INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

84:101 | Fall Semester 2018 | 3 credits
MWF, 10:20-11:20am in Sage 2232

“The long century during which Western liberal democracies dominated the globe has ended for good...The only remaining question now is whether democracy will transcend its once firm anchoring in the West, a shift that would create the conditions for a truly global democratic century—or whether democracy will become, at best, the lingering form of government in an economically and demographically declining corner of the world.”

Yascha Mounk & Roberto Stefan Foa in *Foreign Affairs* (2018)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Is democracy worth it? We're living in a time when ideas about democracy are shifting, and when global democracy is declining. More than that, countries like China—which aren't democratic at all—seem to be doing really well. In this course, we'll take a long, hard look at established democracies in the United Kingdom, Germany, and France to see how they function and whether or not they're up to the challenge our current political climate presents. At midterm, we'll switch our focus and examine countries that aren't democratic or are only weakly so: Russia, China, Iran, and Nigeria. Throughout the semester we will explore how different political systems respond to social, cultural, economic, religious, and other major national cleavages. The major emphases of this course will be institutions of government, electoral systems, parties, and political participation and how these aspects of government contribute to or detract from the quality of democracy in each country.

You'll find that, as you study the way other countries function, you'll gain a better understanding of your own country. If you pay attention, do the work I assign, and come to class every session, you'll walk away from this class a much more informed global citizen than when you entered—and that will serve you well no matter what career you are pursuing.

GENERAL EDUCATION AT UW OSHKOSH
This course fulfills a USP Social Science (SS) requirement and has been constructed to conform with UW Oshkosh’s Essential Learning Outcomes ([https://www.uwosh.edu/usp/about-the-usp/essential-learning-outcomes](https://www.uwosh.edu/usp/about-the-usp/essential-learning-outcomes)) as well as our Departmental Learning Goals ([http://politicalscience.uwosh.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Learning-Goals-2016.pdf](http://politicalscience.uwosh.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Learning-Goals-2016.pdf)). **NOTE:** This is **NOT** a Quest II course.

This course also fulfills a Global Citizenship (GC) requirement. Global Citizenship is the knowledge of nations, cultures, or societies beyond the U.S.; the recognition of how interaction, interdependence, and inequity among diverse geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped historical and contemporary global challenges and opportunities; and the skills to engage with the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex, interdependent, and changing world.

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION
Instructor:  Professor Tracy H. Slagter, Ph.D., University of Iowa (2006)
Office Hours:  M, 12:00-1:00pm and Th, 11:30-1:30pm
Office Location:  Sage Hall 4626
Email:  slagtert@uwosh.edu

Dept. Contact:  Ms. Angelee Hammond
Dept. Email:  hammond@uwosh.edu
Dept. Office Location:  Sage Hall 4631
Department Phone:  (920) 424-3456
Facebook:  “UWO Political Science”

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/PHONE APP

If you have a smartphone, please install the free BBC News app on your phone and learn to use it!

COURSE PREREQUISITES
There are no prerequisites for this course. It is open to students at any level and in all majors, and is the first in a series of introductory courses in Political Science. In Introduction to Comparative Politics (84:101) we introduce students to the democratic and non-democratic political systems of several different states (e.g., Germany, China, Iran), taking a look inside each one to determine how they function. In Introduction to American Politics (84:105), we give students an in-depth look at the working of the American system of government. And in Introduction to International Relations (IR; 84:115), we show you how states work with and against each other in the global system. Political Science majors are required to take all three, but they stand independently so that non-majors can benefit from them as well.
COURSE POLICIES

Make-up Exams: If you must miss an exam, quiz, or in-class activity for a University-related event or pre-scheduled medical procedure, you must tell me in advance and prepare to take your exam before it appears on the syllabus. If you are ill on the day of the exam, I expect you to let me know BEFORE the exam that you will not be here to take it. In order to take a make-up exam or quiz, you must provide documentation of your illness from a healthcare provider. Note that you are not allowed to make up in-class assignments, no matter the reason.

Email and Email Etiquette: Since you’re all preparing for gainful employment after your time at the University, it’s important to start presenting yourself as a professional now. One easy way to do this is by writing professional, respectful emails. In your emails to me, other faculty and staff, and even your classmates, heed the following advice: 1.) include a meaningful subject line; 2.) begin your email with “Dear...”; 3.) use proper titles, if necessary (for faculty, that’s usually “Prof.” or “Dr.”); 4.) be specific about the action you’d like the recipient to take; and 5.) sign your full name to the email or use an automatic signature.

Cell Phones, Laptops, Etc.: Please be courteous and set your phone to vibrate or silent mode during class, and please keep your phone in your bag unless I tell you it’s OK to use it (sometimes it is!). It is disruptive to all of us if it rings during lecture or discussion. Despite the allure of laptops, the documented best way to learn is for you to take notes on paper in class. If you are on a laptop or tablet and checking non-course-related sites, I’ll ask you to stop bringing your devices to class, as it’s a distraction to those around you.

Other Distractions: Please refrain from reading the newspaper, wearing headphones/earbuds, checking your phone, or frantically completing your reading or assignments for other classes while you’re in mine. It’s disrespectful to me and to your classmates. If you cannot give this class your full attention, you probably shouldn’t come anyway.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Understand how diversity in value systems and cultures and/or inequities among geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped past and/or contemporary global challenges and opportunities;
- Explain patterns of diverse beliefs, ideas, traditions, and/or geographical, social, political, or economic systems;
- Compare other systems of government to the systems in place in the United States; and
- Recognize the patterns and pathologies of democracy in contexts other than our own, particularly as they experience global events.

