PSCI 2101A
Comparative Politics of Industrialized States
6:05 pm - 8:55 pm Mondays & Wednesdays
Location: 4499 Mackenzie Building

Instructor: Clara Morgan
Office: Loeb B645
Office Hours: Tuesdays 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm or by appointment
Phone: (613) 520-2600 x1657
Email: cmorgan@connect.carleton.ca

Course description:
Comparative politics is one of four core sub-disciplines of political science, along with domestic politics, international relations and political theory. Research in comparative politics seeks to assess the similarities and differences between government institutions, political processes and public policies at various places or points in time. Comparative politics helps us learn and compare how other countries govern themselves, organize their political institutions and implement policies. By doing comparative politics, we gain a better understanding of general logics and challenges of government that are relevant to the study of politics everywhere in the world.

This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to comparative politics, focusing on industrialized democracies such as the United States, Japan, France and Germany. The course is organized into 3 broad areas – state structures, state-society relations and state activities. It introduces basic concepts for the comparison of government institutions, political processes and public policies, and discusses how these concepts can be applied to specific cases and country studies. The course will make use of various media such as film and the internet to engage student in their learning. Slides used during the course will be placed on WebCT.

Learning objectives:
At the end of the course, students will achieve the following learning objectives:
   a. To become familiar with core political and social institutions, processes and policies of selected industrialized countries
   b. To develop an analytical ‘toolkit’ of concepts and approaches to be used in comparative research
   c. To apply comparative concepts and approaches to specific cases and country studies.
Texts:
Two required textbooks - available in the university bookstore. All course reading material is available on reserve at the library or electronically through the library’s website.

Evaluation:
Attendance and participation: 20%
Three in-class quizzes: 15% (May 23, May 30, and June 20)
Mid-Term Exam: 25% (in class, June 13)
Research paper, outline: 10% (due Wed., May 30)
Research paper, final: 30% (due Mon., June 25)

Attendance and participation: Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly and to participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken. Attendance marks will be deducted after 2 missed classes at the rate of 2/20 for each missed class to a maximum of 10/20.

In-class quizzes: The in-class quizzes are designed to help you keep up with your readings. They consist of short, straightforward questions related to your readings and the concepts you have been introduced to. The dates of the quizzes are May 23, May 30, and June 20. There are no make-up quizzes. Quizzes will be returned the week after the quiz was taken.

Mid-Term Exam: There will be a mid-term exam taken during class. The exam will be one hour long and consist of short essay questions that will ask you to reflect on the course readings, case studies and country studies from Part I, State Structures, and Part II, State-Society Relations. There will not be a make-up mid-term exam.

Research paper & Research Paper Outline: The main assignment is a comparative research paper focusing on at least two countries. Papers should attempt to answer a clearly stated question relating to one of the basic research objectives of comparative politics:

1. *Contextual description*
   Example: What role does the constitutional court play in the German and Italian political system?

2. *Comparative evaluation*
   Example: What are the strengths and weaknesses of proportional representation compared to majority voting systems?

3. *Classification*
Example: Which types of anti-terror laws have been passed in selected NATO states after 9/11?

(4) **Explanation**
Example: Why was the EU Constitution ratified in Spain but rejected in France?

The research question should first be formulated – and its relevancy justified – in a brief **research paper outline** (2-3 pages, double spaced), to be submitted in class on Wed., May 30. See Appendix 1 for outline guidelines.

**Late outlines will be penalized at 1/10 per day, to a maximum of 5/10. Outlines will not be accepted beyond 5 days (including weekends) after the due date.**

The outlines will be returned on Wed., June 6. In reaction to the feedback obtained from the instructor and the TAs, all aspects of the outline may be amended when devising the **final paper.**

Final papers should be about 12-15 pages (double spaced, i.e. 3500-4500 words); they are due in class on **Mon., June 25.** It is essential that the papers are focused on answering the research question and that they actually engage at least some of the concepts discussed in this course. (See Appendix 1 for Essay Guidelines and outline and essay marking scheme).

**Late papers will be penalized at 2/30 per day, to a maximum of 10/30. Papers will not be accepted beyond 5 days (including weekends) after the due date.**

**Note: All assignments are to be submitted in-class.** If you are unable to submit your assignment in class, then you can do so during my office hours.
The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only or if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper directly in class or during office hours.
The Political Science drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day’s date.

