

PSCI 250: State and Nation

Winter Semester, 2013
AL211, 10:00-11:20 TTh

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky

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Contact Policy: You do not have to arrange for an appointment with me during my regular office hours; just drop by to my office. I am also available to students outside of my regular office hours most days of the week. If you are in the department and my door is open, I am usually available to talk with you. You can also arrange to meet with me at a specific time outside of my regular office hours; just send me an email message and we will find a mutually convenient time to meet.

Course Teaching Assistant (Graduate Student):

Jierui (Jerry) Zhao

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Office Hours: 10:00-12:00, Thursdays,
HH346

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the concepts and approaches most frequently used in the study of comparative politics. The central themes of the course are the enduring political significance of the modern state despite severe challenges to its sovereignty, and the importance of studying, in a comparative fashion, the institutions and processes which provide the framework for the operation of the modern state.

There are three main sections to the course. The first traces the origins and meaning of the state and explores its relationship to the practice of politics. The second examines how states are governed and compares patterns of governance found in the two major regime types in the world today, liberal democracy and authoritarianism. The last section discusses some of the most important challenges to state sovereignty -- globalization, ethnic nationalism, terrorism, and organized crime .

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- i) have a good understanding of the field of comparative politics and its key concepts and approaches, and
- ii) be able to apply, in a critical fashion, comparative perspectives to understand the distinct features of different political systems.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 101 or 110

Texts:

Robert Hislope and Anthony Mughan, Introduction to Comparative Politics: The State and Its Challenges (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Required.

Fiona Yap, editor, Annual Editions: Comparative Politics (McGraw Hill, 2013). Required.

Texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

You will also be asked to read several articles which are freely available as e-readings. Some of these items are listed below (see Weeks 9-10); once the course begins I may assign a small (2-3) number of additional readings.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Course requirements consist of 2 (two) compulsory short-answer mid-term exams, each worth 25% of the final course grade, and a final (also compulsory) course exam written during the final exam period, worth 50% of the final course grade. The first mid-term exam will be written on Tuesday, Feb. 12 during the regular class session, and will include questions dealing with all course material covered prior to this date. The second mid-term exam will be written on Tuesday Mar. 19, also during the regular class session, and will include questions dealing with all course material covered between Feb. 14 and Mar. 14. The final course exam will be cumulative; that is, it will include questions dealing with course material covered during the entire semester.

Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time. Students who are unable to write an exam for medical reasons (serious illness), or because of a severe personal or family crisis, must provide the instructor with the appropriate documentation.

Format:

Classes will consist primarily of lectures, and the selected use of audio-visual aids. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the classes. The course will be administered using the D2L (Learn) system, which will be used to distribute course-related information to students registered in this course. I will occasionally distribute course notes through D2L; primarily this will be done when I touch on issues/themes not covered in the text or readings.

Schedule:

Weeks 1-2 The Modern State

Text : Chapter 1

Readings: Annual Editions, Item No. 1.

Week 3 States and Politics

Text : Chapter 2

Readings: Annual Editions, Items No. 8, 9, 10, 23, 37, 38.

Week 4 How Governments Work

Text : Chapter 3

Readings: Annual Editions, Items No. 19, 20, 31, 34.

Weeks 5 -6 Frameworks of Governance

NB – The first mid-term exam will be written during Week 6 (Feb. 12).

Text : Chapter 4

Readings: Annual Editions, Items No. 4,5,6,7, 13, 24, 29, 32, 33.

Week 7 Linkage and Representation

Text : Chapter 5

Readings: Annual Editions, Items No. 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 39.

Week 8 Globalization

Text : Chapter 6

Readings: Annual Editions, Item No. 40

Weeks 9-10 Ethnic Nationalism

NB – The second mid-term exam will be written during Week 10 (Mar. 19).

Text : Chapter 7

Readings: Annual Editions, Item No. 3, 25, 35, 36.

Muller, “Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism,” Foreign Affairs (March/April 2008).

Habyarimana et al., “Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways Over Nationalism and Separatism,” Foreign Affairs (July/August 2008).

McGarry and O’Leary, “Framing the Debate: Integration Versus Accommodation,” in *Governing Diversity: Democratic Solutions in Multicultural Societies* (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, 2007), pp. 19-30, available at the following URL: http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/_PDF/publications/R%26D-Governing-Diversity-ENG-low.pdf

Week 11 Terrorism

Text : Chapter 8

Readings: Annual Editions, Item No. 2.

Week 12 Organized Crime

Text : Chapters 9 and 10

Readings: Annual Editions, Item No. 30

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>.

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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

[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/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.