
PS 210-002: Introduction to Comparative Politics**Fall 2021**

Don and Cathy Jacobs Science Building, Room 321

Tues & Thurs 8:00-9:15am

Instructor: Weiss Mehrabi**Email:** weiss.mehrabi@uky.edu**Personal Phone:** [REDACTED]**Zoom ID:** 790-688-5744**Office:** 1618 Patterson Office Tower**Office Hours:** Mon 4:00 – 5:30pm and Thurs 9:30 – 11:00am, or by appointment**Office Hours and Communication:**

You have the option to attend office hours virtually using the above Zoom meeting ID or in-person. For meetings outside my office hours please set up an appointment. If you have questions about the course, your grade, readings, or material, etc. email is the fastest and most reliable way to reach me. For privacy and security reasons, I will only respond to student emails sent from University of Kentucky email addresses. I generally respond within 24 hours. If you are still waiting on a response after 24 hours, please send me a follow up email.

Course Description

What is comparative politics? The discipline (and subsequently this course) is founded on the observation that people around the world experience many different political systems in incredibly diverse ways. The goal of comparative politics is to understand that political diversity which exists in the world, and the ways that politics and policy shape people's opportunities to lead fulfilling prosperous lives. This course is designed to help students master one of the fundamental methods of scientific inquiry and inference: comparison. If you have ever wondered why the United States is powerful and Mexico is relatively weak, or why European countries tend to have universal healthcare and the US does not, you have already begun to think like a comparative political scientist. This class will help you harness some of your natural curiosity to begin to think more systematically about political questions around the world. This class is a seminal introduction to comparative politics. It is designed to expose you to many of the central questions in the study of comparative politics and the key theories scholars have developed to answer these questions. More specifically the class will address questions regarding varieties of regimes, political institutions, identity politics, and collective action. The course has three fundamental goals: 1) To introduce you to the major questions in comparative politics, 2) To acquaint you with the field's best answers to those questions, and finally, 3) To give you the tools to think critically about those answers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of concepts, theories, and methods of comparative politics.
2. Compare different political, social, and economic features of countries and regions around the world.
3. Apply the theories and comparative methods of inquiry to real-life issues in the world today.
4. Critically evaluate the relative merits of particular policy decisions and their likely effectiveness.

Required Readings and Materials:

You are required to purchase the following book. Students may be required to read peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, short reports, and news articles. In addition to the course readings, students are expected to follow current events by reading on daily basis news articles on politics around the world. Additional readings, if assigned, and lecture slides will be posted in Canvas under appropriate modules.

Textbook: All chapters from Drogus, Carol & Stephen Orvis. *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context* (**5th edition**). Sage CQ Press. **Available at the bookstore and other online vendors.**

Earning Grades

1. Quizzes (20%): Students are expected to complete 10 quizzes related to assigned course readings (each quiz is worth 2% of your course grade). Questions will be multiple choice and/or true/false. Quizzes will be taken online via Canvas. You will have 60 minutes to take each quiz. The correct answers for the quizzes will be made available 4 days after their due date. Quizzes will be open notes, open book. The purpose of these quizzes is to make sure you are keeping up with the readings and learning the material. They are meant to be easy for those who are putting in the required time and effort. See the course schedule for specific dates and times.

2. Midterm Exam (22%): Students will take one midterm exam. This exam will cover material from chapters 1–6. It will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

3. Final exam (22%): The final exam for the course will be similar in form to the midterm exam. It will cover material from chapters 7 – 12. It will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

4. Assignments (30%): Students will complete two written assignments. The first one is a country profile report worth 15% of your total class grade. You will do research on one of the eleven countries analyzed in the textbook. The main purpose of this assignment is to investigate current political events in each country and identify main problems for political development and possible solutions. The second assignment is the writing of a reaction essay based on assigned readings worth 15% of your total class grade. I will provide specific instructions for each assignment in class. The guidelines for writing each assignment are posted in Canvas. Students should work individually on each assignment.

