

**Department of Political Science | University of Wisconsin Oshkosh**  
**Political Science 101 – Introduction to Comparative**  
**Politics (SS) (NW) (XS) (GC) (online)**  
**Spring 2023**

**Prof. Druscilla Scribner** (Ph.D., University of California San Diego)

**Office Location:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** Tu/Wed/Th, 11:00 to 12:00 and by appointment via MS Teams

**Email:** [scribned@uwosh.edu](mailto:scribned@uwosh.edu)

**Class Time:** Asynchronous (paced)

**Class Location:** Online

**Department Office:** Sage 4631, (920) 424-3456

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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**UWO Course Bulletin 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 a variety of national and regional contexts around the globe. **3 credits**

**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.

PS101 satisfies a major requirement if you are a Political Science major. 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.

### *Course Goals*

- Gain knowledge and understanding of the political process
- Learn to think like a social scientist
- Expand your knowledge and understanding of the world
- Gain intercultural knowledge and competence

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; 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 other countries' domestic politics and 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) and in-depth knowledge of a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, 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 navigating a culturally rich, diverse, and complex world is an essential learning outcome (a core goal) of your liberal education at UWO and an essential 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:* After completing 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 each country's historical, political, economic, geographical, and moral aspects of governance in each country.
- Investigate how differences in worldviews, beliefs, practices, and values affect political choices in diverse contexts.
- Explain how different electoral systems affect representation in democracies.
- 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 about a contemporary political issue.

*Assessing student learning:* This course uses various formative and summative methods to assess student learning. These include InQuizitive, case study quizzes, shared written responses, and online discussions. 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**

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Required textbook: **Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics, SECOND EDITION, Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share.**

This text 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 online access to InQuizitive. The fully online version is the cheapest. There are directions for you from the publisher in our introduction module.

Web-based applications you will use in this course are all provided by UWO and your textbook publisher, W.W. Norton. They include Canvas, 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.

- [Canvas Help](#) and [Canvas Student Guides \(very comprehensive\)](#)
- [UWO Knowledge Base \(Tech Support\)](#)
- [Norton Tech Support](#)

### ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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This is an asynchronous online course - we do not have any zoom meeting times. But we do have a **weekly schedule of assignments**. You need to complete one week before moving to the next. Each new week is available starting the previous Wednesday at 11:59 pm.

There are a variety of activities to complete to reach our learning objectives each week. These activities include reading, online discussions, videos, mini-explanatory lectures, written assignments, quizzes, etc. These assignments have due dates.

A three-credit course's standard number of expected work hours is 9 hours per week. This is a Political Science course. The style of the readings and assignments reflect this academic discipline, and the learning activities foster instructor-student and student-student interaction.

*Participation:* In online courses, your regular participation involves logging in to our course, navigating through the content pages in a module, completing the readings and videos, participating in discussions and other activities, and submitting assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Your participation is an integral part of your learning, but it also contributes to the learning of your peers. As members of our learning community, we are each responsible for creating an environment where we can all learn from each other.

To ensure each member of our course feels included and welcomed, we will treat each other with dignity and respect while acknowledging that each of us is unique and has different views and opinions about topics. Some of the topics we cover may elicit strong reactions. Please keep in mind that written communications can be easily misinterpreted. Each time you make a post or reply to a discussion, read it twice before you submit it to ensure the words you have chosen are considerate but also convey your message. If you feel a peer has violated these expectations, please get in touch with me directly; I will tend to your concern in a confidential matter.

*Technology Requirements:* We will use Canvas for class. Set up your Canvas notifications so you do not miss anything! Keep in mind that 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) - MS Word and PDF are good choices. Most assignments are simply submitted through the Canvas text box, so you just copy and paste your submissions into the text box.

Depending on how you decided to purchase your text(s) for this class (e.g., rental, paper copy, or electronic book), you may have other technical requirements related to your textbook.

