

## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Fall 2024</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Dr. Steven Cauchon</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>POLS 104, Comparative Pol.</b>	Email:	<b>Steven.cauchon@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:		Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	<b>NA</b>	Office #:	<b>1713</b>
Class Dates:	<b>Fall 2024</b>	Office Hours:	<b>M. 8-10 AM &amp; 1-3 PM via Zoom</b>
Class Days:	<b>NA</b>	Office Phone #:	<b>760-355-6288</b>
Class Times:	Asynchronous	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3	Class Format:	

## Course Description

*A comparative study of modern political systems. Emphasis upon patterns of political action and problems of decision-making in various cultural contexts.*

*Welcome to our course! We will begin our journey by discussing the origin, development and operation of government and political institutions in the United States. As we continue on, you will learn more about the foundation of the American regime and the ideas, interests, & circumstances that helped shape it. You will also learn to analyze political behavior and the formal structures and institutions that make up the American political system. Throughout this journey, we will engage some of today's most pressing issues: immigration, gun control, and the rise of social media in politics. By the time you have finished this course, you will have an improved understanding of American politics, a more developed political voice, and an increased interest in civic engagement!*

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe different instruments of US foreign policy, give examples of their use, explain the role of different institutions in crafting foreign policy, describe different explanations for why a particular policy was made, and evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of that policy.
- Develop an understanding of the world community.
- Compare and contrast national governments around the world.
- Participate in activities that promote global good (e.g., community service, bi-national community service, international charities).

## Course Objectives

- *Identify and describe the purpose of comparative politics.*
- *Explain the methodology for comparing the political systems of major countries with that of the United States.*
- *Describe the political system of Great Britain including its history and traditions, political process, political institutions and public policy.*
- *Summarize the key elements of the political system of France such as its political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.*

- *Discuss the government of West Germany and elaborate on West Germany's history and socioeconomic setting, political process, political institutions and public policy.*
- *Demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of the government of the Soviet Union including the political environment, the Communist party, the political process and institutions, and domestic and foreign policies.*
- *Describe the political system of China focusing on the political environment, the state and the Communist party, the support system, and its public policy and foreign relations.*
- *Demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of the government of Japan including Japan's political development, political process, political institutions and public policy.*

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields & Don Share, *Cases & Concepts in Comparative Politics: An Integrated Approach, Third Ed.* ISBN: 978-1-324-04669-1

### Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

**Discussion posts (15%):** *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. To ensure that we are presenting claims/positions based on evidence, **your posts are expected to cite our textbook and/or the module's associated video(s) in your initial post** (see assignment instructions in Canvas). Please let me know if you encounter any post that violate our netiquette policy (see below). Strict plagiarism standards and software is used to check these posts. Please note that I grade whatever initial post students submit to gain access to the discussion forum (even if it is blank, incomplete, etc.) and that posts are not editable, once submitted. **Discussion posts can't be made up.** However, recognizing that life happens, **I will drop your lowest discussion post grade automatically** (so there is no need to email why you were unable to post or request any extensions).*

**Course Exams (75%):** *You will be given three course exams for this course. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, & quote/clause identification. **The material you will be tested on will be drawn from the readings, lectures, and any supplemental videos associated with the Learning Unit in which each exam is located** (see Assignment Schedule for further details). You should expect exams that ask you to do more than simply memorize content. Consequently, you will have an entire week to review, prepare for and take the exam, via Canvas, at your own pace (See below schedule for due dates).*

**Case study (10%):** *A common method used in comparative politics is the in-depth case study. While this method may lack generalizability, it can help us better understand what specific mechanisms are at play in a given case. For the assignment, you will produce an in-depth case study on a country of your choosing (except the U.S. & Mexico), focusing on specific concept/theme from this course (e.g. democracy in Russia, ethnic conflict in Sudan, etc.). **The details of this assignment are provided via Canvas and will become available after Course Exam #1.***

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

<i>Discussion Posts (Weekly)</i>	(15%)
<i>Course Exam #1 (Module 6)</i>	(25%)
<i>Course Exam #2 (Module 11)</i>	(25%)
<i>Course Exam #3 (Module 16)</i>	(25%)
<i>Case Study (Module 16)</i>	(10%)

## Course Policies

### COMMUNICATION

- *The best way to contact me is through email. 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, please resend 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, an entire lecture, etc. are appropriate for office hours, not e-mail. For general questions, please consult the syllabus first and/or use the Cougar Courses Q/A forum or consult your peers first.*
- *Scores of all assignments & exams will be posted on Cougar Courses. If you wish to discuss your grade, please communicate via Cougar Courses or office hours.*
- *If you need accommodations due to disabilities, unforeseen circumstances, etc. be proactive—I can better assist you before, rather than after assignments are due.*

### DROP POLICY

- *In distance education, our coursework is used to determine your attendance. Students who fail to submit substantive coursework by due dates or complete assignments on the first day may be dropped from the class. Please refer to the class schedule for specific attendance & effective coursework requirements.*

### 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 are 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 at my discretion.*

### 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.*

### Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

## IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

MODULE # & DATE	TOPIC & LEARNING OBJECTIVES	READING	ASSIGNMENT
	Learning Unit #1 Democratic Nation-States: United Kingdom		
Module #1 8/12	Intro to Course	Syllabus	Complete Discussion # 1 by 11 pm Weds. to avoid being dropped
Module #2 8/19	Understanding Our Role as Citizens & Scientists in Comparative Politics 1. Describe the key concepts of comparative politics. 2. Examine the methodological challenges associated with Western bias & scientific	<i>Cases and Concepts, Chapter 1</i>	Discussion #2 Wed/Sat by 11 pm



