PSCI 250: COMPARATIVE POLITICS:  
STATE AND NATION  
Fall 2019  
MW 2:30 pm to 3:50 pm, Room RCH309

Instructor: Mariam Mufti  
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Office Location: Hagey Hall 306  
Office Hours: Monday 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Contact Policy: Email or by appointment during office hours

Course Description:  
This course introduces you to the concepts and methods of comparative politics, one of the four sub-fields in political science. As a field of study, comparative politics focuses on the diversity of political systems around the world. The field therefore encompasses a diverse array of topics, in particular theorizing two foundational concepts of political science: state and nation. We focus on regime types—varieties of democratic and authoritarian regimes and how the design of political institutions insure the longevity of these regimes. We will conclude the course by asking why people participate collectively in politics and in particular, why violence is often adopted as a strategy of resistance.

Course Objectives:  
By the end of the course, you should be able to:  
• Define and apply key concepts in comparative politics, including state, nation, political identity, and collective action.  
• Compare and contrast the political systems of the countries explored in the course, paying particular attention to historical, political, economic, geographical, and moral aspects of governance in each country.  
• Use the comparative method to analyze contemporary political systems

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:  
Learning success in this course is dependent on completing readings before coming to class, attending lectures and contributing to class discussions. Please note that this is a lecture-intensive course.

Texts:  
All readings will be available in pdf or html format on the course website in LEARN.

Evaluation:  
2 Take-home tests 30%  
10 Quizzes 20%  
Paired Comparison exercise 35%  
Participation  
  Class participation 10%  
  Attendance 5%
Participation: (15%)
Class participation (10%) and attendance (5%) will be graded from September 19, 2019 onwards. This means that there are exactly 20 sessions which will be graded for participation. You have to attend class to earn participation points.

There are two ways to earn participation points:

1) You may write a response (350-500 words) to the readings for the particular class. To be eligible for grading your response must be submitted before 2:30 pm on the day of class in the drop box on LEARN and you must actually attend class.

2) You may engage in class discussion by answering and asking questions, forming opinions etc. While each student should participate frequently in discussions, the quality of the contribution is more important than quantity.
   - Positively Evaluated: Responding to others’ remarks or questions in a serious and thoughtful manner; drawing together ideas to create new ones; showing respect and interest for other arguments and points of view; engaging others in pertinent and informed dialogue; curiosity in the origin of other points of view; wit and insight.
   - Negatively Evaluated: The domination of class discussion by means of volume, tone, or sarcasm; 100% speaking or 100% listening with little attempt to balance both; refusal to acknowledge other points of view; not listening or appearing to listen; intemperate interruptions; uninformed or glib answers, including just general opinion; lack of weekly preparation.

2 Take-home tests: (30%)
On Oct 11, 2019 and Nov 8, 2019, I will provide you with a take-home assignment in class. You will have 48 hours to attempt the assignment, and submit it on LEARN by 4:30 pm. External research will not be required. More information about what you can expect and how to prepare for the assignment will be provided closer to the time.

Paired Comparison Exercise: (35%)
Students will employ a “paired comparison” research design for understanding a political phenomenon discussed in the course (or another phenomenon with prior approval). Students will need to define the dependent variable being studied, state their hypothesis about that variable, defend their choice of their two case-study countries, and give preliminary evidence to support or disprove their hypothesis. The emphasis in this assignment is on the research design, not on outside research (10 pages). This assignment will be due on December 9, 2019.

Quizzes: (20%)
During the course of the semester there will be 10 quizzes held at the end of the session on Wednesday each week (10 minutes) starting in week 3 until week 13. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, weighted to reflect 2% of your grade. The quiz will test you on content conveyed during the week of the quiz. You are responsible for attending all lectures. There will be NO make-up quizzes. If you are absent you will miss the quiz and therefore forego 2% of your grade. Further, no quiz will be dropped. The quizzes are designed to test you on your knowledge and understanding of both readings and lecture. You should expect to find a variety of question formats, such as multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks, etc.
### Course Policies:

#### Course Website

*How do I login?*

Users can login to LEARN via: [http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/](http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/). Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password.

*What can I find on the course website?*

The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, grades, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN.

*Where do I find the readings?*

Each week's readings and lecture slides will appear under individual modules titled Week 1, Week 2 and so on.