**Grading:**
Quizzes, assignments and exams will be graded with a letter grade. To convert this to a percentage grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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Grades 49% and below will be assigned a failing grade (F). Please note that the Undergraduate Calendar states: ‘To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the
course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations.’ Students who fail to complete the required assignments and examinations will be given a failing grade in the course. Later papers will be penalized one full letter grade per day (e.g. a B+ becomes a B).

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction
Logistics, Administrative Details

Why Compare Industrialized States?
- Newton & van Deth, Ch. 1 – The Development of the Modern State; Ch. 2 – The Democratic State; Ch. 3 – Political Ideologies

Doing Comparative Politics
- T. Lim (2006), *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues* (London: Lynne Rienner Publishers), Ch. 1 – Introduction: Doing Comparative Politics; Ch. 2 – Comparing to Learn, Learning to Compare.

(2) Mon., 21 May 2007 VICTORIA DAY – NO CLASSES
[Start thinking about paper topic and begin developing paper outline]

Part I: State Structures – Comparing Political Institutions

Legislative-Executive Relations: Presidentialism and Parliamentarism
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 14 – Legislatures; Ch. 15 – The Political Executive

Country Studies: Krieger & Joseph (2007), *Introduction to Comparative Politics*
Japan – Organisation of the State – The Executive, Cabinet and National Bureaucracy pp. 223-228; The Legislature pp. 233-235;
USA – Organisation of the State – The Executive, the Presidency, The Cabinet and the Bureaucracy pp. 325-330; The Legislature pp. 334-336

Quiz 1: May 23

(4) Mon., 28 May 2007
Participation Regimes: Representative and Direct Democracy
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 9 – Elections and Voters

http://www.fireweeddemocracyproject.ca/media/content/IDEA+Handbook(1).pdf

Also see – Citizens’ Assemblies on Electoral Reform – Ontario
Mixed Member Proportional Representation

(1) animation - http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/flash/be-stv-full


Look at the following web pages: Political System, Elections and Future

Levels of Government: Unitary States and Federations
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 13 – Federal, Unitary, and Local Government


[Paper outlines are due May 30.]

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Quiz 2: May 30

(6) Mon., 4 June 2007
Implementation and Adjudication: Bureaucracies and the Courts
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 12 – Constitutions and the legal framework; Ch.16 – The bureaucracy


[Paper outlines are returned on June 4.]

Part II: Relations between State and Society – Comparing Political Processes

(7) Wed., 6 June 2007
Political Culture: Citizen Attitudes and Behavior
- Newton & van Deth, Ch. 8 – Political Attitudes and Behavior
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 6 – Political Culture; Ch. 8 – Political Participation

(8) Mon., 11 June 2007
Interest Intermediation: Parties, Interest Groups and the Media
- Hague & Harrop, Ch. 7 – Political communication; Ch. 10 – Interest groups; Ch. 11 – Political parties

**Country Study:**
Krieger & Joseph (2007), *Introduction to Comparative Politics*
France – Organization of the State pp. 118-125; The Legislature pp. 128-131; Political Parties and the Party System pp. 131-135
A look at the elections in France

**Part III: State Activity – Comparing Public Policy**

(9) Wed., 13 June 2007
Public Policy
- Newton & van Deth, Ch. 14 – Decision making

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**MID-TERM EXAM (one hour) – IN-CLASS on June 13**
Parts I and II

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(10) Mon., 18 June 2007
The Welfare State and Security
- Newton & van Deth, Ch. 15 – Defence and Security; Ch. 16 – Welfare

Immigration Policy

**Case Study:** African migrants in Italy
Integrating migrants is Spain's biggest challenge, July 2006 (available electronically – FACTIVA)

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**Quiz 3: June 20**

[Mid-terms returned on June 20]
Conclusion

(12) Mon., 25 June 2007
Conclusion: Industrialized States in an Age of Globalization
▪ Newton & van Deth, Ch. 17 – The Future of the Democratic State

[Papers are due.]
drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure - No Deferred) is assigned when a student’s performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.
Appendix 1   Outline and Final Essay Guidelines

All work must be submitted in **hard copy** directly to the instructor in class, unless individual arrangements have been made.

