

Comparative Politics
PLSC 225
Fall 2016

Department of History/Political Science
Andrews University
(Syllabus subject to change)

Instructor: Dr. Marcella Myers

MW 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Buller Hall 149

Office Hours:

Office: Buller Hall 129
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(269) 471-3293

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction into the study and analysis of Comparative Politics. Students will examine different forms of government and their structures. We will analyze the historical emergence of these systems, their nature and form, the dynamics of particular types of governance, and the forces resisting such rule.

Course Objectives:

Students should gain an elementary understanding of the theory and method of Comparative Politics. Become familiar with different governing, electoral, and political systems and be able evaluate how and why they are different. Class lectures and discussions will deal with topics such as nation states, political economy, democracy, post-communism, non-democratic states, failed states and globalization.

Required Textbooks:

O'Neil, Patrick. 2015. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* 5rd edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 978-0-393-93897-5

Dickovick, J. Tyler and Jonathan Eastwood. *Current Debates in Comparative Politics*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-934135-1

Course Requirements:

This is a lecture/discussion course. Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. This requires that all assigned reading be completed prior to coming to class. Students should take notes of the lectures and discussions for use as study guides for exams.

Special needs or students with disabilities should contact me as soon as possible to provide appropriate accommodations. If you are experiencing difficulties with the class, please see me

during office hours, make an appointment, send an email, call me, or visit the Student Success Center in Nethery Hall rm. 204.

The use of electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom including cell phones, MP3 players, and laptops. Use of electronic devices in class may result in an absence for the day and/or dismissal from class.

Attendance:

Attendance is part of your semester grade. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to check with me after class to be marked present. Students are responsible for obtaining information missed due to tardiness and/or missed/skipped classes from fellow classmates. Absences will only be excused by prior arrangement with the professor or with proof of illness, or other circumstance, in the form of a doctor/nurses' note or confirmation from a RA/residence dean.

Assignments:

Students will write papers due in class on the designated Wednesday, as noted in the syllabus. Each papers should consist of the following: a brief introductory paragraph, paragraphs summarizing the arguments of the authors, a paragraph comparing/contrasting the authors' arguments, a paragraph explaining your own perspective on the issue, a conclusion. If you are having trouble getting started, think about the following questions: What is similar? What is different? Your opinion should be more than "It was a waste of time", "I didn't understand anything". Think about what you did(n't) like, why did(n't) you like it? What did(n't) you understand? What did you agree or disagree with and why?

Papers should be minimum three pages in length, not to exceed five pages. Papers must be 12 pt. font, double spaced, provide proper citations and documentation, and page numbers. **Do not** place your paper in a folder or plastic cover and title pages are not required.

Only stapled papers are accepted. Assignments are to be turned in on the assigned date at the beginning of the class; **late assignments will not be accepted.** In addition to the hard copy turned in at the assigned class period, papers must also be submitted electronically in Moodle. Papers not submitted in the Moodle drop box by 12:30 pm on the designated due date **will be considered late** and will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is an important part of every academic institution and student learning. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the policy of Andrews University. It is your responsibility to be familiar with University policy. The University's Code of Academic Integrity is found at:
http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Grading:

Your grade will be based on your class attendance, weekly papers, and four exams.

Class Attendance	10%	Exam I	20%
Weekly Papers	20%	Exam II	25%
		Exam III	25%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	94 – 100%	C+	76 – 79%
A-	90 – 93%	C	71 – 75%
B+	86 – 89%	C-	68 – 70%
B	83 – 85%	D	60 – 67%
B-	80 – 82%	F	0 – 60%

Course Schedule

Aug. 22 – 24	M	Introduction	O’Neil pp. 3 - 35
	W	<i>Assignment #1 due</i>	D & E pp. 3-4; 6-10
Aug. 29 - 31	M	States	O’Neil pp. 31 – 60
	W	<i>Assignment #2 due</i>	D & E pp. 19 – 28
Sept. 5 – 7	M	Labor Day – no class	
	W	Nations and Society	O’Neil pp. 63 – 95
Sept. 12 – 14	M	<i>Assignment #3 due</i>	D & E pp.
	W	Political Economy	O’Neil pp. 99 – 133
Sept. 19 - 21	M	<i>Assignment #4 due</i>	D & E pp.
	W	EXAM I	
Sept. 26 – 28	M	Democratic Regimes	O’Neil pp. 137 – 171
	W	<i>Assignment #5 due</i>	D & E pp. 28 – 34
Oct. 3 - 5	M	Developed Democracies	O’Neil pp. 309 – 340
	W		D & E pp.123 – 129
Oct. 10 - 12	M	Fall Break – no class	
	W	Non-democratic Regimes	O’Neil pp. 175 - 204
Oct. 17 – 19	M		
	W	<i>Assignment #6 due</i>	D & E pp. 57 - 68; 72 - 77
Oct. 24 – 26	M	Political Violence	O’Neil pp. 207 – 236
	W		
Oct. 31 – Nov. 2	M	<i>Assignment #7 due</i>	D & E pp.133 – 143;145 – 146;151-156
	W	EXAM II	
Nov. 7 – 9	M	Communism and Post-communism	O’Neil pp. 271 – 306
	W		
Nov. 14 – 16	M	Developing Countries	O’Neil pp. 309 – 340
	W		
Nov. 21	M		D & E pp. 46; 48 -54; 77 – 78; 80 - 94
	W	Thanksgiving Break	
Nov. 28 – 30	M	Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics	O’Neil pp. 343 – 370
	W		D & E pp. 180 - 203
Dec. 7	W	Final Exam 1:30 p.m.	