

BLO

2014–2015 Academic Year
Winter Session



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 359 LEC 1

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR Chris W. J. Roberts
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OFFICE SS 702
EMAIL christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca
WEBSITE <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>
OFFICE HOURS Wednesday 12:00-13:00 & 14:00-15:00 / Friday 12:00-13:00
LECTURE LOCATION SA 104
LECTURE TIMES MWF 13:00-13:50
TEACHING ASSISTANT Paul Boakye / Email: paul.boakye@ucalgary.ca / SS 715

COURSE DESCRIPTION This core comparative politics course will provide students with a thorough introduction to the comparative method in political science. This approach examines the interplay of historical and contemporary domestic and external forces on the politics (or political economy) of a given state or political community, deploying explicitly comparative strategies in an effort to analyze, understand, explain, and/or test hypotheses related to interesting research questions and puzzles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES To instil specialized knowledge and pertinent vocabulary about the theories and concepts used in the study of comparative politics.

To develop the analytical skills to integrate theory, method, and evidence to improve understanding and explanation of political organization, conflict, and change.

To enable students to devise appropriate research designs (including generation of research questions, literature reviews, hypotheses, and assessments of alternative theories) to deepen political analysis, enhance research capability, and improve critical writing skills.

To prepare students to undertake more advanced comparative, regional, and thematic courses in political science.

**REQUIRED
TEXTBOOK
AND/OR
MATERIALS**

One required textbook can be purchased at the University Bookstore: J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). ****Used copies may be available****

Other recommended or optional readings will be listed on D2L.

**GRADE
DISTRIBUTION**

Comparative Research Design: Two components (10% & 15%)	25%
Conceptual review essay	15%
In-Class Tests (10% x 3)	30%
Scheduled Final Exam	30%
	100%

**Comparative
Research Design
(Two components,
worth 10% & 15%)**

This main project will entail a two stage, cumulative process whereby each student develops a comparative research design around a topic of their choosing. Full details of the assignment will be discussed in class with detailed guidelines posted on D2L, but will comprise the following components:

- (1) Research question with preliminary case selection and rationale, brief literature review, and assessment of alternative arguments (10%)
- (2) Research design including above plus hypotheses, specific methods to be employed with rationale, and strategy for selecting and gathering appropriate evidence (15%)

Note: A 5 percent per day penalty will be assessed for missed research design deadlines (i.e., Friday, Feb. 13th and Friday, April 10th)

**Conceptual review
essay (15%)**

At various times during the term (5 to 6 opportunities), the instructor will provide essay questions related to specific themes, readings, and lectures. Students have to submit **one** 4-5 page (double-spaced, appropriately referenced) essay during the course of the term in response to one of these essay topics. Essay topics, with associated core readings, will be provided during selected Friday classes, with the essay due in class the following Friday (i.e., one week later, no late essays accepted). Detailed instructions and guidelines will be provided in class and via D2L.

**In-Class Tests
(10% each = 30%)**

Three closed-book tests will be conducted during the term, comprising multiple-choice and short answer questions:

- Test 1 will cover chapters 1-3 plus lectures and case studies discussed in class.
- Test 2 will cover chapters 7-10 plus lectures and case studies discussed in class.
- Test 3 will cover chapters 4-6 & 11 plus lectures and case studies

discussed in class.

**Scheduled Final Exam
(30%)**

This two hour, cumulative final exam—scheduled by the registrar in April—will include concepts, theories, and cases covered during the course. It will include multiple-choice, short and long answer questions. While cumulative, the multiple-choice section will be weighted towards those chapters and lectures not specifically covered by the three in-class tests.

(Closed book: no textbooks, notes, laptops, mobile phones, etc., permitted.)

GRADE SCALE

The Department of Political Science tries to ensure consistency of final grades across courses and sections. Variations in distribution will always be considered where called for by the performance in each individual class. The student does not have any 'right' to a certain grade, but is responsible for earning grades.

A+	=	95+	B+	=	80-84	C+	=	66-69	D+	=	54-57
A	=	90-94	B	=	75-79	C	=	62-65	D	=	50-53
A-	=	85-89	B-	=	70-74	C-	=	58-61	F	=	0-49

**CLASS
PREPARATION &
DESIRE2LEARN
(D2L)**

This is an intensive reading, writing, and research-oriented course. Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the schedule. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and be prepared for class discussion as applicable. Important information and additional readings are posted on Desire2Learn (D2L). Students should regularly check the Announcements section of Desire2Learn (D2L) for ongoing notices. It is the responsibility of the student to understand all concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you need clarification, please take the initiative to ask the instructor during class or office hours.

