

COMPARATIVE POLITICS, POLS104

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, SPRING, 2019

Professor: Steven Paul Cauchon

Phone: 760-355-6288

Office Hours: M/W 3-4 PM, T/Th 11-12 PM

Office: 1713

Twitter: @S_Cauchon

Email: steven.cauchon@imperial.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

Welcome to our course! We will begin our journey by discussing some of the fundamental themes, concepts & questions that guide the study of politics. Can we really have a science of politics? Can political science help us explain why certain unexpected events take place? With so many opinions out there, are there constructive ways to navigate the noise and get to the facts? As we continue on in our journey, we will take a look at different political institutions around the world, their historical development, & engage in number of comparisons. By the time you have finished this course, you will have an improved understanding of Comparative Politics, our global community, a more well developed political voice, & perhaps an increased interest in exploring this truly intriguing world on your own!

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 (Course Readings File) and within each module, so make sure to consult the schedule and/or Canvas.

COURSE GRADING & REQUIREMENTS¹

Midterm (4/3) & Final (6/5)	(40%)
Active Learning Assignments (ALAs)	(15%)
Course Paper Part 1 (5/22)	(5%)
Course Paper Part 2 (5/31)	(20%)
Institutions In Action (IIAs)	(15%)
Learning Quizzes	(5%)

¹ Please note I reserve the right to make any necessary changes to the above assignments in order to accommodate class progress and/or scheduling changes.

MIDTERM & FINAL (40%): You will be given a midterm & final in this course. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, & quote/clause identification. That being said, you should expect exams that ask you to do more than simply memorize content. The final exam will not be cumulative!

ACTIVE LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS (15%): Each week there will be an active learning component, which asks you to be in class, engage the material, and be an active participant in your own education. At times you will be asked to work in groups, with a partner, or complete a written task alone—the goal is put you at the center of your educational experience. **All ALAs must be submitted in class and cannot be completed if you are absent that day (even for excused absences).** You will have opportunities to **makeup two missed ALAs**, which will otherwise serve as extra credit.

INSTITUTIONS IN ACTION (15%): Each chapter of your textbook includes a section called Institutions in Action. Please check the below class Assignment Schedule for due dates. 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 Vericite inspection**, which checks for all forms of plagiarism. instances of plagiarism may result in a 0 for the assignment or an F in the class.

LESSON QUIZES (5%): You are also required to complete weekly lesson quizzes via Canvas. **This class is web enhanced, so you will need to have regular access to Canvas in order to succeed.** The quizzes directly relate to that week's readings/lectures and will help you prepare for the course exams, written assignments, & discussions. All lesson quizzes will open on the Friday before they are due and must be completed by the date specified on the below class Assignment Schedule. Quizzes cannot be made up or reopened once closed, so do not wait until the deadline!

COURSE PAPER PART 1 (5%): To help improve your writing skills & research abilities, this paper will be broken up into two parts. **The first part** will have you develop a thesis, an introduction, and an outline for what will ultimately become your final paper. In addition, you will locate three scholarly sources and create a work cited page.

POSITION PAPER PART 2 (20%): After you have had a chance to outline your paper, you will flesh out the body of essay and elaborate on your preliminary evidence in the **second part of this assignment** (see paper prompt for more details). This assignment must be 5-6 pages (not including the work cited page) upon completion and must be submitted via Canvas (paper and email submission will not be accepted). Please note that all submissions made via Canvas are **subject to a Vericite inspection**, which checks for all forms of plagiarism. **It is your responsibility to cite appropriately**—instances of plagiarism may result in a 0 for the assignment, an F in the class, and additional college sanctions (see General Policies for more details).

EXPECTATIONS & IMPORTANT POLICIES²

ATTENDANCE

- As you are allowed to makeup two ALAs, please consider these pre-excused absences. Anything beyond this will **require an office visit with myself and supporting documentation**. I will not respond to emails that pertain to absences unless you speak with me in person first.
- Without discussing it with me ahead of time, **if you are more than 5 minutes late or leave more than 5 minutes early, you will not receive credit for any assignments completed in class that day**—please be respectful of **our time**.

EMAIL POLICY

- Email should be used to schedule an appointment outside of office hours, for short questions clarifying class assignments or specific lecture items. **In-depth questions about course readings or an entire day's lecture, etc. are not appropriate for e-mail**. Questions which are answered on the syllabus **will not receive a response**—for general questions, use the **Canvas Q/A forum** or **consult your peers first**.
- To protect the privacy of student grades, I will not discuss scores of assignments, papers, or exams over the phone or email. Scores of all assignments, papers & exams will be posted on Canvas. If you wish to discuss your grade, please visit me during office hours. My door is always open!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES & CLASS CONDUCT

- Students using phones during lecture for purposes not related to class activities will be asked to leave class and will likely **not receive credit for any assignments completed in class that day**—please step outside if you must use your phone.
- 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**.

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE CHALLENGES

- 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.

COPYRIGHT & SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

- 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.

