Syllabus - Course Overview and Policies for Winter Interim 2021
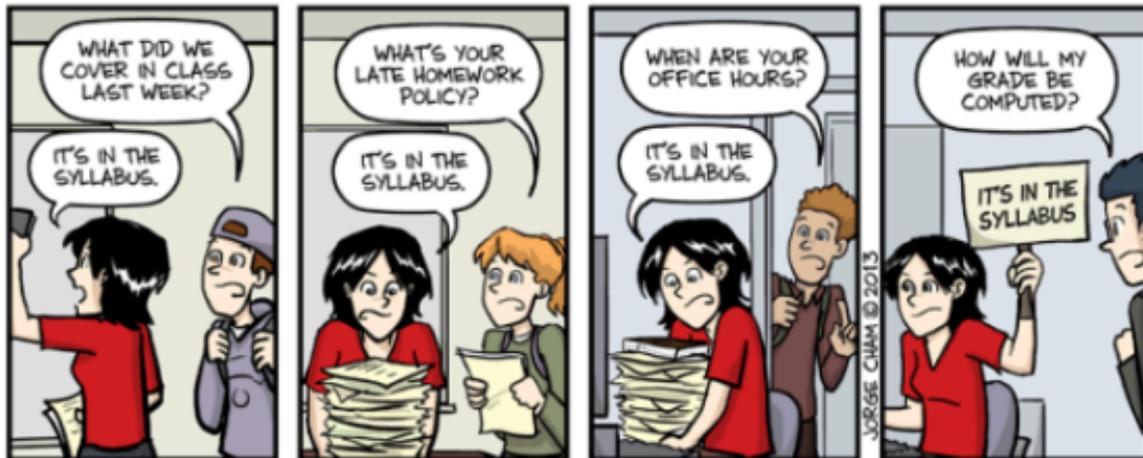
Introduction to Comparative Politics (XS) (GC) 3 cr.

POLI SCI 101-001C

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.

There are no pre-requisites 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.

If you happen to be a Political Science major, PS101 satisfies a major requirement. Political Science majors should remember to take Political Methodology (PS245) in either their sophomore or first semester of their junior year. PS245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently.

Explore courses and your liberal arts education

Introduction to Comparative Politics is an ***EXPLORE*** course in the University Studies Program (USP) curriculum. 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 the kinds of fundamental questions posed in the course description above. PS101 is one of the gateway courses to advanced study in Political Science (see the end of the syllabus for more course recommendations.)

Global Citizenship

This course also satisfies your **USP Global Citizenship 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.

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).

Understanding cultural differences and being able to 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.

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.

Assessing student learning

InQuizitive, Quizzes, Assignments, and Exams: This course uses a variety of methods, both formative and summative, to assess student learning. InQuizitive is an adaptive quizzing tool corresponding to the conceptual chapters in the textbook. It helps you to master and apply key concepts. Assignments are designed to get you thinking about and applying core concepts to our case studies. There is a final cumulative exam.

Course Materials
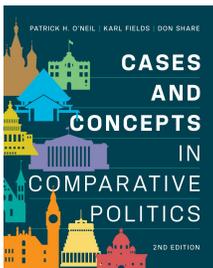
Textbook: Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics, SECOND EDITION, Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share is available in the University Books and More Bookstore and online directly from the publisher. You can purchase the fully online version, or the paper version with the online access to InQuizitive. The fully online version is cheapest. See our course module: **Module 1 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/modules/1150419)**

Web-based applications you will use in this course are all provided by UWO or your text book publisher, W.W. Norton. They include Canvas, Collaborate Ultra, Microsoft Teams, and InQuizitive.

