

University of Waterloo
Department of Political Science
PSCI 250
The Comparative Politics of State and Nation
Fall 2013
2:30-3:50MW, AL 208

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky
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Office Phone: 519-888-4567, x36566
Office Hours: Tues.: 9:30-11:00; Thurs.: 10:00-11:30
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Please note that I am regularly available outside of my regular office hours. Feel free to drop by if my door is open, or send me an email message to set up an appointment. If you have course-related inquiries, feel free to send emails and I will try to respond as soon as possible. However, if you have a question that requires more than a brief (2-3 sentence) response, you should come by to see me.

T.A.	Ryan Phillips
Email	ryan.phillips@uwaterloo.ca
Office	TBD
Office Hours	Mon.: 12:00-1:00; Tues.: 11:00-12:00.

Course Description

This core comparative politics course examines and assesses various approaches to the study of politics within states. The emphasis is on political developments, institutions, and processes in a wide range of countries.

The course is not intended to transmit a large amount of information about politics in different countries. Rather, it is intended to stimulate thinking about why we study politics systematically in a comparative context, and how best to do this.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 101 or 110

LEARN: The course will be administered using the D2L ("LEARN") system. For information on how to use LEARN, see: **Learn-help:** [Learn-help https://uwaterloo.ca/learn-help/students](https://uwaterloo.ca/learn-help/students)

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

- i. ensure that students have an understanding of the scope of comparative politics,
- ii. understand the importance of comparative inquiry in the field of Political Science, and
- iii. learn about the key approaches and analytical tools used in the field of comparative politics.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. understand the key concepts and approaches used in studying comparative politics
- B. apply comparative perspectives to understand the key features of various political systems.

Required Text

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases (Oxford University Press, 2013). Available at the UW bookstore.

This course will be based heavily on both the course text, and course lectures. Unless I clearly specify otherwise, you are responsible for all the textbook material in the assigned chapters as well as the case study materials, linked to the assigned chapters, found in the country materials section in the latter half of the textbook. A small number of additional course readings will be made available to students through LEARN.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Short-answer mid-term exam	Wed. October 23 (in class)	20%
Mini-essay	Due Wed. November 20	30%

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Final exam	TBA (to be announced)	50%
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Total		100%

Notes on the various class assessments

Short-answer mid-term exam

This will be a closed book, "fill-in-the-blank" type exam, written in class, to test your knowledge of course material covered in the textbook, during course lectures, and distributed via LEARN. Sample question: The term used to describe the use of force, or threat of force, typically by the military, to impose a non-electoral change of government. Answer: coup d'etat (coup is also acceptable).

Mini-Essay

You will be required to write a brief (approximately 10-page) essay, choosing one of several topics assigned by the course instructor. The essay is due on Wed. Nov. 20. A hard (paper) copy of your essay should be submitted in class, and an electronic copy should be submitted to the instructor's LEARN dropbox before the end of the same day.

A list of topics, detailed guidelines on writing the essay, and the marking scheme used in grading the essay, will be provided separately; see, however, the following sample topic:

Use examples from at least two countries to discuss and provide a critique of the opinion that the internet (and social networking in particular) are an important force promoting democratization.

Final Exam

The final course exam will be cumulative; that is, it will cover material from the entire course. It will be a closed book exam, and will consist of a number of short-answer questions, similar to those found on the mid-term exam, as well as more elaborate questions requiring longer answers. Additional information about the final exam will be provided in November.

NB -- Student travel plans are **not** an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

Course Outline

In the case of Chapters 3-14 of the course text, the material in the chapters is supplemented by case study materials found in the "Country Profile and Cases" section of the text, and you are responsible for studying these case study materials.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Sept. 9, 11	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Ch. 1-2
2	Sept. 16, 18	The Modern State	Ch. 3, and associated case study materials
3	Sept. 23, 25	Economic and Social Development	Ch. 4, and associated case study materials
4	Sept. 30, Oct. 2	Democracy and Democratic Regimes	Ch. 5, and associated case study materials
5	Oct. 7, 9	Authoritarianism and Authoritarian Regimes	Ch. 6, and associated case study materials
6	Oct. 16, 21	Constitutions and Constitutional Design	Ch. 7, and associated case study materials
7	Oct. 23, 28	Legislatures and Legislative Elections	Ch. 8, and associated case study materials
8	Oct. 30, Nov. 4	Executives and Executive Selection	Ch. 9, and associated case study materials
9	Nov. 6, 11	Political Parties, Party Systems, and Interest Groups	Ch. 10, and associated case study materials
10	Nov. 13, 18	Contention, Conflict, and Revolutions	Ch. 11, and associated case study materials
11	Nov. 20, 25	Nationalism and National Identity	Ch. 12, and associated case study materials
12	Nov. 27, Dec. 2	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity	Ch. 13, and associated case study materials

Late Work

The course mini-essay is due on Wed. Nov. 21. Late mini-essays will receive a 3% grade reduction per day, unless they are submitted with appropriate medical documentation. See Accommodation for illness form at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/current-students/accommodation-due-to-illness> If you are submitting a late essay, hand it in person to me, or leave a hard copy in the instructor's dropbox (3rd floor, Hagey Hall) and send an electronic copy, on the same day, to the instructor's LEARN dropbox.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin will not be used in this course. Students should be aware, however, that the course instructor has a good record of detecting student plagiarism.

Electronic Device Policy

I, and many students, find it distracting when laptops are used in class. Students who wish to use laptops in class should sit in the back rows of the classroom.

Attendance Policy

No formal attendance policy. It should be noted, however, that the average grade of students who regularly attend class is substantially higher than the average grade of those who miss many/most of the class sessions.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (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. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm) (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>).

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.