

San José State University Political Science Department
POLS 02 (section 2): Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
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Office Hours:	Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 3-4pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom:	HGH 116
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area D2

Course Description

Comparative politics is the study of domestic politics and political issues around the world. It is also a powerful research tool: a way to discover patterns of similarities and differences in countries' responses to the problems they face. This course introduces students to some important questions in the study of comparative politics, including: Why do states matter and why do they sometimes collapse? How do democracies emerge and endure? Under what conditions can governments promote development? The course will provide students with an understanding of different kinds of political systems, their political institutions, processes and policies, the environments in which they occur and their consequences.

Required Texts

O'Neil, Patrick H. (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th edition. W.W. Norton & Company: New York and London. ISBN13: 978-0-393-93897-5.

O'Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, & Don Share (2016). *Course Reader Cases in Comparative Politics* (Custom Edition). W.W. Norton Custom Library: New York and London. ISBN13: 978-0-393-61051-2.

Both texts are available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* may also be purchased from various online retailers, or you can purchase an electronic version directly from the publisher at <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail-formats.aspx?ID=4294973012>. *Course Reader Cases in Comparative Politics* is only available in the Spartan Bookstore as it is a custom edition.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO 1: Breadth – Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 2: Application – Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3: Disciplinary methods – Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO 4: Communication Skills – Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 5: Citizenship – Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Social Science courses should increase the student's understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments. This course is designed to fulfill the Comparative Systems, Cultures, and Environments general education requirement (area D2). As established by University Policy, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO 1: Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

GELO 2: Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

GELO 3: Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

GELO 4: Compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

These outcomes will be fulfilled through various reading and writing assignments, exams, presentations, and in-class discussions and activities.

- Students will place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts through examination of the origins of the modern state and effects of colonialism, political violence, class conflicts, and globalization on political and economic developments of states.
- Identity similarities and differences, as well as their interactions will be examined through the study of political ideologies, political attitudes, and political culture, the effects of social globalization, and causes and consequences of identity-based conflicts, such as ethnic and national conflicts.
- Students will learn to compare different political and economic systems through the study of different types of political regimes, such as democratic, illiberal, and totalitarian, and different types of political-economic systems such as capitalism, social-democracy, and mercantilism.
- Students will evaluate this information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues through in-class discussions and activities, and by writing a comparative research paper in which theoretical concepts and arguments discussed in class will be applied to ongoing events in the world.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

In addition to the General Education Learning Outcomes, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Understand the basic principles of the comparative method and its use in explaining political, economic, and social processes and events.

CLO 2: Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, theories, and arguments in comparative politics.

CLO 3: Apply comparative politics concepts, theories, and arguments to ongoing events around the world.

CLO 4: Discuss major issues in comparative politics.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Two midterm exams (30% of the course grade, 15% each)

Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Midterm 1 will cover readings, lectures and discussions from weeks 1-6. Midterm 2 will cover the material from weeks 7-11. For each exam you should bring a Scantron form 882e, a green book, a pencil and a pen.

Final exam (25% of the course grade)

The final exam will be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, and discussions for the entire term. It will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You should bring a Scantron form 882e, a large green book, a pencil and a pen. Final exam will be held on the day scheduled by the University and will **not be given early under any circumstances**, so plan accordingly.

Research paper (20% of the course grade)

You will write a 1500-word comparative paper. You will choose two countries (not covered in class) and one theoretical topic covered in class (e.g. electoral systems, form of government, political economy, democratic transition, political violence, and similar) and write a paper focusing on the chosen theoretical topic in the chosen countries. The paper should advance an argument, which could be a causal claim (e.g. why something happened, such as why has one country democratized while the other one hasn't) or can analyze a concept in light of empirical evidence (e.g. one country is a democracy according to established definitions of democracy). Additional details will be provided in a separate handout.

Participation (10% of the course grade)

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them, as well as take part in any class activities. Students may be called by name to address concepts from the readings. Please note that disruptive behavior such as arriving to class late or leaving early, using cell phones, talking to your classmates, and similar, counts as negative contribution to class discussion and will adversely affect your participation grade. Your participation grade will be based on the following 3 criteria: 1) frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions, 2) participation in and completion of class activities, and 3) disruptive behavior such as using cell phones or arriving to class late.

Group Presentation (15% of the course grade)

Students will work in groups to prepare a 25-30 minute presentation (the length of presentations might be adjusted depending on the size of the class), which evaluates one concept/issue/argument discussed in class by applying it to current events covered in the news. News stories can be chosen from any reputable news sources such as the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, BBC News, and similar).

