
**POLS 241
SECTION 002**

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

FALL 2011

SYLLABUS

Instructor : Gamze Çavdar
Class Hours : Tuesday & Thursday; 12:30pm-1:45pm
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Teaching Assistants

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Course Description:

This course introduces key concepts, issues and trends in comparative politics by using five countries as case studies. The course is organized around the following themes covered in the assigned book: states, nation and society, political economy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism, democracy, advanced democracies, communism and postcommunism, less developed and newly industrializing countries, and political violence. Five countries, namely Britain, Russia, Nigeria, Mexico and Egypt will be examined as case studies.

The course will begin with an overview of the major political, economic, and social trends in the world today and answer how comparative politics has been studying and interpreting them. During the semester, students will learn the key concepts, gain factual knowledge, learn basic skills in applying those concepts to case studies, and learn to critically approach the issues covered.

It is mandatory for students to complete all the readings assigned for each class meeting and attend all the lectures. Please complete the readings PRIOR to class meetings. For instance, the pages assigned for September 9th should be read prior to the class meeting on that day. This way, students will have the necessary knowledge to comprehend and process the lectures and successfully engage in class activities. Lecture notes will not be provided to students and the Power Points to be used during lectures will intentionally have minimum information. It is the responsibility of students to take notes from the readings and class lectures.

Please note that this course will largely utilize a learning technique called *critical thinking*, defined as the process during which one acquires and interprets information and uses it to reach a well-justified conclusion. Through this technique, students learn to analyze, evaluate, explain, and structure their thinking in a way to question false beliefs.

Course Objectives:

- To develop a solid understanding about issues, concepts and themes in comparative politics
- To use abstract concepts to explain basic politics and government
- To develop factual knowledge about the case studies covered
- To learn about current global political issues and challenges
- To understand major political features of democratic and non-democratic regimes
- To experience and demonstrate skill in critical thinking

Readings:

Course readings consist of two required books and additional readings as identified in the schedule below. Both books and I-clickers (see technology section below) are available for purchase at the CSU bookstore in the Lory Student Center. Other readings can either be directly obtained through the World Wide Web, by copying and pasting the address provided, or through RamCT.

We will be using i-clickers throughout the semester for class discussions and questions. Purchasing the clickers and bringing them to the classroom each time are optional, but strongly recommended.

Required Books:

Patrick H. O'Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics, 3rd Edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010)—abbreviated as *Essentials* in the class schedule below.

Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields and Don Share, Cases in Comparative Politics, 3rd Edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010)—abbreviated as *Cases* in the class schedule below.

Technology:

This course will rely extensively on its website at <https://ramct.colostate.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>, which you can access with your regular CSU login and password. There you will find the syllabus, assignments, grades, discussion questions and other course-related material. By using RamCt e-mail, I will frequently send out updates and notices, and answer your questions. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK YOUR RamCt E-MAIL MAILBOX FREQUENTLY (PREFERABLY TWICE A DAY). You can do this by logging in to RamCt and either directly checking your e-mail box in RamCt, or forwarding your e-mails to a more-frequently-used account.

We will also use a device called I-CLICKER to facilitate student participation. This is crucial in a large class like this one. You are strongly encouraged to buy your I-clicker remote as soon as possible through the bookstore if you do not have an existing one.

I-clicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class; in order to participate in class discussions and facilitate learning, you will need to register your I-clicker remote by Thursday, September 1st. If for some reason you cannot follow the steps and get registered, please see me after class. I-clickers will be used every class and you are responsible for bringing your remote to the classroom for each meeting. Failing to do so will prevent you from participating in classroom activities, which will affect your extra credit grade (see below).

You can register your I-clicker at:

<https://wsprod.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/registration.aspx>. Please note that you only need to register once.

For Frequently Asked Questions see:

<https://wsprod.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/studentfaq.aspx> (also available in RamCt).