### COURSE POLICIES

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*Course Schedule:* We have a course schedule that we follow over the semester. You can find this schedule in our START HERE module. It is hyperlinked to our modules in Canvas. A non-linked version is at the end of this syllabus for your reference. The course is organized in weekly modules. Each includes an overview highlighting what you need to accomplish during the week. The week's

overview page lists the activities and associated assignments for that week; these must be completed to unlock and move to the next module.

*Assignments and Grading:* Your final grade in this course will be based on the following weighted assignment groups, using the UWO 93/87/80 grading scale.

- InQuizitive: 15%
- Checking for understanding responses: 15%
- Case Study Chapter Quizzes: 15%
- Online discussion: 25%
- Final exam: 15%
- Weekly reflection: 15%

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

I know it can be frustrating to wait a long time to receive feedback or to know your grade. I will grade your work on Canvas as soon as possible (in conjunction with my other classes), ideally within 2-4 days from the due date. For papers with individualized comments, it may take more than a week. [You can see comments on Canvas.](#)

*Absences, late work, and accommodations:* All assignments are due by midnight (11:59 pm) on the scheduled dates. Because this is an asynchronous course, you have some flexibility with your time and should be able to adjust to minor personal and family emergencies; however, if you have a significant illness or issue that *impacts your ability to complete assignments on time or complete the course, you need to communicate with me right away.*

Missing work automatically receives a zero on Canvas when the due date/time passes. Late submissions are automatically subject to a 7% per day late penalty. A late penalty can be removed for extenuating circumstances and excused absences. *If you think you have extenuating circumstances, contact me.*

- *Excused absences and late work:* According to University policy, excused absences require documented evidence of medical necessity or an approved college-sanctioned event. We will work out a schedule for you to complete your work before or after your absence. Zeros and late penalties will be removed as work is turned in.
- *Unexcused absences and late work:* The late penalty is 7% per day – it is automatic and will diminish your potential grade to a floor of 65%. This means you can turn in late work and at least get a D. You are always better off submitting something rather than nothing! However, this grace period runs until the end of Spring break for assignments due in the first half of the semester and until the last day of class for assignments due in the second half of the semester.

*Citations and Writing Expectations:* The Political Science Department has [writing resources](#) for you, including the APSA style guide. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the APSA citation style and using it properly – if you have questions, ask.

*Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:* Plagiarism is using someone else’s UNIQUE ideas, words, theories, evidence, findings, argument, etc., and passing them off as your own by not properly attributing or acknowledging the original source of those ideas. Plagiarism could result in failing the assignment or course. If you are unsure whether what you have written constitutes plagiarism, ask before you turn it in. If there is an issue, we will talk.

This class uses Turnitin technology to help you and me detect plagiarism issues. See the Dean of Students' [resources on plagiarism](#) for more information about how we address these issues at UWO.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

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We have a course schedule that we will follow over the course of the semester. The basic schedule is reproduced below. In Canvas, this schedule includes hyperlinks to our weekly pages with detailed plans and additional resources for each week. If anything changes in our schedule, I will inform you via announcements.

I have structured the course with lots of reminders and deadlines to keep you on pace to completion. You should sign up for Canvas notifications to ensure you do not miss class announcements and reminders.

Each week has its own module in Canvas, and each module is structured the same way with consistent assignments and due dates to help you structure your time. These include:

- *Learning objectives for the week*
- *Assigned reading in our textbook*
- *Related learning resources (such as a mini-lecture and/or concept explainer pages)*
- *Group discussion(s) assignments*
- *Chapter Quiz (due Friday)*
- *Learning Reflection (due Sunday night)*

#### **Week 1 Jan 30-Feb 3 – Module available starting Jan 25**

##### **Introduction to Comparative Politics and the “State”**

- Review the START HERE module and watch the course introduction
- Register your text and tryout *InQuizitive*
- Introduce yourself to your discussion group
- Read Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (States) in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

