

University of Waterloo
Department of Political Science
PSCI 250
The Comparative Politics of State and Nation
Winter 2015
10:00-11:20MW, AL 208

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky

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Please note that I am often 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. I will try to respond as soon as possible, but you should **not** expect instantaneous replies. If you have a question that requires more than a brief (2-3 sentence) response, you should come by to see me.

T.A.	Alex Thompson
Email	TBA
Office	TBA
Office Hours	TBA

Course Description

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

The course is not intended to provide you with a large volume of descriptive 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: Prereq: One of PSCI 100, 101, 110, 150

LEARN: The course will be administered using the "LEARN" system. If you need any help with how to use LEARN, see: <https://uwaterloo.ca/learn-help/students>

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

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

- Orvis and Drogus, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, 3rd ed. (CQ Press, an imprint of SAGE, 2015). Available at the UW bookstore.

This course will be based 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. Some additional course materials will be made available to students through LEARN.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Information on course requirements and assessments.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Short-answer mid-term exam	Wed. February 25 (in class)	20%
Mini-essay	Wed. March 18	30%
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 (or simply coup).

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. March 20. A hard (paper) copy of your essay must be submitted in class, and an electronic copy must be submitted to the instructor's LEARN dropbox before the end of the same day.

A list of topics, 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 March.

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

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan. 5, 7	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Text, Ch. 1
2	Jan. 12, 14	The Modern State	Text, Ch. 2
3	Jan. 19, 21	States, Citizens, and Regimes	Text, Ch. 3
4	Jan. 26, 28	States and Identity	Text, Ch. 4
5	Feb. 2, 4	States and Markets	Text, Ch. 5
6	Feb. 9, 11	Governing Institutions in Democracies	Text, Ch. 6
7	Feb. 23, 25	Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies	Text, Ch. 7

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
8	Mar. 2, 4	Authoritarian Institutions	Text, Ch. 8
9	Mar. 9, 11	Regime Change	Text, Ch. 9
10	Mar. 19, 20	Globalization, Economic Sovereignty, and Development	Text, Ch. 10
11	Mar. 21, 22	Public Policies When Markets Fail	Text, Ch. 11
12	Mar. 30, Apr. 1, 6	Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values	Text, Ch. 12

Late Work

The course mini-essay is due on Wed. Mar. 20. Late mini-essays will receive a 3% grade reduction per day, unless they are submitted with appropriate medical documentation. See Verification of Illness form at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/sites/ca.health-services/files/uploads/files/VIF-online.pdf>

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 or other electronic devices are used in class. Students who wish to use laptops or other electronic devices in class should sit in the back rows of the classroom.

Attendance Policy

There is no formal attendance policy. It should be noted, however, that the average grade of students who regularly attend class sessions is substantially higher than the 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.