Rules and Expectations:

- Carefully read the syllabus. Mark all deadlines, exam dates, announcements, etc. on your calendar.
- Become familiar with RamCt and check it twice a day for announcements and e-mail messages.
- Read the class material prior to class meetings; take notes and write down your questions.
- Arrive at the classroom before the lecture starts; attentively listen to lectures; take notes; turn off your cell phones/i-pods, laptops, etc.; leave the classroom only after lectures end.
- No talking during lectures.
- Please try to avoid eating/drinking during lectures as they can be quite disruptive.

- Be respectful of one another; be willing to listen to different ideas/opinions even if you do not agree.
- Ask questions; you are strongly encouraged to meet with me and the teaching assistants to raise questions. Office hours are listed above.
- Make a commitment to devote as much time as necessary to learn the material (at least 6 hours a week). You should expect to find some material more challenging than other material. Read it as many times as necessary to capture the meaning.
- I do not give make-up exams unless it is proven by documentation that you had an emergency beyond your control. You have to make your plans and travel arrangements according to the class schedule and exam dates, and take your final exam on the university-designated date and time. No rescheduling will be permitted. No exceptions.
- There are no curves for any aspect of grading.

Assignments and Grading Criteria:

Of the total 100 points,

A+	98-100
A	94-97
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	70-77
D	60-69
F	59<

Grades depend upon a combination of the following:

1. EXAMS (Midterms: 15 % each, Final: 20 %):

Midterm-1	15 %
Midterm-2	15 %
Final	20 %

There will be two midterm exams and a final, all of which will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions.

Each exam will include a solo and a collaborative part. In the solo exam, students will answer the questions on their own during a given time. 90 percent of their total grade will come from their performance on the solo part. In the remaining time, student will have the opportunity to answer 10 questions from the same exam through collaboration with their classmates. The instructor will inform the students which one of those questions will be

selected for the collaborative part. 10 percent of the total grade will come from the collaborative exam. Each part will have its own answer sheet, which will be calculated separately and added up.

Study guide will be available before each exam. It is students' responsibility to study those questions carefully; no additional review session will be held.

No make-up exams will be allowed unless a 48-hour notification is given in advance and there is a medical excuse and/or university-required commitment (documentation required). Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time, without notifying me or the GTAs in advance, will result in a grade of zero (0) for that exam. According to the University guidelines, a grade of I (Incomplete) will be assigned only to students who are unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond their control.

2. PAPERS (30% total):

2 Papers 15% each=30% total

The 4-5 page papers (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) are due on the dates listed below. Specific questions and guidelines will be provided for the papers later in the semester. No late or e-mail attached assignments will be allowed. Please see the class schedule below for the due dates.

3. QUIZZES (20% total) :

5% each==20% total

Six quizzes will be given throughout the semester and they will consist of multiple-choice. Only four quizzes will be counted toward your final grade. If you take all six quizzes, the lowest two grades will be dropped off. As part of your preparation, you are strongly encouraged to study the course material that is assigned for that day as well as review the material that is already covered. For instance, Essentials, pp. 107-140 are assigned for September 6th. For the quiz on the same day, students must complete the readings in advance. No Make-ups.

EXTRA CREDIT: (5% of the final grade)

Students who use iclickers and give correct answers at least 70 percent of the time will receive 5 extra points. All other students will receive "0". For receiving extra credit, students must prepare the course material by completing the readings in advance and carefully following the lectures.

Poli-Sci Majors:

Please note that no course in which you earn a grade lower than a C- is permitted to fulfill Political Science Major requirements.

Academic Integrity:

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1).

Disruptive Behavior:

Students need to pay attention that their behavior is not disruptive; please follow common courtesy in your interaction with your classmates, GTAs and the instructor.

