

Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of Political Science

Global Politics GPOL 2500A
Debates in Comparative Politics
Wednesday 8:35-11:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Andrea Chandler She/her
Office: Loeb D694
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 1418
Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:45-1:45
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Course Description

This course is designed for 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 series of contentious issues, to examine various perspectives rigorously, and to develop their analytical research skills. A portion of every class will be dedicated to all discussion, and students should arrive prepared to speak about the day's assigned readings, and to discuss/present informally their ideas in groups.

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of key theoretical debates and concepts on global aspects of comparative politics, and to be able to apply that understanding to particular 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 a peer reviewed journal article in comparative politics, at a reading level appropriate for an undergraduate student.
- In a final examination, the student should be able to formulate a clear argument in response to complex question, and to support that argument with specific relevant empirical details and examples.

Rather than using a textbook, we will read three recent, influential books. We will focus on three key themes: human rights in historical perspective; political identity; and reform.

Books: see next page →

Books for GPOL 2500: ordered for university bookstore. There are three:

1. Francis Fukuyama. *Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. (Students please note: this book is expected to be available in paperback in early September so you may want to wait until then).
2. Cass R. Sunstein. *How Change Happens*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 2019. ISBN number: 978026039574.
3. Kathryn Sikkink. *Evidence for Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017. ISBN number: 978-0-691-170062-6

Additional readings will be made available on library reserve. Students will be able to access them via CU-Learn by clicking on “Ares.”

Course Requirements:

An explanation of each component follows the list of course requirements.

12% Attendance and participation in class discussions, including group work and discussions of questions posted online.

18% Online quiz, to be completed between October 14 and November 1 during time period indicated below.

20% First written assignment to be completed in class October 2 and submitted according to instructions below.

20% Second written assignment due on or before November 27, to be submitted online at CuLearn according to instructions below.

30% Final examination (in the scheduled examination period, December 9-21).

Total 100%

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly, and to be present for the full duration of the class. Attendance will be recorded; marks will be deducted for late arrival or early departure. Class attendance is crucial for several reasons: first, because regular attendance encourages cumulative learning; second, because regular attendance facilitates students’ ability to keep up with the work; and finally, because the University is a community to which students are expected to contribute. Of the 12% total for this component of the final grade, half will be based on attendance, and half will be based on constructive participation in class discussions and group work exercises which take place in class. If students miss an occasional class because of illness or family emergency, they are encouraged to approach the professor to discuss the missed work.

On-line test, to be completed online through CuLearn, between 11:30 a.m. on October 14 and 5:00 p.m. on November 1. The goal of this test will be to measure students’ comprehension of basic concepts, and their ability to apply them. The test will consist of twenty-four multiple-choice questions. Students will have one hour to write the test; do not open the test

until you are prepared to complete it. Questions will be based on course material from weeks 2, 3, 4 and 6 including lectures, readings, and study question material posted online.

Students will be responsible for accessing a computer to write the quiz from a computer on their own time, within the specified time range. Therefore, by definition it is an open book test; however, it is strongly recommended that students study for the quiz and write it without referring to notes. The questions will require the use of reasoning, not simply the memorization of information. Students are expected to write the test on their own, on the honour system, without sharing their answers with their fellow students. University examination rules can be found online at <http://www2.carleton.ca/ses/exams/examination-regulations/>. Students who miss quiz deadlines for documented medical reasons or family emergencies may request a make-up quiz; however, in such cases, the professor may require the make-up quiz to be written in person using pen and paper, rather than online, at a time and place convenient to the professor. University deadlines for completing term work will apply.

Written assignments:

The written assignments are intended to develop cumulative skills in hypothesis building, evidence-gathering, engagement with comparative politics literature, and concise writing.

First written assignment: is to be completed in class, on October 2. Students will receive written instructions which will require them to find particular research sources online; they will further answer 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 should arrive in class on October 2 prepared to work on the assignment in a computer lab. Students' marks will be based on the completeness of their answers, the demonstrated ability to evaluate research sources, and the effort to provide clear hypotheses relevant to the research sources. In the event that a student misses class with a valid excuse (medical reason or family emergency) on October 2, he/she/they should contact the professor about alternative arrangements for the assignment.

Second written assignment: 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 online, which will be 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. (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.

Final Examination: will cover all course material, including all readings and lectures, and take place in the regularly scheduled exam period (December 9-21).

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR

The professor holds scheduled office hours that are specifically dedicated to answering questions from students. Students are encouraged to come to these office hours. When students have questions related to the course material, the content of assignments, and research strategies, it is useful to discuss those questions in person with the professor. Do not hesitate to ask for help in finding research sources, or to ask further questions about material covered in course lectures. If you miss a lecture, please feel welcome to come to office hours to discuss the missed work. Students may also contact the professor to make an appointment for a meeting time outside of scheduled office hours. Students can use e-mail to contact the professor; e-mail communication works best for brief exchanges of factual information. The instructor normally replies to e-mail messages within 2 days, Monday through Friday. Students are encouraged to check CuLearn before class for possible announcements.

STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK

*All written assignments should answer a specific question and should analyze, rather than describe, the issues and events discussed. 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. *** If you are unsure about how to use footnotes or endnotes, please see the professor for advice.*

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are expected to be submitted on or before the deadline. When assignments are submitted on time, it facilitates prompt marking which benefits your fellow students. Extensions for written assignments will be considered only for family emergencies and for documented medical reasons. Marks will be deducted for lateness, and the university schedule establishes a final deadline of December 6 for all assignments. After this date, late papers will be accepted only if a deferral has been granted. For online assignments, please note carefully the instructions specified for that assignment.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1 (September 4). Introduction

Week 2 (September 11). Problem-based comparative politics research: states and citizens

Required Reading: Sikkink, chapters 1-2; Sunstein, pp. 3-18.

Week 3 (September 18). Democracy and the state

Required Reading: Sikkink, chapters 3-4.

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

Required Reading: Fukuyama, chapters 1-3.

Week 5 (October 2) In-class written assignment

Required Reading: Please read the posted assignment prior to class.

Week 6 (October 9) Towards evidence-based comparative politics research: Human Rights and Corruption as Examples

Required Reading:

Sikkink, chapter 5.

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 7 (October 16) Identity: Ethnicity and Nationalism

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapters 4-7.

Week 8 (October 30) Revolution and Political Violence

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapter 8.

Sikkink, chapter 6.

Sunstein, pp. 19-36.

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

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapters 9-10, 12-13.

Sunstein, chapter 16.

Week 10 (November 13) Reform and Political Change 1: Changing People

Required Reading:

Sunstein, pp. 39-77 and chapter 7.

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

Required Reading: Fukuyama, pp. 175-183

Sunstein, 79-94 and chapters 8-11.

Week 12 (November 27) Reform and Political Change 3: Social Movements

Required Reading:

Sikkink, chapter 7.

Fukuyma, pp. 163-74.

Catherine Rottenburg, “#MeToo and the Prospects of Political Change,” *Soundings: a Journal of Politics and Culture*, no. 71, spring 2019, pp. 40-49.

Week 13 (December 4) Conclusion and Review**Academic Accommodations**Requests for Academic Accommodation

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

Pregnancy obligation

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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic 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 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is 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

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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

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.

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 cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

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