- **For any technical problems,** make sure you contact the UWO or the W.W. Norton help desk right away! That's their job... so don't wait! These are not things I can help you with.
  - **https://uwosh.edu/canvas/canvas-help/ (https://uwosh.edu/canvas/canvas-help/)**
  - **https://wwnorton.com/tech-support (https://wwnorton.com/tech-support)**

Course Delivery Format in the time of Covid

This is an asynchronous online class: Due to COVID, the course was moved online with an asynchronous delivery format - this means that we do not have a set class time. You can work on your time, however see **[Our Plan of Action - and other things to keep in mind (https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/our-plan-of-action-and-other-things-to-keep-in-mind)](https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/our-plan-of-action-and-other-things-to-keep-in-mind)** so you do not fall behind! Each module includes an overview highlighting what you need need to accomplish in the module. For each chapter there is an overview, mini lectures pointing up key concepts, and short assignments to support your learning. You need to complete the related InQuizitive quizzes and any associated assignments for the module before moving to the next module.

Real time class discussion: Even though the class is asynchronous the real fun of comparative politics is talking about politics, discussing events in the news, and exploring what we can learn from other countries. This is a 'come as you are', bring a cup a coffee, raise a question, chat about the news, get some help on a concept you don't understand, etc. kind of time.

My office hours are via MS Teams video / phone. See **[Office Hours (https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/office-hours)](https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/office-hours)** and **[Email Etiquette (https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/email-etiquette)](https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/email-etiquette)** for more information.

We will use Canvas extensively for class. Set up your Canvas notifications so you don't miss anything! Canvas does not play that well with Apple. So be sure you are accessing Canvas through Chrome (not firefox, and not safari). Canvas only supports some file types (again, not Apple) - so save yourself a lot of headache by using Word (.DOC or .DOCX) and .PDF and and NOT .pages; and use .MP4 for video and not .MOV.

Do you want to learn how to use Canvas like a pro?

- **Check out the [Canvas Guides (https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/overview/)](https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/overview/)** before spending a lot of time struggling to figure out how to do something. There are videos and step-by-step guides to help you as you use Canvas. You can also learn more about the Canvas app available for iOS and Android devices.
- **Check out this [mini course   (http://%C2%A0https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/XNGF6C)](http://%C2%A0https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/XNGF6C) :** enroll in this canvas course and it will show up like your other courses in Canvas on your dashboard and is a good resource to have at your finger tips.

Time and Study Expectations

This is an intensive three week course! It will be a lot of work. Interim classes fit a whole semester into three weeks. During the regular semester at UWO I teach this class in-person over 14 weeks with 3 hours of in-class lecture and discussion each week, plus the time you spend out of class reading and studying. During interim it is a 3 hour per day class for 14 days with each day covering one week of the normal semester. So it is a lot of work! You need to stay on task and treat it as if

were taking this class in-person 3 hours a day, plus the time you spend out of class reading and studying.

Set aside time for working online. You already know that will take you longer to respond to an online discussion than to raise your hand and make a comment in class - so give yourself time!

Absences and Late Work

What if? What if you you get sick, or lose access to the internet or have a fatal computer issue that affects your ability to participate? Because this is an asynchronous course, you have some flexibility with your time and should be able to adjust to minor emergencies. However, if you have a significant illness or other issue that impacts your ability to complete the course on time, you need to communicate right away with me and the Dean of Students office. See this link for **COVID-19 Resources for Students (https://uwosh.edu/titans-return/students/covid-19-information/)** .

Late work: There is no late work in this class (assignments posted after the suggested due date are not penalized). The course closes at midnight (11:59) on the last day class.

Manage your learning environment

Online learning is different and can be difficult! What's out of sight can often be out of mind. Although you aren't coming to a physical classroom, make sure you stay engaged and on top of your work. **Our Plan of Action - and other things to keep in mind (https://uwosh.instructure.com/courses/358625/pages/our-plan-of-action-and-other-things-to-keep-in-mind)** page will help to keep you on track!

- **Focus; avoid shared spaces; let others know when you're working so they leave you alone (or remind you stay on task!)**
- **Check Canvas.** I will be posting materials on Canvas, mostly using the announcement tool to post reminders and stay in touch with the class.
- **Post and ask questions.** If you don't understand something, don't sit in silence. There is a "Does anyone know...?" running discussion student board to post and answer questions. Use it.... Ask!
- **Don't procrastinate!** It can be effortless to delay work when you're not physically going to class. Keep up with what's posted in Canvas every day so that you don't fall behind.