GRADING SCALE

I use a 93/90/87 grading scale in this course (which means that 93 is the cutpoint for an A, 90 for an A-, 87 for a B+, etc.). Your grade will be determined by several assignments and exams, detailed as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation (15%): I expect you to be in class at each meeting – you can’t participate if you’re not here! You can earn participation points in several different ways: contributing to in-class discussions, answering questions I pose to the class, or stopping by my office hours. Students who attend every class but never say a word can expect a C for this portion of their grade. Participation cannot be made up, no matter the reason for your absence from class.

Map Quiz (5%): There will be a map quiz given in the third week of the course. Countries included on the quiz can be found on the next page of this syllabus.

Quizzes (20% total): There will be a short (10-15 question) multiple-choice online quiz after we complete some of the countries in this course. These quizzes will assess your basic understanding of each political system or concept, and they’re a great way to ensure that you’re keeping up with the course reading. You have three tries to earn a high score on each quiz, so there’s no excuse for not doing well in this section of the course.

Exams (60% total): There will be two exams in this course, a midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (30%). Exams will consist of multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank questions and several identification and/or short-answer essays. Exams must be taken at the time and on the date they are scheduled unless you have a documented medical excuse (e.g., note from your doctor from the date you were sick) or must be absent for a University-sponsored activity (in which case I will need a letter from your coach or other University official). Please
check the course schedule right away to ensure that you are NOT going to miss an exam.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating of any kind. All students should familiarize themselves with the University's policies on academic dishonesty and know the consequences of plagiarism or cheating. In this course, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment or examination will result in a grade of F for the course.

A NOTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS
Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

CHANGES
I reserve the right to make amendments to this syllabus in order to accommodate the needs and pace of this particular group. I will notify you in advance of any changes I decide to make.

MAP QUIZ COUNTRIES
The following list of countries will appear on your map quiz. You will be given a map with numbers in place of country names, and a numbered list. You'll then have to match the countries on the map with the numbers on the quiz sheet. See D2L for blank maps so you can start studying.

1. Afghanistan
2. Australia
3. Belgium
4. Brazil
5. Canada
6. China
7. Democratic Republic of Congo
8. Egypt
9. France
10. Germany
11. Greece
12. India
13. Indonesia
14. Iran
15. Iraq
16. Ireland
17. Israel
18. Japan
19. Kenya
20. Mexico
21. Nigeria
22. New Zealand
23. North Korea
24. Pakistan
25. Philippines
26. Poland
27. Qatar
28. Russia
29. Saudi Arabia
30. South Africa
31. South Korea
32. Spain
33. Sudan
34. Sweden
35. Syria
36. Ukraine
37. United Kingdom
38. Venezuela
39. Yemen
40. Zimbabwe

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS OF ASSIGNMENTS
This schedule is subject to change. Some topics and readings will require a bit more time than I have allotted, and some less. I will let you know what to expect the next session after each lecture so that you can be prepared. In general, you should have the readings completed for the day they are assigned (i.e., if a reading is listed for 10/5, you should have it read before you come to class on 10/5).

INTRO WEEK
September 5  Introduction to the Course and Assignments
   READ: this syllabus, and bring any questions you have.
September 7  Thinking about Comparative Politics
   READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>What is the State?</td>
<td>READ: Cases and Concepts, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>What's the Difference between States and Nations?</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 6 (read through &quot;Institutions of the Democratic State&quot;)</td>
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<th>Week Two</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 6 (read through the end of the chapter)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>The United Kingdom</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, U.K. Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>The United Kingdom</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, U.K. Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Three</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>The United Kingdom</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, U.K. Case Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Democracies (with one case under our belts...!)</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 7</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Germany Case Study</td>
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<th>Week Four</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Germany Case Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Germany Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, France Case Study</td>
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<th>Week Five</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, France Case Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, France Case Study</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 4</td>
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<th>Week Six</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 4</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Catch-Up Day</td>
<td>READ: No new reading; be sure you have completed all readings to this point</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>bring your questions to class!</td>
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<th>Week Seven</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Non-Democracies</td>
<td>READ: Cases &amp; Concepts, Chapter 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Communism</td>
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READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 9 (read through "Societal Institutions...")

WEEK EIGHT
October 29  Russia  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Russia Case Study
October 31  Russia  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Russia Case Study
November 2  Russia  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Russia Case Study

WEEK NINE
November 5  Post-Communism  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 9 (finish the chapter)
November 7  Non-Democratic Regimes  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 8
November 9  China  
READ: Cases & Concepts, China Case Study

WEEK TEN
November 12  China  
READ: Cases & Concepts, China Case Study
November 14  China  
READ: Cases & Concepts, China Case Study
November 16  Political Violence  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 5

WEEK ELEVEN
November 19  Iran  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Iran Case Study
November 21  No Class: Thanksgiving Recess
November 23  No Class: Thanksgiving Recess

WEEK TWELVE
November 26  Iran  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Iran Case Study
November 28  Iran  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Iran Case Study
November 30  Development  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 10

WEEK THIRTEEN
December 3  Nigeria  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Nigeria Case Study
December 5  Nigeria  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Nigeria Case Study
December 7  Nigeria  
READ: Cases & Concepts, Nigeria Case Study

WEEK FOURTEEN
December 10  Review: bring your questions to class!
December 12  ⇨ Final Examination!
December 14  No class; happy winter break!