#### **Week 2 Feb 6-Feb 10 – Module available starting Feb 1**

##### **Nations and National Identity**

- Read Chapter 3 (Nations)
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

#### **Week 3 Feb 13-Feb 17 – Module available starting Feb 8**

##### **How states govern the economy**

- Read Chapter 4 (Politics Economy) in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

#### **Week 4 Feb 20-Feb 24 – Module available starting Feb 15**

##### **How democracy works**

- Read Chapter 6 (Democratic Regimes) and Chapter 7 (Developed Democracies) in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

#### **Week 5 Feb 27-Mar 3 – Module available starting Feb 22**

##### **Parliamentary democracy in the United Kingdom**

- Read the United Kingdom country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 6 Mar 6-Mar 10 – Module available starting Mar 1**

**Post-War European democracy in Germany**

- Read the Germany country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 7 Mar 13-Mar 17 – Module available starting Mar 8**

**Political Violence and non-Democracies**

- Read Chapter 5 (Political Violence) and Chapter 8 (Non-democracies) in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Spring Break Mar 20- Mar 24**

**Week 8 Mar 27-Mar 31 – Module available starting Mar 22**

**Nigeria – Democracy and non-democracy in violent contexts**

- Read the Nigeria country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 9 Apr 3-Apr 7 – Module available starting Mar 29**

**Russia - Post-communist non-democracy**

- Read Chapter 9 (Communism and Post Communism) and the Russia country case chapter
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 10 Apr 10-Apr 14 – Module available starting Apr 5**

**China – Communist non-democracies**

- Read the China country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 11 Apr 17-Apr 21 – Module available starting Apr 12**

**Developing Democracies**

- Read Chapter 10 (Developing Countries)
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week
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**Week 12 Apr 24-Apr 28 – Module available starting Apr 19**

**India – Democracy, Diversity, and Development**

- Read the India country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 13 May 1-May 5 – Module available starting Apr 26**

**Brazil – Politics and Development**

- Read the Brazil country case chapter in your text
- View the resources and complete the assignments for the week

**Week 14 Finals Week**

- Final Exam

**POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

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*Office Hours:* The [Political Science Department](#) uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Your Poli Sci faculty are available during their

posted office hours (whether you are taking an in-person or an online class). To use MS Teams during office hours, send a chat to your instructor to let them know you want to meet - think of that as the equivalent of knocking on the door. We're here for you! Please use our office hours freely and often. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

*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 appropriately (quoted when using someone's words and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When you are asked to work in teams, that work should be done by the group collaboratively. [More information can be found here.](#)

*Concerns or Grievances:* The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. You should contact me if you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method. That goes for your other classes, too: always talk to your professor first. But if you are not comfortable speaking to your instructor, you can always reach out to the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at [kruegerj@uwosh.edu](mailto:kruegerj@uwosh.edu). As needed, he can guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science or the Dean of Students.

*Note to Political Science Majors:* Congratulations on joining a great major - the world needs your critical thinking, creative problem-solving, knowledge of the issues, and stellar communication skills!

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. If you have questions about this requirement, your course schedule, possible internships, or career preparation, please reach out to your faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisers at least once per year. If you are unsure who your adviser is, you can check Titanweb or email Ms. Angelee Hammond at [hammond@uwosh.edu](mailto:hammond@uwosh.edu).

*Changes:* If substantive changes are made to this course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided promptly, and a revised syllabus will be made available (see our course schedule page).

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

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I want you to be successful! There are many [student resources](#) dedicated to your academic and personal success.

UW Oshkosh strives to create inclusive learning environments. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. For more information, see the [Dean of Students](#) website and the [Accessibility Center](#).

If you have any situation/condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect your ability to perform in this class or access class assignments; please reach out to me so that we can work together on a plan for your success. Canvas is an ADA-compliant course management software suite. Both Canvas and our textbook have accessibility features that you may find helpful such as the immersive reader function.

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.

By federal regulations set forth by [The Higher Education Act of 1965](#) (amended in 1998), [consumer information](#) is available to all students at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

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