

PSCI 2101B
Comparative Politics of Industrialized States

Lecture: Thursday 6:05 p.m.-7:55 p.m.; 100 St. Patrick's Building

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Course description:

Welcome to PSCI 2101B! This course introduces students to the ideas and concepts which have played a role in the political trajectory of the industrialized states. "Industrialized states" refers to Canada, the USA, and the EU. Given that these industrialized states are liberal democracies and capitalist, this course seeks to explore how to conceptualize and contextualize "the state" under these conditions. What institutions have underpinned industrialized states? How can they be understood? Why have inter-institutional relationships evolved the way they have? But to truly understand politics in industrialized states means not limiting analyses to what happens within government walls. The societies that states operate in do serve to affect their shape and content. Thus, this course invites students to think more broadly about the role non-state actors have played in the comparative politics of industrialized states. Finally, this course asks students to consider factors which have led to important changes in the shape and content of industrialized states. Political systems are always in a state of flux and they rarely, if ever, stand still.

Texts

Available at the Carleton Bookstore

- Kenneth Newton and Jan W. Van Deth, *Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)
- Rod Hague and Martin Harrop, *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*, 5th edition (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)
- All readings marked * are available on reserve at the MacOdrum Library

Evaluation:

- Essay outline, 1-2 pages, single-spaced (**due February 7**): 10%
- Research essay, 8-10 pages (**due March 20**): 50%
- Final examination (**To be held during formal exam period, April 11 - 29**): 30%
- Tutorial Participation: 10%

Expectations in Tutorials

Students are expected to (1) attend tutorial having completed the assigned readings and (2) come prepared for thoughtful discussions. One requirement for discussion is to be respectful of others' thoughts, opinions, and beliefs.

Students are kindly asked to be respectful during lectures and tutorial discussions by not conversing with their neighbours.

To obtain credit in a course, students must complete and submit the required written assignments. Not doing so will result in a grade of 'F'.

Participation

Students wishing to obtain full marks for participation must not only attend tutorials on a weekly basis, but they must also consistently voice their informed views on the week's topic. Generally, an "informed view" is defined as the following:

1. Familiarity with the arguments or issues raised by the week's readings.
2. Thoughtful engagement with the arguments or issues raised in the readings.

Students are especially encouraged to have a dialogue with each other, the course instructor, and teaching assistants. All viewpoints are welcome so long as they are in accordance with promoting a tolerant work environment.

Written Work

Unless otherwise indicated, assignments must be submitted at the beginning of tutorials. Faxed or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments slipped under a TA's or the course instructor's office door will not be accepted. If an assignment is slipped under a TA's or the course instructor's door, the student must submit another copy directly to the course instructor. Late penalties will apply until this second copy is received. It is not acceptable to submit the same assignment for two or more courses. Please be familiar with Carleton University's policies on plagiarism.

With the exception of a serious illness accompanied by a doctor's note or a personal emergency which is deemed serious at the course instructor's discretion, extensions will not be given. **Retroactive extensions will not be granted under any circumstance. Any request for an extension the day an assignment is due will be refused.**

Assignments submitted after the beginning of a tutorial will lose a letter grade. Once the tutorial has ended, two letter grades are deducted. Once the due date has passed, a penalty of an additional letter grade per day, including weekends, will be applied. For example, a B+ paper handed in after the beginning of class will receive a B. A B+ paper submitted after the tutorial has ended will receive a B-. A B+ paper submitted a day late will receive a C+; two days late results in a C; etc. Assignments which are submitted one week after the due date has passed will automatically receive a grade of "F." April 7 is the final day to submit outstanding written work in an undergraduate course.

Written Work Requirements

Students should use 1" margins and 12 size font when writing their papers. Unless otherwise stated, all papers are to be double spaced.

With the exception of reports available from reputable organizations, government websites, and on-line academic journals, Internet sources must be kept to an absolute minimum. If a student feels it is warranted, please consult with the course instructor.

Grading

The following is used to assess written assignments:

1. Has the paper identified a central problem that it wishes to explore?
2. Does the essay clearly state its thesis and then follow it up with how the argument will unfold?
3. Does the essay critically engage with other arguments? Strong essays take arguments seriously, even those they may not necessarily like.
4. Does the essay demonstrate conceptual understanding and variety?
5. Is the essay well organized, enabling its arguments to flow?
6. Are arguments elaborated rather than rushed and stated as self-evident? Remember, strong arguments are focused and develop a particular point.
7. Is evidence provided to assert an essay's arguments?
8. Is the essay free from grammatical and/or spelling errors? Poor grammar and spelling immediately create a negative impression. More important, they prevent the clear communication of an essay's arguments and ideas.
9. Is the research adequate and relevant?
10. Proper citation and bibliographical form.

