

# University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

## Department of Political Science

Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLI SCI 101-001C (SS) (GC) 3 credits

No Prerequisites Required

Fall 2020

This course is taught online, asynchronously on CANVAS.

**Dr. Juliane Troicki**

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### **Office Hours:**

Professor Troicki is available via email and remotely via various virtual platforms upon request and by appointment.

Office hours - Office Hours (MS Teams)

The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor's icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark my availability as "busy" (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

*“Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...”*

*Winston S. Churchill, November 11, 1947*

### **UWO Bulletin Course Description:**

“This course provides an introduction to key concepts and issues in comparative politics in the context of case studies from Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East. It explores political participation and institutions, political ideology and culture, the role of government, political parties, democratization, economic development and inequality, nationalism, and ethnic and religious conflict in variety of national and regional contexts around the globe.”

### **Fall 2020 Course Description:**

Is democracy worth the effort? We live 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 and Germany to see how they function and whether or not they’re up to the challenge our current political climate presents. Then, we will examine countries in the developing world: India and Mexico. We will study their political systems and structures to determine how democratic they actually are. Last, we will focus on countries that are non-democratic or very weakly democratic: Russia and China. 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 life for those living 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 assigned work, 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.

### **Required Readings:**

O’Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share, eds. 2018. *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton. Available in the bookstore or online.

International News: You are expected to be well informed regarding international events. The most convenient way is to download the free BBC News app on your smartphone and to spend at least 15 minutes every day getting informed on current events.

There are no prerequisites for this course; it is open to all students regardless of major or disciplinary focus and meets key learning goals and distributional requirements of your UWO general education course of study, including your global citizenship requirement.

**General Education at UW Oshkosh:**

This course fulfills a USP Social Science (SS) requirement and a Global Citizenship (GC) requirement. NOTE: This is NOT a Quest II course.

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. More information on the Global Citizenship Certificate can be found at: [www.uwosh.edu/cetl/initiatives/global-citizenship](http://www.uwosh.edu/cetl/initiatives/global-citizenship).

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Define and apply key concepts in comparative politics.
- Compare and contrast the political systems of the countries explored in the course, paying particular attention to historical, political, economic, geographical, and moral aspects of governance in each country.
- Explain how different electoral systems affect representation in democracies.
- Investigate how differences in worldviews, beliefs, practices, and values affect political choices in diverse contexts.
- Explain and evaluate the importance of specific historical events in the context of the political and economic development of the countries studied.
- Explore comparative data in relation to a contemporary political issue.
- Define ethical reasoning and articulate ethical issues related to course materials.
- Articulate your own goals and plans related to your university experience.

**Assessing Student Learning:****Quizzes:**

There will be a total of thirteen quizzes. All of these will be taken online on CANVAS by all students. Each quiz will cover the material of the respective week.

**Course Policies:****Required Readings:**

It is very important that you finish your readings before the week and the new topic starts. You should also take notes while reading. You are expected to complete all assigned readings, otherwise you will not be able to do well on the quizzes. Take notes on your reading, keep a list of key terms and definitions, and write down questions you may have while reading.

**Course Requirements:**

To successfully complete this course, you need to come to access CANVAS every week, do the assigned readings, review the slideshows and recordings and take the quiz each week. The total grade is based on the following:

Assignment	Percentage of Total Grade
Quizzes (13)	100
Total	100

**Grading Scale:**

Your final grade will be calculated based on the UW Oshkosh Default Grading Scheme. Grades will be posted on CANVAS. Please make sure to check there from time to time to be aware of your class performance.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100 – 93
A-	< 93 – 90
B+	< 90 – 87
B	< 87 – 83
B-	< 83 – 80
C+	< 80 – 77
C	< 77 – 73
C-	< 73 – 70
D+	< 70 – 67
D	< 67 – 63
D-	< 63 – 60
F	< 60 – 0

**Late Submissions:**

I will not accept late submissions of assignments unless there is a serious emergency or a really good reason for the assignment's lateness. I will determine whether or not to accept late submissions at my own discretion. If you are allowed to turn in an assignment after the due date, it will lose points for lateness.

Quizzes: Ideally, you should take each quiz in the week it is assigned. However, due to the unpredictable nature of a semester in the midst of a global pandemic, there is some flexibility. The deadline for all quizzes will be December 13, 2020. Consequently, you need to have all work done by that date to pass the course. The advantage is that you can work at your own pace and accommodate any special circumstances. Please make sure to keep up with the work so that you will finish everything by the deadline.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Your assignments are expected to be an original effort, i.e. your own work. Group work (via technology) is not allowed for this class. The University of Wisconsin takes plagiarism very seriously and so do I. Students who are caught plagiarizing and/or cheating on exams will automatically fail the class.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

#### **Academic Help and Disability Issues:**

All assignments have been designed to meet all students' needs so no extra accommodations will be necessary. Students have two attempts to take each quiz and the quizzes are timed very generously to accommodate most needs.

#### **Technology and Communication:**

We will be using Canvas for this class. I will also use Canvas/email to communicate and post grades. The best way to contact me is through email. My email address is [troickij@uwosh.edu](mailto:troickij@uwosh.edu). You are expected to use your school email account. Please state your full name in your email so that I may know who you are when you are writing to me. Please feel welcome to email me at any time with your questions and concerns. I check my messages every day.

#### **Campus Resources:**

There are numerous campus resources available to you. In the University Studies Program, we want you to be successful. Please visit the University's resource page at: <https://uwosh.edu/resources/> to find out about all the campus services available to support your success.

#### **Disclosure statement:**

"Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>."

#### **Grievance Statement:**

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at [kruegerj@uwosh.edu](mailto:kruegerj@uwosh.edu). Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

**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.

**Course Schedule:**

Please see the reading assignments in the schedule listed below. The reading assignment is for the entire week. Ideally, you take the quiz by the end of the week.

**Week 1 (Sept 9 – 11): Introduction to the class and assignments**

Reading assignment: syllabus, Cases & Concepts, Chapter 1

Watch videos on CANVAS

Take political science department test on CANVAS (this is not graded)

**Week 2 (Sept 14-18): What is the state?**

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 2

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 1 on CANVAS

**Week 3 (Sept 21-25): Distinguishing nations from states**

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 3

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 2 on CANVAS

**Week 4 (Sept 28- Oct 2): Democracy**

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 6

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 3 on CANVAS

**Week 5 (Oct 5-9): Advanced Industrial Democracies**

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 7

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 4 on CANVAS

**Week 6 (Oct 12-16): The United Kingdom**

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, U.K. Case Study

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 5 on CANVAS

**Week 7 (Oct 19-23): Germany**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Germany Case Study

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 6 on CANVAS

**Week 8 (Oct 26-30): Political Economy**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 4

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 7 on CANVAS

**Week 9 (Nov 2-6): Nondemocracies**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 8

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 8 on CANVAS

**Week 10 (Nov 9-13): Communism and Post-Communism**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 9

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 9 on CANVAS

**Week 11 (Nov 16-20): Russia**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Russia Case Study

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 10 on CANVAS

**Week 12: Thanksgiving Break: November 25 – 29, no classes**

**Week 13 (Nov 30- Dec 4): Political Violence**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 5

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 11 on CANVAS

**Week 14 (Dec 7-11): Development**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 10

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 12 on CANVAS

**Week 15 (Dec 14 – 18): Mexico**

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Mexico Case Study

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 13 on CANVAS

Take political science department test on CANVAS (not graded)

**NOTE:** Professor Troicki reserves the right to modify this syllabus when appropriate and at her discretion. If substantive changes are made in the course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus will be made available.