² See end of syllabus for more details on college and course policies

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

WK	DATE	TOPIC & LEARNING OBJECTIVES	READING	ASSIGNMENT
1	Feb. 11	Intro to Course	Syllabus	
	Feb. 13	What is Comparative Politics? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe comparative politics & differentiate it from other areas of study like international relations. 2. Explain the methods political scientists use when trying to understand politics around the world & discuss the 7 major challenges they face. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp. 2-13	
2	Feb. 18	**NO CLASS**		
	Feb. 20	What is Comparative Politics? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the role & importance of institutions in political life. 2. Compare freedom & equality & consider how politics reconciles the two across countries. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp. 13-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1 Due Feb. 22 • IIA #1 Due Feb. 24
3	Feb. 25	Defining the State <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. 2. Discuss the origins of political organization & key differences between state, regime & government. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.24-34	
	Feb. 27	Defining the State <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the rise of the modern state. 2. Analyze how states can vary in autonomy & capacity, & how this can shape their power. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.34-51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 Due March 1 • IIA #2 Due March 3

4	March 4	Nations and Society 1. Understand the components of ethnic identity & the ways that national identity binds people together. 2. Distinguish citizenship & patriotism in their relationship to the state.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.52-66	
	March 6	Nations and Society 1. Distinguish political ideologies, attitudes, & culture regarding the goal of politics. 2. Define political culture and analyze its influence on society	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.66-81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3 Due March 8 • IIA #3 Due March 10
5	March 11	Political Economy 1. Explain how states are involved in the management of markets & property. 2. Discuss how states provide public goods & related debates.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.82-101	
	March 13	Political Economy 1. Distinguish between political-economic systems in how they reconcile freedom & equality. 2. Show Compare different political-economic systems through human development, wealth, & inequality.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.116-136	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 Due March 15 • IIA #4 Due March 17
6	March 18	Political Violence 1. Define political violence & explain the factors that contribute to it. 2. Compare revolution & terrorism as forms of political violence.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.136-141	
	March 20	Political Violence 1. Discuss the dominant explanations for why political violence happens.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.101-115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5 Due March 22 • IIA #5 Due March 24
7	March 25	Democratic Regimes	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.142-152	

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define democracy & explain its essential components. 2. Discuss the various explanations concerning why democracy has emerged in some cases & not in others. 		
	March 27	Democratic Regimes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish among parliamentary, presidential & semi-presidential democracies. 2. Evaluate the differences between plurality, majority & proportional electoral systems. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.152-173	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #6 Due March 29 • IIA #6 Due March 31
8	April 1	Midterm Review	Study Guide	
	April 3	***Midterm***		***Midterm***
9	April 8	Developed Democracies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define democracy & explain its essential components. 2. Discuss the various explanations concerning why democracy has emerged in some cases & not in others. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.174-194	
	April 10	Developed Democracies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the rise of postmodern values. 2. Evaluate the challenges faced by the developed democracies' postindustrial economics institutions. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.194-201	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #7 Due April 12 • IIA #7 Due April 14
10	April 15	Nondemocratic Regimes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contrast authoritarian & totalitarian regimes. 2. Analyze competing theories for the emergence & perseverance of nondemocratic regimes. 	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.354-373	

	April 17	Nondemocratic Regimes 1. Contrast authoritarian & totalitarian regimes. 2. Analyze competing theories for the emergence & perseverance of nondemocratic regimes.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #8 Due April 19 • IIA #8 Due April 21
11	April 22-27	**Spring Break**		
12	April 29	Comparative Documentary 1. TBD 2. TBD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Extra Credit Documentary Quiz
	May 1	Paper Workshop 1. Discuss tools and strategies for writing an excellent research paper 2. Workshop ideas for your paper and where to locate sources	Position Paper Prompt	
13	May 6	Communism and Postcommunism 1. Discuss the foundations of communist ideology. 2. Describe how communist systems sought to eliminate inequality.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.382-402	
	May 8	Communism and Postcommunism 1. Analyze the effects of state control over markets & property. 2. Compare how postcommunist states have transformed their political, economic & social institutions.	<i>Cases and Concepts</i> , pp.402-415	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #9 Due May 10 • IIA #9 Due May 12

14	May 13	<p>Developing Countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the key characteristics of developing countries. 2. Consider how imperialism and colonialism have affected developing countries' state, societal, and economic institutions. 	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, pp.480-499</p>	
	May 15	<p>Developing Countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare how post-imperial countries have suffered from ethnic and national division, limited economic growth, and weak states. 2. 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. 	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, pp.499-509</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #10 Due May 17 • IIA #10 Due May 19
15	May 20	<p>Globalization and the future of Democratic Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how political globalization challenges sovereignty. 2. Compare how economic globalization can transform markets and property within and between countries. 		
	May 22	<p>Globalization and the future of Democratic Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze how societal globalization may undermine old identities and create new ones. 2. Evaluate whether globalization is new, exaggerated, or inevitable. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Position Paper Part 1</u> Due in Class & Via Canvas May 22 • Quiz #11 Due May 24 • IIA #11 Due May 26

16	May 27	**No Class**		
	May 29	Peer Review and Edits 1. Discuss how to effectively give and receive peer feedback 2. Provide and receive peer feedback on Position Paper outline	<i>Peer Review Handout</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers due May 31 via Canvas
17	June 3	Final Review		
	June 5	**Final Exam**		**Final Exam**

GENERAL POLICIES

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. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/> . 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 refer to the IVC General Catalog available at

http://www.imrial.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-andprograms/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>