The written assignments must be submitted online via Canvas even if you submit a print copy to the instructor. Assignments sent via e-mail will not be accepted/graded. If you have problems submitting an assignment, it is your responsibility to let your instructor know. Assignments **MUST** be submitted as Microsoft Word files unless otherwise noted. All filenames should use only alpha-numeric characters (a-z, 0-9) before the file extension (example.doc or .docx). Example: SamAdamsprofile.doc. Canvas does not accept file names with characters like !@#\$. Submission of unreadable or corrupted file will result in a score of zero.

5. Regular Course Participation (6%): The final 6% of your grade is based on your active attendance and participation. Students will need to participate in the course EVERY WEEK to earn full participation credit. You must do more than simply attend the sessions to receive your participation grade. Students should complete all readings prior to the class session for which they are assigned, and actively take part in class activities.

Mid-term Grades: Mid-term grades will be based on a % of available assignment points and participation points at the time in the semester when they are due and posted in myUK by the deadline established in the [Academic Calendar](#).

Final Grades: Students will receive a % score on every assigned component of the class, and those percentages will be weighted according to the amount indicated in parentheses next to each component description to calculate final grade percentages.

Final course grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

E = below 60%

All grades will be posted in the Canvas grade book. You can review your scores by going to “Grades” in Canvas.

Late Assignments: If course assignments are submitted late, students will lose 10% of their assignment grade for each day after the due date and time. For exams, there is a stricter late policy. Exam grade deduction for late submission: 20% deduction if 0-6 hours late; 50% deduction if 6-12 hours late; and a zero thereafter. If students are unable to complete an assignment or exam by the specified due date and time, they must notify the instructor at least 24 hours before the due date and time to avoid grade deductions.

Classroom Etiquette: Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. I expect all students to act in a professional manner during class. This course can generate lively debate – which I appreciate and often encourage. However, I expect a level of civility during such debates. All opinions should be respected. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities. Students should not simply come and go during class. If you know that you will need to come in late or leave early, please inform me ahead of time.

Please minimize distractions by not reading newspapers, checking your email, or carrying on conversations. Turn mobile phones off during class. If students engage in behavior that is considered inappropriate by the instructor because it creates a hostile environment or because it undermines the learning experience of others, they will be asked to leave. Thank you in advance for your collaboration in making the class the most courteous learning environment.

Library Services

You can get personalized or group research assistance from reference librarians at Young Library. The Political Science Librarian is Dr. Taylor Leigh (taylor.c.leigh@uky.edu).

Among other things Taylor can help you:

- Find sources for your written assignments (country-profile and reaction paper)
- Identify and evaluate different kinds of sources
- Navigate databases and the library catalog effectively
- Perform a literature review
- Brainstorm keywords and subject terms

Taylor also maintains the [Political Science Research Guide](#), which is full of useful resources to help you in this class. Please contact Taylor directly with any questions regarding the library or research assistance.

Online Quiz and Assignment Information: The online quizzes/assignments will be submitted electronically through Canvas and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Once you access each quiz, you have 60 minutes in which to complete and submit it. If you go over the time you will not be able to submit it and will receive an automatic score of zero for that quiz. It is your responsibility to watch the time and submit the quiz in time. Online quizzes are open book. You may use your readings or any other notes when taking a quiz. Your grade for the online quizzes will be available on Canvas immediately after the due date/time.

If you encounter problems when taking an exam/quiz: If you experience technical difficulties contact the Customer Service Center at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

University Policies

Appeals: A student wishing to appeal any grade given in this class must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructor. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals that just ask for more points will not be considered by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire quiz, exam, or written assignment once an appeal is made, this may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

Unresolved Academic Issues: Consult the University of Kentucky *Student Rights and Responsibilities* regarding the steps for addressing unresolved academic issues.

Last day to withdraw from the course: Check the UK registrar page to find the last day to withdraw from the University or reduce course load. Students can withdraw or reduce course load after this date only for “urgent non-academic reasons.”

Missed Quizzes and Assignments: Students need to notify the instructor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php). Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

Per *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2*, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Verification of Absences: Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

Academic Integrity: Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Disabilities/ Medical Conditions

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. To receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

Canvas

This course utilizes Canvas for most facets of the course. You are expected to check Canvas regularly for all information pertaining to this course. Below you will find information regarding minimum technology requirements that you will need to access and use Canvas. It is your responsibility to obtain these requirements.

