

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Department of Political Science

Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLI SCI 101Q2-002C (SS) (NW) (XS) (GC) 3 credits

No Prerequisites Required

Spring 2021

Dr. Juliane Troicki

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IMPORTANT: This course is taught fully online, asynchronously on CANVAS. This means that all class materials (except the textbook) will be uploaded to the course page on CANVAS where you will access them. Since this course is taught asynchronously, there will not be any live broadcast lectures. Instead, the lectures, additional readings and quizzes will be uploaded ahead of time. You will be responsible for accessing, reading and learning all materials regularly and seriously. The beauty of this format is that you are able to work independently and at your own speed. However, it is your responsibility to make sure you keep up and put in enough time to master the material and succeed on the tests. Of course, you may contact me at any time if you have questions and I will gladly help you via email or virtual meeting. Please contact me via email (troickij@uwosh.edu) if you have questions about this class format or if you are unsure whether this class format will work for you.

Office Hours:

Professor Troicki is available via email and remotely via various virtual platforms upon request and by appointment. Please contact me at any time via email with any of your questions. I am happy to help and will respond as soon as I can.

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 professors 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.”

Spring 2021 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. First edition. Available in the bookstore or online.

ISBN-13: 978-0393631302, ISBN-10: 0393631303

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.

Prerequisites:

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.

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.

Quest II and the University Studies Program:

This section of Introduction to Comparative Politics is a Quest II course, the second in your series of Quest courses addressing one of the three core signature questions at the heart of the University Studies Program (USP).

In this course we will examine: How do people understand and bridge cultural differences? Understanding cultural differences and being able to competently navigate a culturally rich, diverse, and complex world is an essential learning outcome (a core goal) of your liberal education at UWO and an indispensable life skill. Intercultural knowledge and competence is the understanding of one's own culture as well as cultures beyond one's own; the recognition of the cultural values and history, language, traditions, arts, and social institutions of a group of people; the ability to negotiate and bridge cultural differences in ways that allow for broader perspectives to emerge; and the skill to investigate a wide range of world views, beliefs, practices, and values (including your own core values and beliefs).

One of the goals of the USP is to provide you with a broad understanding of the human experience through an exploration of different disciplines. Major academic divisions like social science, and their disciplines, like political science, present us with alternative approaches or "ways of knowing" about nature, culture and society. Introduction to Comparative Politics is in the society category; this means we want you to start thinking like a "social scientist" and using some of the tools of political science to confront kinds of fundamental questions posed in the course description above.

Additionally, this course satisfies your USP Global Citizenship requirement; and it is one of the gateway courses to advanced study in Political Science (see the end of the syllabus for more course recommendations.) 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.

Our exploration of the domestic politics of other countries and our exploration of disciplinary “ways of knowing,” including the use of social science methods, are all part of what it means to be liberally educated. A liberally educated person is prepared to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. Such individuals possess broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth knowledge of a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings (adapted from AAC&U).

Quest II courses emphasize Ethical Reasoning. Ethical reasoning is a form of reasoning we all do when we ask questions like “Should I do this?” “Is it right to do that?” “Is this policy good?” “Am I doing what I should to be a good person?” “What should a good person do?” Ethical reasoning is values based – about good or right versus that bad or wrong. In the context of political science, ethical reasoning informs (and is informed by) theories of justice, citizenship, and political rights and duties. As we consider our case studies, we will examine the consequences of ethical (and unethical) behavior on the political community.

Developing your ethical reasoning skills requires you to be able to ‘assess your own values and the social context of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, think about how different ethical perspectives might be applied to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of alternative actions’ (adapted from the AAC&U VALUE Rubric).

In your Quest III course, you will examine another Signature Question and engage in a significant community experience. Quest II courses extend your “first year experience” on campus (which you began with Quest I) by providing you with opportunities to begin to plan your future in college, work, and life. To do so we’ll spend some of time during the semester out of the classroom exploring student and academic organizations and interacting with alumni and career services in a variety of ways. We will also examine the role of research at the university, but for faculty and students and you will have an opportunity to learn about and apply social science research methods in class.

