

GPOL 2500A  
Debates in Comparative Politics  
Fall 2024  
Wednesday, 8:35-11:25  
Check Location on Carleton Central

Professor: Andrea Chandler (She/her)  
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 1418  
Office: D694 Loeb  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
E-mail: andrea.chandler@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course is available to students in the Bachelor of Global and International Studies program, specialization in Global Politics. In this course, we will examine selected political questions in comparative politics, with an emphasis on those questions which overlap with international relations. As politics has become increasingly globalized in the past several decades, the boundary lines between domestic and global politics have become increasingly blurred. Rather than giving a survey overview of comparative politics, this course will pursue a problem – driven approach. Students will be encouraged to look at a selection of contentious issues, to examine various perspectives rigorously, and to develop their analytical research skills. Students are urged to keep up with course materials on a weekly basis according to the course schedule, and to complete course materials in the order presented, as lectures will be prepared and delivered on the understanding that students have completed work assigned on and before the day of the lecture. This is an in-person course.

Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, students who successfully complete the required work should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an understanding of select theoretical debates/concepts on global aspects of comparative politics, and begin to apply that understanding to specific events and countries,
- Show an ability to identify and form hypotheses, and to develop a plan to research those hypotheses systematically, using appropriate sources and methods.
- Grasp the main arguments in an academic book or peer-reviewed journal article in comparative politics, at a reading level appropriate for an undergraduate student.
- Develop skills in oral presentation, and in giving constructive feedback to peers.
- In the final examination, the student should be able to formulate a clear argument in response to a complex question, and to support that argument with specific relevant details and examples.

Textbooks:

Ian Goldin, *Development: a very Short Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Natasha Lindstaedt and Erica Frantz, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, First ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Additional required readings will be placed on ARES reserve through MacOdrum Library. Go to Brightspace—Tools—ARES Reserves.

### Course Schedule and Required Readings

#### Week 1 (September 4) Introduction

#### Week 2 (September 11) States and Statebuilding

Goldin, *Development*, chapter 1.

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, Chapters 1 and 2.

#### Week 3 (September 18) Democracy and Capitalism

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, Chapters 3 and 4.

#### Week 4 (September 25) Assumptions, Ideas, and Development

##### Required Reading:

Goldin, *Development*, chapters 2-4.

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, Chapter 5.

#### Week 5 (October 2) Critiques of Democratic Development: Imperialism, Inequality, Corruption

##### Required Reading:

Goldin, *Development*, chapter 5.

Kelebogile Zvogbo and Meredith Loken, “Why Race Matters in International Relations.”

Foreign Policy, 237, 2020: pp. 11–13. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/19/why-race-matters-international-relations-ir/>

Natasha S. Neudorfer, “Development, Democracy and Corruption: How Poverty and Lack of Political Rights Encourage Corruption,” *Journal of Public Policy*, vol. 25, no. 3, 2015, pp. 421-57.

#### Week 6 (October 9) Regimes, Regime Changes and Upheavals

##### Required Reading:

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, Chapters 6-8.

#### Week 7 (October 16) Midterm Test (in-class)

\*No Reading Assigned\*

#### Week 8 (October 30) Forming and Preserving Democracy

##### Required Reading:

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, chapters 9-11.

#### Week 9 (November 6) Contemporary Challenges in Democracy and Elections

Required Reading:

Sheri Berman, "The Causes of Populism in the West." *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 24, May 2021, pp. 71–88.

Michael Ignatieff, "The Politics of Enemies." *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 33 no. 4, 2022, pp. 5-19.

Christian Welzel, "Why the Future is Democratic," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 32, no. 2, April 2021, pp. 132-44.

Week 10 (November 13)- Reform and Political Change 1: Ideas and Norms

Required Reading:

Kendall-Taylor, *et al*, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*, chapter 12.

Sunstein, Cass R. "Unleashed." *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, vol. 91 no. 1, 2024, p. 245-264.

Week 11 (November 20) Reform and Political Change 2: Policies and Institutions

Required Reading:

Simon Szreter, "How Seriously Should We Take Universal Basic Income?" *Political Quarterly*, vol. 93, no. 3, Jan. 2022, pp. 517–23.

Cédric Durand, "Hollow States," *New Left Review*, Sidecar, 15 May 2023. Online at <https://newleftreview.org/sidecar/posts/hollow-states>

Week 12 (November 27) –Reform and Political Change 3: Responses to Global Challenges

Required Reading:

Goldin, *Development*, chapters 6-7.

Michael Mann, "Explaining the Irrationality of War," *New Left Review*, 145, January-February 2024, pp. 5-25.

Kritikha Srinivasan and Rosemary Collard, "Nature without Conservation," *Current History*, 122 (847) November 2023, pp. 289-94.

Week 13 (December 4) Politics since COVID-19; Conclusion and Review.

Required Reading:

Goldin, *Development*, chapter 8.

Geoffrey Pleyers, "The Pandemic Is a Battlefield. Social Movements in the COVID-19 Lockdown." *Journal of Civil Society*, vol. 16, no. 4, Oct. 2020, pp. 295–312.