#### Submission of Assignments

*When do I have to submit an assignment?*

Submit your assignment on the due date specified in the course outline by 4:30 pm. Assignments will not be accepted 1 week after the due date has passed unless you have an extension for a documented extenuating circumstance.

*Where do I submit my assignment?*

Submit your assignments on LEARN in the appropriate dropbox folder.

*What format should I use to submit my assignment?*

Your assignment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word doc. Please make sure all assignments are double-spaced, have 1” margins and in Times New Roman, font size 12.

#### Late Penalty

*What happens if my assignment is submitted late?*

All late assignments (that is, assignments submitted after 12:00 pm on their due date) will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends).

For example, if you submitted your assignment at 5 pm on the due date it will count as a late submission. If you received 16/20, a 5% penalty would mean that you will get 15/20 instead.

*Can I ask for an extension and have the late penalty waived?*

A waiver of this penalty will be considered only in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (see extension policy).

#### Extension Policy

*When should I ask for an extension?*

If you know that you will not be able to submit your assignment before the due date please make sure to ask for an extension at least 48 hours in advance of the due date.

*What should my request for an extension entail?*

You must provide official documentation explaining the need for an extension. This must be an extenuating circumstance (serious personal illness, critical personal or family crisis etc.)

Verification of Illness Form: [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).

*When will I NOT receive an extension?*
Most requests for extensions and other accommodations are at the discretion of the instructor. However, you will NOT receive an extension for computer-related issues, so please save back-ups of your assignments.

**University Regulations:**

**Cross-listed course**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course is taken under the Political Science rubric.

**Academic Integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

*Grievance:* A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

*Appeals:* A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.
**Turnitin:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given the option to not have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. If so, the instructor will administer a 15-minute oral examination based on your paper. The oral exam must be scheduled 1 week before the due date of the assignment. If you choose not to use Turnitin, your assignment must be submitted to Dr. Mufti's dropbox by 4:30 pm on the due date. See http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

**Session 1, Sept 4:** Introduction to the course—NO CLASS
Read the course outline.

**Week 2 The State**

**Session 2, Sept 9:** Doing Comparative Politics
(No reading)

**Session 3, Sept 11:** The State, Government, and Regime

**Week 3 Type of State**

**Session 4, Sept 16:** The State as a Contract or the State as a Predator

**Session 5, Sept 18:** Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy

**Week 4 Determinants of a Democracy**

**Session 6, Sept 23:** Economic Determinants

**Session 7, Sept 25:** Cultural Determinants

**Week 5 Designing a Democracy**

**Session 8, Sept 30: Parliamentary vs Presidential Democracies**


**Session 9, Oct 2: Making and Breaking Governments**


**Week 6 Elections and Electoral Systems**

**Session 10, Oct 7:**


**Session 11, Oct 9: Electoral Integrity**


**Week 7: Varieties of Dictatorship**

**Session 12, Oct 21:**


• Read ONE of the case studies of your choosing.
  
  o Richard McGregor. “Party Man: Xi Jinping’s Quest to Dominate China.”
  
  o Kaya Genc. "Erdogan's Way: The Rise and Rule of Turkey's Islamist Shapeshifter."
  
  
  
  o Susan B. Glasser. “Putin the Great: Russia’s Imperial Imposter.”

**Session 13, Oct 23: New Authoritarianism and the Crisis of Democracy**


**Week 8 Regime Transitions**

**Session 14, Oct 28: What are the causes of regime change?**


**Session 15, Oct 30: Why is regime change so unpredictable?**

• Tipping Models and the Transition Game

**Week 9 Democracy or Dictatorship: Which is Better?**

Session 16, Nov 4:

Session 17, Nov 6:
- No readings

**Week 11: Collective Action**

Session 18, Nov 11: Why do people participate in politics?

Session 19 Nov 13: Social Movements, Interest Groups and Political Parties

**Week 12: Political Violence I**

Session 20, Nov 18: NO CLASS

Session 21, Nov 20: When does protest and resistance become violent?

**Week 13: Political Violence II**

Session 22 Nov 25: Civil Wars and Insurgencies

Session 23 Nov 27: Terrorism

**Week 14:**

Session 24 Dec 2: Course wrap-up