Grading Policies

The components of your final grade are:

Discussions	25%
Checking for Understanding Responses	10%
InQuizitive	20%
Case Study Quizzes	20%

Final Exam   25%

You may check your assignment grades on Canvas at any time. If something doesn't look right, or you have any questions just contact me! Your final grade is calculated by Canvas using the UW Oshkosh Default Grading Scheme:

100%	< 93%	< 90%	< 87%	< 83%	< 80%	< 77%	< 73%	< 70%	< 67%	< 63%	< 60%
A	**A-**	**B+**	**B**	**B-**	**C+**	**C**	**C-**	**D+**	**D**	**D-**	**F**

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. As a UW Oshkosh student, it is your responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct, how to avoid it and what happens if you decide to engage in it. **Check out these resources on the Dean of Students website (https://uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/student-conduct/academic-misconduct/)** .

Campus resources

Campus Resources: In the University Studies Program (and at UWO generally!), we want you to be successful and there are many resources on campus dedicated to your academic and personal success. **Click for a full list of resources available to you on campus (http://www.uwosh.edu/home/resources)** .

Students with Disabilities: UW Oshkosh strives to create inclusive learning environments. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. For more information, visit the Services for Students with Disabilities website at **http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/disability-services (https://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center/)** .

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement: Diversity drives innovation, creativity, and progress. At the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, the culture, identities, life experiences, unique abilities, and talents of every individual contribute to the foundation of our success. Creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment is of paramount importance to us. This pursuit prepares all of us to be global citizens who will contribute to the betterment of the world. We are committed to a university culture that provides everyone with the opportunity to thrive.

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:

Course Schedule

The course is structured in six modules. Each module includes an overview highlighting what you need need to accomplish in the module. For each chapter there is an overview, followed by mini lectures, relevant videos, and other resources that support your learning and related assignments. *You should complete your reading and any associated assignments for the module before moving to the next module.* I have put in **due dates** for assignments and **"to do" dates f**or the chapter overview pages so they populate your Canvas calendar **to help keep you on track** - if you stay up with these dates, which correspond to actual dates during interim (not counting weekend days, for example), you will complete the course on time. **See the schedule below for "complete by" dates.** The course closes at the end of the term - you will not be able to submit items after the end of the course on Jan. 22nd. So you need to complete your work, including the final by midnight the last day of class.

Module 1 - Comparative Politics Overview - Complete by Jan 4th 11:59pm

Introduction (1) Complete by Jan 4th 11:59pm

Module 2 - State and Society - Complete by Jan 6th 11:59pm

States (2) Complete by Jan 4th 11:59pm

Nations and Society (3) Complete by Jan 5th 11:59pm

Political Economy (4) Complete by Jan 6th 11:59pm

Module 3 - Democracy - What is it, how does it work, how does it fall apart? We focus on the wealthy and relatively stable democracies of the United Kingdom and Germany. - Complete by Jan 11th 11:59pm

Democratic Regimes (6) Complete by Jan 7th 11:59pm

Developed Democracies (7) Complete by Jan 8th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: The United Kingdom Complete by Jan 11th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: Germany Complete by Jan 12th 11:59pm

Module 4 - Non-Democracy - What is it, how does it work, how does it fall apart? We will focus on power, authority and legitimacy in the communist/post-communist examples of China and Russia with some discussion of Nigeria - Complete by Jan 15th 11:59pm

Non-Democracies (8) Complete by Jan 13th 11:59pm

Communism / Post-Communism (9) Complete by Jan 13th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: Russia Complete by Jan 14th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: China Complete by Jan 15th 11:59pm

Module 5 - Politics of developing countries in a global world. Our developing country examples include India and Nigeria. These cases bring back into focus many of the concepts covered from earlier modules (states and society concepts, democracy, economic policy, non-democratic practices, etc.) - Complete by Jan 21st 11:59pm

Developing Countries (10) Complete by Jan 19th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: India Complete by Jan 20th 11:59pm

Country Case Chapter: Nigeria Complete by Jan 21th 11:59pm

Module 6 - Putting it all together - Comparative Exam - Complete by Jan 22nd 11:59pm

If you need a PDF copy of the syllabus, it is available HERE.