Students wishing to have a grade reappraised by the course instructor must attach a written explanation of which grade he/she feels the assignment deserves and why.

Description of Assignments

Essay Outline

The essay outline asks students to choose one question on page six of this syllabus that he/she would like to explore for the research essay. Once chosen, students are asked to do five things. First, he/she will identify the central research problem that will be explored in the context of the chosen question. Second, when the student has established this, he/she will state what the essay's thesis will be in *one* sentence. Third, whereas a thesis is intended to display what the argument of an essay will be, how it unfolds will be demonstrated. Thus, students are to show the components making up the body of the essay. Fourth, students are asked to state the conclusions the essay hopes to achieve. Fifth, an annotated bibliography will (1) give three scholarly sources outside the confines of the course that they may feel is useful to their question and (2) state in three to five sentences how the chosen sources are useful to their overall topic

Research Essay

This assignment requires students to develop the ideas expressed in the essay outline in an essay format. **Students are expected to have at least eight to ten academic sources which do not appear in this course.** Certainly, students may incorporate course material when they feel it is useful to their essay. Nonetheless, while the essay outline is designed to get students thinking about the research essay, essays do take on lives of their own and, as such, students are encouraged to proceed down a path which they may feel provides a stronger and more focused argument.

Final exam

The final exam will be held during the exam period and announced once its time and location is known. It will be three hours in duration. It will be composed of three sections and students will be asked to draw on lectures and course materials. The first section will ask students to define five terms. Two short answer questions comprise the second section. The third section will be an essay style question.

Schedule

FCP = Foundations of Comparative Politics
PS = Political Science

January 10: Introduction to the course

Section I: Theories of the State and Its Institutions

January 17: State Theory: What Do We Talk About When We Talk About the State?

- FCP, chs. 1-2, 5
- PS, chs. 1-2

January 24: A State is a State is a State? Regime Types and Their Effects

- FCP, ch. 2
- PS, chs. 3-4

January 31: Institutions of Industrialized States I: Executives, Legislatures, and Their Relationships

- FCP, chs. 4, 6
- PS, chs. 15-16

February 7: Institutions of Industrialized States II: Bureaucracies and Policymaking

- PS, chs. 17-18
- FCP, chs. 7, 14

February 14: Institutions of Industrialized States III: Constitutions and the Judiciary

- PS, ch. 13
- FCP, ch. 3

Section II: State-Society Relations in Industrialized States

February 28: Ideologies and Their Changing Role in Industrialized States' Political Cultures

- FCP, chs. 13, 8
- PS, ch. 6

March 6: Political Representation in Industrialized States I: The Rise and Fall (?) of Political Parties

- PS, chs. 11-12
- FCP, chs. 9, 12

March 13: Political Representation in Industrialized States II: Voters, Elections, and (Declining) Political Participation

- FCP, ch. 11
- PS, chs. 9-10

Section III: Contemporary Themes and Topics

March 20: The Political Economy of Industrialized States

- PS, ch. 8
- Charles E. Lindblom, "The Market as Prison," *Journal of Politics* 44, no. 2 (May 1982): 324-336*
- Peter A. Hall, "The Role of Interests, Institutions, and Ideas in the Comparative Political Economy of the Industrialized Nations," in *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, eds. Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997)*

March 27: The Transformation of the Welfare State in Industrialized States

- FCP, ch. 16
- Gøsta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1990), ch.1*
- Maurizio Ferrera, "The Four 'Social Europes': Between Universalism and Selectivity," in *The Future of European Welfare: A New Social Contract?*, eds. Martin Rhodes and Yves Mény (London: Macmillan, 1998)*

April 3: "The State" in an Era of Globalization

- FCP, ch. 17
- Bob Jessop, *The Future of the Capitalist State* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002), ch. 5*

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14th, 2008** for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate

Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the 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.

Essay Questions

1. How should comparative politics approach the study of the state?
2. Compare and contrast the efficacy of presidential and parliamentary systems of government. Which system is more effective in providing political stability?
3. Choosing at least one industrialized country, what factors can account for declining voter turnout?
4. Choose two industrialized countries and assess the nature of their changing welfare states.
5. Choosing at least one industrialized country, to what extent has globalization affected its policymaking ability?
6. Do ideologies still have a role to play in the politics of industrialized countries?
7. Compare and contrast the constitutional development of at least two industrialized countries.
8. What should political economy study when looking at the comparative politics of industrialized states?
9. By focusing on two industrialized countries, compare and contrast the relationship between the legislature and executive.
10. Choose at least one industrialized country and explain why democratic government has taken hold.