All computers on campus and most personal computers will have the software required for this course. If you experience technical difficulties contact the Customer Service Center at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

Mask and Social Distancing Policy: In accordance with the University of Kentucky guidelines, students must wear UK-approved face coverings in the classroom and academic buildings (e.g., faculty offices, laboratories, libraries, performance/design studios, and common study areas where students might congregate). If UK-approved face coverings are not worn over the nose and mouth, students will be asked to leave the classroom.

If applicable students should complete their daily online wellness screening before accessing university facilities and arriving to class.

Students should not move chairs or barriers in classrooms and should socially distance at all times, leaving a six (6) foot radius from other people. Masks and hand sanitizer can be found {specific location in building} if needed.

Students should leave enough space when entering and exiting a room. Students should not crowd doorways at the beginning or end of class.

The instructor may choose to remove a mask when pedagogically necessary at the front of the classroom and behind a clear barrier. The instructor's mask will be replaced when it is no longer necessary to have it removed, or when the class meeting is complete.

Course Material Copyright Statement: The University of Kentucky Code of Student Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

Meetings of this course may be recorded. All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Code of Student Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an “authorization of use” form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

All content for this course, including handouts, assignments, and lectures are the intellectual property of the instructors and cannot be reproduced or sold without prior permission from the instructors. A student may use the material for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this class, such as studying for a comprehensive or qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Introduction
Tues. August 24	Syllabus Review and Introduction
Thur. August 26	Ch.1 Drogus & Orvis
Week 2	Introduction & the Modern State
Tues. August 31	Ch.2 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.1 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. September 2	Ch.2 Drogus & Orvis
Week 3	States, Citizens, and Regimes
Tues. September 7	Ch.3 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.2 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. September 9	Ch.3 Drogus & Orvis
Week 4	States and Identity
Tues. September 14	Ch.4 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.3 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. September 16	Ch.4 Drogus & Orvis
Week 5	Library Service & Governing Institutions in Democracies
Tues. September 21	Library Resources – Dr. Leigh Talk/Presentation
Thur. September 23	Ch.5 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.4 Quiz due by 11pm
Week 6	Governing Institutions in Democracies & Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies
Tues. September 28	Ch.5 Drogus & Orvis
Thur. September 30	Ch.6 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.5 Quiz due by 11pm
Week 7	Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies
Tues. October 5	Ch.6 Drogus & Orvis
Thur. October 7	Review/flex day
Week 8	Midterm/Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolution
Tues. October 12	Midterm covering chapters 1 – 6 . Assignment 1(Country-profile due by 5pm)
Thur. October 14	Ch.7 Drogus & Orvis
Week 9	Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolution & Authoritarian Institutions
Tues. October 19	Ch.7 Drogus & Orvis
Thur. October 21	Ch.8 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.7 Quiz due by 11pm
Week 10	Authoritarian Institutions
Tues. October 26	Fall Break - Academic Holiday
Thur. October 28	Ch.8 Drogus & Orvis
Week 11	Political Economy of Wealth
Tues. November 2	Ch.9 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.8 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. November 4	Ch.9 Drogus & Orvis
Week 12	Political Economy of Wealth
Tues. November 9	Ch.10 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.9 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. November 11	Ch.10 Drogus & Orvis
Week 13	Political Economy of Development
Tues. November 16	Ch.11 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.10 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. November 18	Ch.11 Drogus & Orvis
Week 14	Public Policies When Markets Fail: Welfare, Health, and the Environment
Tues. November 23	Ch.12 Drogus & Orvis. Ch.11 Quiz due by 11pm
Thur. November 25	Thanksgiving - Academic Holidays
Week 15	Public Policies When Markets Fail: Welfare, Health, and the Environment
Tues. November 30	Ch.12 Drogus & Orvis
Thur. December 2	Review/flex day
Week 16	Finals Week
Tues. December 7	Review
Thur. December 9	Reading Days – No class
Final Exam (Tuesday, December 14 at 8 – 10 AM in class). Second Assignment due December 14 by 5pm	

Disclaimer: As the class proceeds, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, the assignments, and the grading structure if I see fit to better accommodate the course. Modifications will be communicated via e-mail, canvas announcements, and in class.