**Continue to next page for Course Requirements and Evaluation→**

Evaluation:

This table provides the items and their weight at a glance. For details, see below:	
	% of course grade
Attendance and Participation: Weeks 1-6 Weeks 7-12	10% <u>+10%</u> 20%
Written Assignment 1 (due <b>October 2</b> )	10%
Midterm Test (closed book, in-class) <b>October 16</b>	20%
Written Assignment 2: due <b>December 4</b>	20%
Final Exam (to be held during the regularly scheduled exam period, December 10-23)	30%
Total	100%

% final grade

Details of Evaluation:

**Attendance and Participation.** Students are expected to have read the assigned readings in advance of the class for which they are assigned, and be prepared to discuss the readings in class. Attendance and participation hold equal weight. On any given class day (with the exception of Weeks 1 and 7), students may be expected to work in groups, to complete and submit a short in-class written exercise, and/or to provide constructive feedback on the work of their peers. For full marks students are expected to attend five classes in Weeks 1-6 and five classes in weeks 7-12. If you miss class, you are encouraged to come to the professor’s office hours for guidance on making up the missed work.

Weeks 1-6  
10%; Weeks  
7-12, 10%  
= 20%

**Written Assignment 1** (due **October 2**) The format and instructions for the first written assignment will be posted to Brightspace the first week of the term. The assignment will require students to find particular research sources online; to answer in their own words a series of questions that will encourage students to familiarize themselves with these research sources, to consider the strengths and weaknesses of these sources, and to explore ways in which these sources could provide evidence for research projects. Students’ marks will be based on the accuracy and completeness of their answers, the demonstrated ability to examine research sources analytically, and the effort to write with precision.

10%

**Midterm Test** (closed-book, in-class) October 16. Length of the test: 90 minutes. The test will include a mix of multiple-choice and short essay questions. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of course material (lectures, readings and in-class exercises) from Weeks 1-6.

20%

**Written Assignment 2:** due **December 4**

20%

This assignment will build on the first written assignment. Each written assignment must include: a) a brief hypothesis in response to one of the research questions posted on Brightspace, which will be loosely related to the topics explored in the first written assignment, b) at least three specific pieces of evidence that could prove or disprove the hypothesis, c) an alternative hypothesis

on the question and a comment on its relevance in light of the evidence found d) a brief discussion of one or more countries that would be relevant to future research on the topic, explaining why that country is relevant. Each written assignment must be brief: maximum 750 words (excluding bibliography). (Given the brevity of the assignment, you are advised to avoid elaborate introductions and conclusions). Assignments are expected to be written in complete sentences and paragraphs. Each assignment should flow as a cohesive work, rather than as an assembly of separate components. See additional requirements for written work below. In addition to the 750 words, students will attach a bibliography to include at least five peer-reviewed or primary sources (and other sources, if used) to indicate the references used in the paper.

<b>Final Exam</b> (to be held during the regularly scheduled exam period, December 10-23). Students will be expected to answer questions on all material covered in course lectures, required readings, and work completed in class.	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Additional Information about Course Expectations

Students who have individual concerns or who wish to discuss an assignment are strongly encouraged to visit the professor’s office hours, or request an appointment for an individual conversation. Students can use e-mail to contact the professor; e-mail communication works best for brief exchanges of factual information, so please note that the professor keeps her email replies brief. The instructor normally replies to e-mail messages within 2 days, Monday through Friday.

All written assignments should answer a specific question and should analyze, rather than describe, the issues and events discussed. Written assignments are expected to be the authentic writing of each individual student and to demonstrate that the student has read required readings in their entirety. Papers should use footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical references as appropriate to acknowledge sources consulted, and provide a complete bibliography. Footnotes should be complete and accurate, inserted into the text of your paper as appropriate whenever you have referred to someone else’s idea, argument, or research. Any time you quote directly from a source, the citation should be indicated in quotation marks and footnoted. Quotations from secondary sources are to be avoided, as are quotations of more than fifty words in length from any one source. Instead, you are encouraged to summarize a point in your own words, providing the appropriate acknowledgment of source and reference. Students are encouraged to use the MLA style of referencing.\*\*\* If you are unsure about how to reference your written assignments, please contact the professor for advice.

Deadlines: When student work is submitted on time, it helps the professor to ensure that all students receive their marks as quickly as possible. Circumstances such as illness, injury or family emergency may make it difficult for students to complete work on time. Please contact the professor if you need to request an extension. Otherwise, late penalties may apply. No extensions for written assignments will be granted, and no make-up tests scheduled, for later than December 6.



## Appendix

---

### **Student Mental Health**

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- **Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

Deferred final exams, which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. The course outline must stipulate any minimum standards for good standing that a student must meet to be entitled to write a deferred final exam.

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:** Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations,

and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

***Pregnancy accommodation:*** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

***Religious accommodation:*** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

***Accommodations for students with disabilities:*** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation, or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

***Accommodation for student activities:*** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information, please [click here](#).

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website ([students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)).

### **Sexual Violence Policy**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support).

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

### ***Plagiarism***

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

### ***Use of Artificial Intelligence***



Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

### ***Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations***

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

### **Intellectual property**

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit.

If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

### **Submission and Return of Term Work**

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

### **Grading**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

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

### **Carleton E-mail Accounts**

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

### **Carleton Political Science Society**

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

### **Official Course Outline**

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.