**Policy on Late Outlines and Late Papers:**
Late outlines will be penalized at 1/10 per day, to a maximum of 5/10. Outlines will not be accepted beyond 5 days (including weekends) after the due date.

Late papers will be penalized at 2/30 per day, to a maximum of 10/30. Papers will not be accepted beyond 5 days (including weekends) after the due date.

Extensions will be granted only for documented medical reasons and should be discussed with the instructor.

**Essay Outline:** (10%) due Wed., May 30 – IN CLASS
2-3 pages (double spaced, i.e. 3500-4500 words)
Students are asked to submit a written outline of their selected essay topic. The outline should also propose and justify a selection of countries to be studied, and sketch the steps in which the research is to proceed. Outlines should include:
- a brief introduction to the topic that will be compared (2/10)
- the countries that will be compared and the reasons why these countries were chosen (2/10)
- the research question or statement (2/10)
- an organizational plan for the essay (2/10)
- a short annotated list of key academic sources (2/10)

**Final Essay:** (30%) due Mon., June 25 – IN CLASS
12-15 pages
The objective of the essay is to gain experience doing research in comparative politics. By drawing on concepts, theories and ideas introduced in the course, you will compare and analyze an issue or topic related to industrialized countries.

Essays must include the following elements:

1) **Research Question:** ½ page – 1 page
Papers should attempt to answer a clearly stated question relating to one of the basic research objectives of comparative politics:
   - *Contextual description*
     Example: What role does the constitutional court play in the German and Italian political system?
   - *Comparative evaluation*
     Example: What are the strengths and weaknesses of proportional representation compared to majority voting systems?
   - *Classification*
     Example: Which types of anti-terror laws have been passed in selected NATO states after 9/11?
Explanation

Example: Why was the EU Constitution ratified in Spain but rejected in France?
(a) Clearly indicate the research question you are attempting to answer. Explain why you have chosen to compare this specific topic/area
(b) Indicate which countries you have chosen to compare and why you have chosen these countries
(c) Briefly describe how you are going to answer your research question (a map of where you are going in this essay)

2) Context/Background: 1 ½ - 2 pages
You will need to briefly describe the issue or topic that you will be comparing. You will need to describe how this particular issue relates to the countries you have chosen to compare. You can provide a brief description of the social, economic and/or political factors affecting the origin and development of this issue area in each country.

4) Analysis and Discussion: 7-10 pages
In this section, you present the evidence that answers your research question and analyze this information. You personal experience and beliefs or opinions should be backed up with evidence and facts.

5) Conclusion: 1-2 pages
The conclusion should clearly and concisely summarize the issue you have compared and the relevant evidence that was used to answer your research question.

Form and Stylistic Requirements:
- Double-spaced, no more than 20 single-sided pages in length
- Properly document your sources. If you do not, you risk violating the University’s policies on academic ethics, such as plagiarism. Please consult the instructor if you are ever in doubt with regard to whether and how to reference a source. Use a documentation style to mark the exact places in your paper where source material has been used and present a bibliography or a list of references at the end of your paper. Please choose one documentation style and use it consistently throughout your paper.

Assessment Criteria:
- Does the essay have a clear structure or organization in which: (a) the main points are developed logically; and b) the relevance of the material to the argument is clear?
- Is the introduction and purpose of the paper clear?
- Is the research question clear and concise?
- Is the main argument of the paper informed by: (a) the course material (i.e. the course readings), and (b) evidence?
Are the premises made to support the argument in the body of the paper clear, logically stated, consistent and convincing?

Does the essay show evidence of original thought?

Is there a general reliance on multiple sources, particularly academic sources?

Is there a conclusion? Does it adequately summarize or recap the argument and premises made in the paper?

Is the paper free of minor and major spelling, stylistic and mechanistic/grammatical errors and typos?

Are sources acknowledged and appropriately referenced?

**Grading Scheme (/100):**
- Introduction & Research Question (15)
- Context/Background (20)
- Analysis/Discussion (30)
- Summary & Conclusions (10)
- Structure & Organization (10)
- Grammar & Style (10)
- Reference Format (5)

**Please note:**
Students can collect their final term papers during my office hours on Tuesday, July 10. Students who wish for their papers to be mailed to them should provide me with a self-addressed stamped envelope.