Article III.A.4. of the Student Code of Conduct defines proscribed student behavior. It states:

“Disruption or obstruction of teaching, classroom or other educational interactions, research, administration or disciplinary proceedings, residential communities, or participation in an activity that disrupts normal University activities, and/or threatens property or bodily harm or intentionally interferes with the right of access to University facilities or freedom of movement of any person on campus.”

The following behaviors in classroom will be considered disruptive:

- * The use of laptops/i-pods/headphones/cell phones, etc.
- * Leaving before the lecture ends/arriving after the lecture starts.
- * Side conversations.
- * Eating/drinking.
- * Reading newspapers/books.
- * Sleeping.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	Assignment
August 23	Syllabus, Rules, Expectations	No reading assigned
August 25	Introduction to Concepts, Definitions and Issues	* <i>Essentials</i> , 1-19
August 30	States, Nation and Society	* <i>Essentials</i> , 21-45 & 47-75
September 1	United Kingdom	* <i>Cases</i> , 32-43 & 48-62 * <i>Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work</i> (to be shown in class) * Instructor will not be present in class due to conference participation.
September 6 & 8	Democracy	* <i>Essentials</i> , 109-160 * Quiz #1 on September 6th.
September 13 & 15	Advanced Democracies-I	* <i>Essentials</i> , 167-195 *Documentary: <i>People Like Us: Social Class in America</i> (to be shown in classroom) * Quiz #2 on September 15th
September 20-22	Advanced Democracies-II	*Amartya Sen, "Democracy and Its Global Roots," The New Republic Online (2003), available at http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/sloth/2003-09-29a.html . * Quiz #3 * Study Guide will be posted in RamCt on September 22nd.
September 27	Midterm-I	Attention: You are responsible for the material covered August 23 rd through September 22 nd ; arrive on time.
September 29 & October 4	Egypt	*Mehran Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since World War I</i> . Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005. (available on RamCt) *Gamze Çavdar, "The Paradox of the Egyptian Political Reform," <u>Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies</u> , vol. 30, no. 4 (Summer 2007):1-21. (available on RamCt) Shadi Hamid, "The Struggle for Middle East Democracy," <i>The Cairo Review of Global Affairs</i> (Spring 2011): 18-29 (RamCt). * Questions for Paper #1 will be handed out in class on September 29th
October 6, 11	Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism	* <i>Essentials</i> , 141-166 * Workshop on Papers: October 6th * Paper #1 due on October 11th

October 13	Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism (continued)	* Mark Levine, "Heavy Metal Islam" available at http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/islamsadvance/2008/08/islamism_and_heavy_metal.html . *Quiz #4
October 18	Mexico	*Cases, 408-416 & 429-444
October 20 & 25 & 27	Political Economy	*Essentials, 77-107 *Study Guide will be posted on October 25 th in RamCt.
November 1	Midterm-II	Attention: Although you are responsible for the material covered September 29 th through October 27 th , previously covered concepts and issues remain relevant; arrive on time.
November 3	Russia	*Cases, 246-256 & 266-283 *Questions for Paper #2 will be handed out in class on November 3 rd .
November 8 & 10	Communism and Postcommunism	* Essentials, 197-228 *Human Development Report 2005, "Mortality Crisis in the Russian Federation, 7 Million "Missing" Men," p. 23 (available on RamCT under "Readings"). *Quiz #5 on November 10 th
November 15 & 17	Communism and Postcommunism (continued)	*Goodbye Lenin to be shown in class. *Paper # 2 due on November 17 th
November 22	No Class	Fall Break
November 24	No Class	Fall Break
November 29	Nigeria	*Cases, 532-542 & 551-562 *Quiz # 6
December 1	Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries	*Essentials, 230-259
December 6-8	Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries (continued)	Documentary: <i>The End of Poverty</i> (to be shown in class) *Study Guide will be posted in RamCt on December 8 th .
December 16	Final Exam 9:40-11:40 (Location: Classroom)	Attention: Although you are responsible for the material covered November 3 rd through December 8 th , previously covered concepts and issues remain relevant; arrive on time.