	<p>rigor in the comparative approach.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Discuss the role &amp; importance of institutions in political life.</li> <li>4. Explore the normative and empirical tension between freedom &amp; equality in comparative politics.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Module #3</b> 8/26</p>	<p><b>Defining the State: From Tribes to Colonial Imposition</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics.</li> <li>2. Discuss the origins of political organizations &amp; associated philosophical foundations.</li> <li>3. Critically engage dominant narratives associated with the rise of modern states.</li> <li>4. Analyze how states vary in autonomy, capacity, &amp; how this shapes their power.</li> <li>5. Understand the political history and political development of the United Kingdom</li> <li>6. Examine the unique features of the United Kingdom's political regime, &amp; society</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, pp. 202- 231 &amp; Chapter 2</p>	<p><b>Discussion #3</b> Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>
<p><b>Module #4</b> 9/3</p>	<p><b>Democratic Regimes: Elites, Society, &amp; Culture</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define democracy &amp; explain its essential components.</li> <li>2. Critically engage the various explanations concerning why democracy has emerged in some cases &amp; not in others.</li> <li>3. Distinguish among parliamentary, presidential &amp; semi-presidential democracies.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, Chapter 6</p>	<p><b>Discussion #4</b> Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>



	<p>4. Evaluate the differences between plurality, majority &amp; proportional electoral systems.</p>		
<p>Module #5 9/9</p>	<p>Developed Democracies &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the characteristics of developed democracies and analyze how political, economic, &amp; social institutions differ within them.</li> <li>Critically engage trends in integration and devolution within and between developed democracies.</li> <li>Analyze the challenges developed democracies face regarding sovereignty, the rise of postmodern values, &amp; postindustrial economic institutions.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 7</p>	<p>Discussion #5 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>
<p>Module #6 9/16</p>	<p>***Course Exam #1***</p>		<p>Course Exam #1 Due Satday @ 11 pm</p>
	<p>Learning Unit #2 Communist Nation-States: China</p>		
<p>Module #7 9/23</p>	<p>China, Nations and Society</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the political history and political development of China</li> <li>Examine the unique features of China's political regime, &amp; society</li> <li>Understand the components of ethnic identity &amp; the ways that national identity binds people together.</li> <li>Distinguish citizenship &amp; patriotism in their relationship to the state.</li> <li>Distinguish political ideologies, attitudes, &amp; culture regarding the goal of politics.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> pp. 444 – 479 &amp; Chapter 3</p>	<p>Discussion #6 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>



	<p><b>6. Define political culture and analyze its influence on society</b></p>		
<p><b>Module #8 9/30</b></p>	<p><b>Political Economy: GDP, Inequality, &amp; Happiness</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. Critically engage what is at stake between different political-economic systems using human development, wealth, &amp; inequality metrics</li> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 4</p>	<p><b>Discussion #7 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Module #9 10/7</b></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. Explain how nondemocratic regimes maintain power.</li> <li>4. Distinguish between personal, monarchical, military, one-party, theocratic &amp; illiberal 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>Module #10 10/14</b></p>	<p><b>Communism and Postcommunism</b></p> <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> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts,</i> Chapter 9</p>	<p><b>Discussion #9 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</b></p>



	<p>4. Compare how postcommunist states have transformed their political, economic &amp; social institutions.</p>		
<p>Module #11 10/21</p>	<p>***Course Exam #2***</p>		<p>Course Exam #2 Due Satday @ 11 pm</p>
	<p>Learning Unit #3 Non-Western Nation-States: Mexico</p>		
<p>Module #12 10/28</p>	<p>Mexico &amp; Political Violence</p> <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>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, pp. 568 – 599 &amp; Chapter 5</p>	<p>Discussion #10 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>
<p>Module #13 11/4</p>	<p>Developing Countries</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> </ol>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts</i>, Chapter 10</p>	<p>Discussion #11 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>





	<p>3. Compare how post-imperial countries have suffered from ethnic and national division, limited economic growth, and weak states</p> <p>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</p>		
<p>Module #14 11/12</p>	<p>Comparative Documentary</p> <p>1. Analyze the problems associated with democratic politics</p> <p>2. Discuss the key challenges democracies</p>	<p><i>After Democracy: What Now (available Canvas)?</i></p>	<p>Discussion #12 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>
<p>Module #15 11/18</p>	<p>Globalization and the Future of Democratic Politics</p> <p>1. Describe how political globalization challenges sovereignty.</p> <p>2. Compare how economic globalization can transform markets and property within and between countries.</p> <p>3. Analyze how societal globalization may undermine old identities and create new ones.</p> <p>4. Evaluate whether globalization is new, exaggerated, or inevitable.</p>	<p><i>Cases and Concepts, Chapter 11</i></p>	<p>Discussion #13 Wed/Sat by 11 pm</p>
<p>11/25</p>	<p>***BREAK***</p>		
<p>Module #16 12/2</p>	<p>**Course Exam #3 &amp; Case Study**</p>		<p>Case Study Due Thursday @ 11 PM</p> <p>Course Exam #3 Due Satday @ 11 pm</p>

\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*



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