This course introduces comparative politics, a field that studies governments, political actors and political behavior around the world. Comparativists contrast the domestic politics of specific countries to gain a better understanding of democracy, the state, or economic development. They study these events as empirical phenomena and theoretical categories. The first section of the course introduces key themes in the study of politics, including institutions, power and the comparative method. The second section defines the state, studies its historical development, and examines how it shapes and is in turn shaped by economic and cultural environments. We then look at the organization of democratic states by reading about established democracies and newly industrialized countries. The next part acquaints you with politics in non-democratic settings and the last section explores political contention, or social movements, protests and revolutions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course you should

- acquire informed perspectives on political institutions, actors and socioeconomic events in key countries around the world
- identify different patterns of state and government development
- understand how historical legacies shape politics in specific countries
- analyze sociopolitical dynamics across specific countries
- compare different forms of democratic government
- learn about authoritarian politics
- study different models of economic development
- identify the political influence of important world leaders
- understand the strategies used by ordinary citizens to challenge their governments or make new claims

**TEACHING METHODS**

This is a three credit course requiring 3 hours of in-class work and 6 hours of homework per week. The class is mostly organized around lectures, though occasionally you will engage in discussion and group-work. Lectures will not be limited to explaining class readings and will expand on concepts or the domestic dynamics of specific countries. Therefore, you will gain a better understanding of the subject matter if you keep up with your readings and attend class on a regular basis. This means that you need to study and take note on a timely basis of lectures, class discussions, videos, and readings.
### Assignments

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows: Two multiple choice exams (20% each), two 3-4 page papers (20% each) and four quizzes (20%). More information about the papers will be provided later.

The assignments are designed to help you:
- test your understanding of text and class materials
- identify and define concepts or theories
- understand domestic politics in different countries
- use course-related documents and data and apply your analysis to a specific problem
- experience and demonstrate skill in critical thinking

### Extra Credit: (5%)

Students may choose to complete ONE of the extra credit assignments below. Please note that these assignments are NOT required.

**First Option:** Students can get 5% extra-credit by participating in class with clickers. To get the full credit, you must answer all the questions asked during one session (i.e. class meeting), participate in 80% of class meetings using clickers, and—with the exclusion of opinion questions—obtain a 60% average of correct answers. Note that if you forget to bring your clicker to class, you will not be able to participate in the question exercise.

**Second Option:** Students can get 5% extra-credit by writing a 7 page paper comparing the benefits and drawbacks of presidential vs. parliamentary systems. Use class materials and peer-reviewed or academic journals and/or books (at least 10 sources). The paper should be presented in Times New Roman; 12 font; double-space. Due at the beginning of the class on December 4; no late papers or email attachments. To obtain full credit, the paper must obtain a score of 70 (or at least a C). This means that the text and arguments should be thoughtfully written and documented.

### Technology:

**Course Website**
http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx
Access Canvas with your regular CSU login and password. There you will find the syllabus, assignments, grades, and other course-related material.

**Clickers**
We will be using clickers throughout the semester. I-clicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class. Purchasing an I-clicker is optional. However, you are strongly encouraged to buy an I-clicker remote as it would facilitate learning and class discussions. If you do purchase one, you must register it by September 5.

Instructions to register your clicker:
http://clicker.colostate.edu/docs/Canvas%20iClicker7%20Student.pdf

For Frequently Asked Questions see:
https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/studentfaq.aspx

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### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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**Late Policy**
Assignments may be completed for full credit at a later time only if you have a university sanctioned absence. To receive full credit you must provide written documentation within the next 5 business days of the incident.

If you hand-in your paper or complete your assignment after class on the assigned date, and you don’t have a university sanctioned excuse, I will take 5 points off.

I will also take 5 points off per day late, including weekends. This means that 10 points will be taken off if you complete your unexcused assignment the next day after it was due.

Take note of the class schedule and exam dates when making travel arrangements and other personal plans.
**A C A D E M I C    I N T E G R I T Y**

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/) and the Student Conduct Code (http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code).

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

**R E A D I N G S:**
Most assigned readings are found in the two textbooks
Other readings are available at the CSU library’s E-reserve webpage:
https://reserve.colostate.edu/ares/ares.dll
Or our class website:
http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx

**C L A S S    S C H E D U L E**

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS: BASIC CONCEPTS AND ISSUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-Aug</td>
<td>Introduction to the Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 1 (Introduction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Aug</td>
<td>Cases, Ch. 1 (Introduction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT IS THE NATION STATE?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 2 (States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Aug</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 2, cont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST QUIZ</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>No class (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 3 (Nations and Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 4 (Political Economy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 4, cont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td><strong>SECOND QUIZ</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE DEMOCRATIC STATES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 5 (Democratic Regimes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 8 (Advanced Democracies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>Essentials, Ch. 8, cont.</td>
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<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>Cases, Ch. 2 (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>23-Sep</td>
<td>Cases, Ch. 2 (Continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Cases, Ch. 4 (France)</td>
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<td>26-Sep</td>
<td><strong>THIRD QUIZ</strong></td>
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<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>Cases, Ch. 5 (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Sep</td>
<td>Documentary: Sick Around the World (PBS 2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>Documentary, cont.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**T I P**
Complete assigned readings prior to class meetings.
Reading the assigned texts on time will provide the necessary knowledge to comprehend lectures and learn the subject matter.

**R E Q U I R E D    B O O K S**
(Available at the CSU Bookstore)

[Abbreviated as “Essentials”]

[Abbreviated as “Cases”]

**R E M E M B E R**
Two exams (40% )
Dates: Oct 21 & Dec 16

Two 3-4 page papers (40%)
Dates: Oct 10 & Nov 18

Four quizzes (20%)
Dates: Sep 2, Sep 12, Sep 26 & Nov 2

NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES
5-Oct  Essentials, Ch. 10 (Less Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries)
7-Oct  Ch. 10 Cont.
10-Oct  FIRST PAPER
12-Oct  Cases, Ch. 12 (Brazil)
17-Oct  Cases, Ch. 11 (Mexico)
19-Oct  Cases, Ch. 14 (Nigeria)
21-Oct  FIRST EXAM

NON-DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES
24-Oct  Essentials, Ch. 6 (Non-Democratic Regimes)
26-Oct  Essentials, Ch. 6, cont.
28-Oct  Cases, Ch. 10 (Iran).
2-Nov  FOURTH QUIZ
2-Nov  Essentials, Ch. 9 (Communism and Post-communism)
4-Nov  Essentials, Ch. 9, cont.
7-Nov  Cases, Ch. 8 (China)
11-Nov  Cases, Ch. 7 (Russia)
14-Nov  Ch. 7 Cont. Documentary: Red Army (Sony Pictures Classics, 2014)
16-Nov  Documentary, cont.
18-Nov  SECOND PAPER
21-25Nov  Fall Recess

CONTENTIOUS POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY
28-Nov  Essentials, Ch. 7 (Political Violence)
30-Nov  Mitchel, T. Xi's China: Smothering Dissent. The Financial Times (July 27, 2016)  
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ccd94b46-4db5-11e6-88c5-db83e98a590a.html#
2-Dec  Documentary: The Decades Collection: Gandhi (History Channel 2007)
7-Dec  Essentials, Ch. 11 (Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics)
9-Dec  No readings assigned (Last day of classes)
16-Dec  SECOND EXAM (7:30a-9:30a) Engineering 120