

PSCI 110: Politics in the Contemporary World

Semester, 2013

RCH101, 11:30-12:50 Tuesdays and Thursdays

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Office Hours: 1:00-2:00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

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Course Description: This course adopts a comparative perspective and examines the political systems and behaviors across the contemporary world. A highly diverse set of themes and topics will be covered, such as the nature and function of the state, institutions of authoritarianism, processes of economic development, problems and challenges faced both by highly advanced industrialized countries and developing countries, the legacy of colonialism, political parties, values/ideologies, and finally, the intensifying impact of globalization on politics of the contemporary world. Although the course will focus primarily on discussing systematic theories on a relatively general level, we will also apply these theoretical frameworks through detailed case studies of politics and society in some specific countries.

Pre-Requisites: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to understand the basic concepts and theories introduced in this course
- Be able to apply these theories in the appropriate empirical context

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 was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

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, [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, [Student Petitions](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult [Student Grievances](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, [Student Appeals](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

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

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

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note 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.

If you are using Turnitin in your course:

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection 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. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See [Turnitin](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo) <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.

Texts:

Patrick O'Neil. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 4th ed. W. W. Norton.

Texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.
Texts are on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Tests & Examinations:

There will be two closed book exams (midterm and final). They cover lecture materials and all required readings assigned in the syllabus. **Of the two exams, the one for which you got higher grade will be 55% and the one for which you got lower grade will be 45%. If you got the same grade for both exams, each will be worth 50%.**

The mid term is on February 26th, during regular class time, at RCH 101.

The midterm exam includes two types of questions: ID questions and complex theoretical questions. For ID questions, you are asked to provide a concise and accurate explanation of key terms used in the comparative study of contemporary politics (example: authoritarianism, varieties of capitalism, ethnic identity). For complex theoretical questions, you are asked to discuss different aspects of a complex theory in a coherent manner, with careful attention to logic arguments as well as supporting your arguments with empirical examples.

The final exam will be given in the same format as the midterm, but the complex theoretical questions will be more demanding and comprehensive, and you are expected to provide more detailed answers. More details about requirements for each exam will be announced one week before the exam.

Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

Schedule:

January 8th Introduction

O'Neil Chapter 1

January 10th -15th The State and Its Alternatives

O'Neil Chapter 2

January 17th-29th Identity and Ideology

O'Neil Chapter 3

January 31st-February 12th Authoritarian Regimes

O'Neil Chapter 6

February 14th-March 7th Democratic Regimes

O'Neil Chapter 5

March 12th-March 21st Advanced Liberal Democracies

O'Neil Chapter 8

March 26th-April 4th Communist and Post-Communist Countries

O'Neil Chapter 9