**CONTACTING
YOUR
INSTRUCTOR**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to their instructor during class or office hours. Should you wish to meet with the instructor outside of office hours, please telephone or email the instructor to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

**PROPER USE OF
EMAIL**

Email is commonly used by students to communicate with their instructor. However, it may limit the effectiveness of the communication and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions. A telephone call or personal meeting may be requested if necessary. If you have not received a reply to an email within 24 hours, please resend.

Recording Lectures:

Recording of lectures and labs is permitted for individual private study but only at the discretion of the instructor. Any other use of recording constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Please contact the instructor for further information.

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS:**Notes on Readings**

- **D&E** refers to the Dickovick & Eastwood textbook, *Comparative Politics*.
- Additional recommended and optional readings will be listed on D2L and are otherwise available via UCalgary scholarly journals or the internet.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)		
DATE	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1 Jan 12, 14, 16	Why Compare?	D&E Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 19, 21, 23	Compare how?	D&E Chapter 2
Week 3 Jan 26, 28	The State	D&E Chapter 3
Friday, Jan 30	Test One	
Week 4 Feb 2, 4, 6	Constitutional Design	D&E Chapter 7
Week 5 Feb 9, 11, 13	Legislatures & Executives	D&E Chapter 8 & 9
Friday, Feb 13	Research Design – Part One Due	
Feb 16-20	READING BREAK	
Week 6 Feb 23, 25	Political Parties, Political Systems, and Interest Groups	D&E Chapter 10
Friday, Feb 27	Test Two	
Week 7 Mar 2, 4, 6	Democracy	D&E Chapter 5
Week 8 Mar 9, 11, 13	Development & Political Economy	D&E Chapter 4
Week 9 Mar 16, 18, 20	Authoritarian Regimes & Democratic Breakdown	D&E Chapter 6

Week 10 Mar 23, 25	Revolutions & Political Contention	D&E Chapter 11
Friday, Mar 27	Test Three	
Week 11 Mar 30, Apr 1	Political Mobilization: Nationalism, Ethnicity, Gender, Ideology & Religion	D&E Chapter 12-14
Week 12 Apr 6, 8, 10	(continued)	D&E Chapter 12-14
Friday, Apr 10	Final Research Design Due (Also, last day to accept Conceptual Review Essay)	
Week 13 Apr 13, 15	Comparative Politics & International Relations Course Review	D&E Chapter 15
	FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR DURING APRIL EXAM PERIOD	

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

University Regulations

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>.

Writing

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

Academic Accommodation

Students are responsible for requesting academic accommodations and the first step in this process is to register with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>. Once registered, requests for accommodation should be discussed with the instructor within fourteen (14) days of the beginning of classes.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. **Plagiarism**, which involves the failure to properly acknowledge the contribution of others, can take several forms, including the failure to properly cite sources, the extensive use of paraphrasing, the buying of papers, and the submission of a single piece of work in two separate courses. **Cheating** also takes many forms including communicating with others during tests and exams, the use of material not authorized by the instructor during exams, and allowing others to view your examination paper or attempting to read the examination papers of others. Students are also cautioned that lectures and materials produced by an instructor in a course are the intellectual property of the instructor. Any distribution of these materials – including hard copy and online – without the instructor's written approval, constitutes a breach of copyright law and an act of academic misconduct. All such offences will be taken seriously and Faculty of Arts policy requires that all offences be reported.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. As such, assignments and tests will normally be returned directly to students, either during class or office hours, or electronically through Desire2Learn (D2L). Final exams are not returned to students but can be viewed by making arrangements with the instructor. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Absence from a Test

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate confirming documentation or religious conviction) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, religious conviction, to those with three (3) scheduled final exams within a 24-hour period, and for unforeseen circumstances. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam in the Faculty of Arts rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified of any absences due to unforeseen circumstances. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (formerly known as the Program Information Centre (PIC)) at Social Sciences 102, or call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic questions for Faculty of Arts students.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Additional Contact Information

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca>

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa>

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333