Assignment weight and tentative dates (dates subject to change with fair notice):

Assignment	% of Course Grade	Date	GELO
Midterm 1	15%	March 8	GELO 1 & 2
Midterm 2	15%	April 19	GELO 1 & 2
Research Paper	20%	May 10	GELO 3 & 4
Group Presentation	15%	March 1, March 15, March 22, April 5, and April 12	GELO 1 & 3
Participation	10%	Recorded each class meeting	GELO 3 & 4
Final Exam	25%	May 19	GELO 1, 2 & 3

Grading Policy

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades. For example, if an assignment is out of 100 points, 97-100 is an A+, 93-96.9 is an A, 90-92.9 is an A-, and so on. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A = 93-96.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%

Late Work

Late assignments and exam make-ups will be **allowed only in cases of medical or family emergency for which proper documentation is provided**. If you miss an exam, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. Missed **presentations and participation cannot be made up**. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period for the first 5 days. After 5 days, the paper will receive 0. Final exam will be held on the day scheduled by the University. Final exam make-up for which proper documentation is provided will be held on the final make-up day, as determined by the University. Final exam will **not be given early under any circumstances**, so plan accordingly.

Use of Electronic Devices

Please **turn off cell phones** before entering the classroom. **Absolutely no use of computers, phones, or any other electronic devices during class except for medical reasons.** While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons. Please bring proper documentation before class if you need an approval to use electronic devices.

Classroom Courtesy

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be **respectful** to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated! Please **come to class on time and stay for the entire period**. Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive and as such **will affect your participation grade**.

Attendance

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, **as well as additional information** that you will not find in the readings, but which **you will be expected to know** for exams. Additionally, although attendance is not graded, participation makes a significant portion of your grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Recording in this class is allowed **only with my written permission**, and is granted only on a class by class basis if the student justifies the need to record the lectures. Students must obtain a written permission of any guest speaker and every class member in order to record presentations or class discussions. "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>).

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will **not be tolerated**. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

POLS 2 (section 2) Course Schedule – Spring 2017 Subject to change with fair notice		
Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
WEEK 1 January 30 February 1	Introduction, course overview How to study comparative politics	Read course syllabus O'Neil Chapter 1
WEEK 2 February 6-8	Definition and origins of the state	O'Neil Chapter 2
WEEK 3 February 13-15	Identities, ideas & political economy	O'Neil Chapter 3, pp. 63-74 & 77-95 and Chapter 4
WEEK 4 February 20-22	Democratic regimes	O'Neil Chapter 5, pp. 137-141 and 148-158, Linz, The Perils of Presidentialism (Canvas) Horowitz, Comparing Democratic Systems (Canvas)
WEEK 5 Feb 27-Mar 1	Democracies & electoral systems	O'Neil Chapter 5, pp. 158-171 Presentation 1 (March 1)
WEEK 6 March 6-8	Midterm review & Midterm 1	Midterm 1 March 8 Bring 882e scantron, green book, pencil and pen
WEEK 7 March 13-15	Advanced democracies & European integration	O'Neil Chapter 8 O'Neil, Fields, & Share, Germany pp. 51-79 Presentation 2 (March 15)
WEEK 8 March 20-22	Non-democratic regimes	O'Neil, Chapter 6 & Chapter 9 pp. 271-286 Presentation 3 (March 22)
March 27-29	Spring Recess, no class	

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Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
WEEK 9 April 3-5	Non-democratic regimes and democratic transitions	O'Neil Chapter 5 pp. 141-148 & Chapter 9 pp. 286-303 O'Neil, Fields, and Share, Russia Presentation 4 (April 5)
WEEK 10 April 10-12	Non-democratic regimes and political violence	O'Neil Chapter 7 O'Neil, Fields, and Share, Iran Presentation 5 (April 12)
WEEK 11 April 17-19	Midterm review & Midterm 2	Midterm 2 April 19 Bring 882e scantron, green book, pencil and pen
WEEK 12 April 24 April 26	No class, instructor at a conference Developing countries	O'Neil Chapter 10 pp. 309-328
WEEK 13 May 1-3	Developing countries (cont.)	O'Neil Chapter 10, pp. 328-341 O'Neil, Fields, & Share, Brazil
WEEK 14 May 8-10	Globalization and comparative politics	O'Neil Chapter 11 Research paper due May 10
WEEK 15 May 15	Final review	
Monday, May 22	Final Exam: 12:15pm	Bring 882-E scantron, green book, pencil & pen

Final Notes

If you have any questions or need help with class don't hesitate to talk to me. For quick inquiries you can email me at danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu. For any substantive issues it is best to stop by my office in Clark Hall 404F during my office hours on Mondays 3-5pm and Wednesdays 3-4pm. If you can't make it during my office hours, I will gladly work with you on finding alternative time to meet. Please note that grades, paper topics, and issues of personal nature will not be discussed via email.

I hope you enjoy the class!