b>***Course Exam #2***</b>	Study Guide	<b>Course Exam #2 Due Sunday by 11 pm</b>
<b>Part III Non-Western Nation-States: Mexico</b>			
<b>Week #13</b> 5/11	<b>Mexico &amp; Political Violence</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the political history and political development of Mexico</li> <li>2. Examine the unique features of Mexico's political regime, &amp; society</li> <li>3. Define political violence &amp; explain the factors that contribute to it.</li> <li>4. Examine the difference between descriptive vs explanatory approaches.</li> <li>5. Compare revolution &amp; terrorism as forms of political violence</li> <li>6. Discuss the dominant explanations for why political violence happens.</li> </ol>	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp. 568 – 599 & Chapter 5	<b>Discussion #10 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b>  <b>Quiz #9 &amp; IIA #9 Sat by 11 pm</b>

<p><b>Week #14</b> 5/18</p>	<p><b>Developing Countries</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the key characteristics of developing countries.</li> <li>2. Consider how imperialism and colonialism have affected developing countries' state, societal, and economic institutions.</li> <li>3. Compare how post-imperial countries have suffered from ethnic and national division, limited economic growth, and weak states.</li> <li>4. Evaluate and critique (a) societal, economic, and political institutions and policies as pathways to development and democracy; and (b) the role of the international community in fostering or hindering change.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 10</p>	<p><b>Discussion #11 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Quiz #10 &amp; IIA #10 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Week #15</b> 5/26</p>	<p><b>Globalization and the future of Democratic Politics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe how political globalization challenges sovereignty.</li> <li>2. Compare how economic globalization can transform markets and property within and between countries.</li> <li>3. Analyze how societal globalization may undermine old identities and create new ones.</li> <li>4. Evaluate whether globalization is new, exaggerated, or inevitable.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 11</p>	<p><b>Discussion #12 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Quiz #11 &amp; IIA #11 Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Week #16</b> 6/1</p>	<p><b>Concluding Thoughts &amp; Comparative Documentary</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reflect on what we have learned over the semester</li> <li>2. Look forward to the future of comparative politics</li> <li>3. TBA</li> <li>4. TBA</li> </ol>	<p><i>TBA</i></p>	<p><b>Discussion #13 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p> <p><b>Extra Credit Documentary Quiz Sat by 11 pm</b></p>

<p><b>Week #17</b> 6/8</p>	<p><b>**Course Exam #3**</b></p>	<p>Study Guide</p>	<p><b>Course Exam #3 Due Sunday by 11 pm</b></p>
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## **GENERAL POLICIES & INFORMATION**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

**Plagiarism** is to take and present 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 correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help. **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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating or 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. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

### **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 DSP&S 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.

- **[Student Health Center](#)**. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **[Mental Health Counseling Services](#)**. Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please

contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

### **ATTENDANCE**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### **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 refer to the IVC General Catalog available at [http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762)

### **INFORMATION LITERACY**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

### **VETERANS CENTER**

The mission of the IVC Military and Veteran Success Center is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

### **EXTENDED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM AND SERVICES (EOPS)**

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal

issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population. Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, [lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu](mailto:lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu).

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, [alexis.ayala@imperial.edu](mailto:alexis.ayala@imperial.edu).

### **STUDENT EQUITY PROGRAMS**

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.