First year experience (FYE) requirements:

We have several in and out-of-class “planning your future in college, work, and life” activities scheduled. These are required and factor into your overall grade in the course. Note that the majority of these opportunities will be offered virtually due to Covid-19. These activities include:

- Virtual visit (on your own time) to at least three (3) academic open houses for showcase week (and associated assignment): <https://uwosh.edu/usp/students-get-involved/academic-open-house-week/>
- Virtual class visit with Career Services: date and more information TBD
- Virtual Attendance at ONE of the Career Fair on the Fox events:

- Career Fair on the Fox - February 17, 2021 - 12:00 to 4:00 PM, Handshake (virtual event)
 - Creating Connections - April 7, 2021- 4:30 – 5:30 PM, Handshake (virtual event)
 - Healthcare Career Fair - April 7, 2021 - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Handshake (virtual event)
 - Education Career Fair - April 15, 2021 - 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Handshake (virtual event)
- Virtual visit from UWO Alumni via Collaborate Ultra: 3/4/2021 at 8:00 am.
 - Virtually attend the Celebration of Scholarship and Creative Activity
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 - Virtual attendance at ONE (minimum) of the following (and associated documentation):
 - A “Taste of Nations” dining event or a similar cultural event
 - A meeting of a student group
 - The Volunteer Fair
 - Study/Intern Abroad Fair
 - Advising appointment (UARC)
 - Center for Academic Resources service, such as supplemental instruction or tutoring
 - A UWO Division III NCAA Athletic event

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 access CANVAS every week, do the assigned readings, review the pre-recorded lectures and take the quiz each week. The total grade is based on the following:

Assignment	Percentage of Total Grade
Quizzes (13)	90
FYE Required Activities	10
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.

Political Science Department Tests:

This test is administered by the Political Science department in every PS101 class at the beginning and at the end of the semester. This means that you will take this test twice, first during the first week and then again in the last week of the semester. The department uses the data to assess student learning in its courses. Rest assured, your performance in this test will not count towards your grade in this class.

Early Alert Notifications:

The college uses the Early Alert Notification System to help students succeed in their classes. Your professors will let the college know how you have been doing in the first few weeks of the semester. If you have not done the work or have done poorly, you will receive a notification around week 6. Should you receive such a notification, please regard it as a friendly (but serious) reminder to turn things around and do better going forward so that you may still pass the class. Make sure to reach out to your professors if you have questions or are not sure how to proceed. We want you to succeed in our classes 😊

If you do not receive any notification, this means that you are currently not at risk of failing the class. Regardless, feel free to connect with your professors at any time to ask questions, etc...

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 May 14, 2021. 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. 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. 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 (February 1): Introduction to the class and assignments

Reading assignment: syllabus, Cases & Concepts, Chapter 1

Watch videos on CANVAS

Week 2 (February 8): What is the state?

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 2

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 1 on CANVAS

Week 3 (February 15): Distinguishing nations from states

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 3

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 2 on CANVAS

Week 4 (February 22): Democracy

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 6

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 3 on CANVAS

Week 5 (March 1): Advanced Industrial Democracies

Reading assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 7

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 4 on CANVAS

Week 6 (March 8): The United Kingdom

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

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 5 on CANVAS

Week 7 (March 15): Germany

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Germany Case Study

Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS

Take Quiz 6 on CANVAS

Week 8 (March 22): SPRING BREAK, March 21 – 28, NO CLASSES

Week 9 (March 29): Political Economy

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 4

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 7 on CANVAS

Week 10 (April 5): Non-Democracies

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 8

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 8 on CANVAS

Week 11 (April 12): Communism and Post-Communism

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 9

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 9 on CANVAS

Week 12 (April 19): Russia

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Russia Case Study

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 10 on CANVAS

Week 13 (April 26): Political Violence

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 5

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 11 on CANVAS

Week 14 (May 3): Development

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Chapter 10

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 12 on CANVAS

Week 15 (May 10): Mexico

Reading Assignment: Cases & Concepts, Mexico Case Study

View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS

Take Quiz 13 on CANVAS

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.