

Carleton University  
 Fall 2020  
 Department of Political Science  
<https://carleton.ca/polisci/>

**Global Politics GPOL 2500**  
**Debates in Comparative Politics**

**Blended course: Asynchronous content on CuLearn (posted video lectures and other materials) + synchronous portion: virtual class sessions at Big Blue Button, accessed through CuLearn, Tuesdays 9:00-10:15 a.m. Ottawa time during the term.**

Professor: Andrea Chandler She/her  
Office: Department of Political Science, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Loeb building  
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 1418  
Professor's contact hours: Tuesdays, 10:30-12:30 in online chat at CuLearn or by telephone; or contact the professor by email for a virtual one-on-one consultation  
E-mail: [Andrea.Chandler@carleton.ca](mailto: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.

The course will use a blended format of asynchronous and synchronous online learning. Students are urged to keep up with course materials on a weekly basis according to the course schedule, and to complete course materials (including viewing prerecorded video lectures) in the order presented. Synchronous learning = we will have weekly virtual discussions through Big Blue Button on CuLearn, which will be dedicated primarily to debriefing, discussion, review, and reinforcement of concepts.

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/concepts on global aspects of comparative politics, and 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.
- In the 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 details and examples.

Rather than using a conventional 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: 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.
2. Cass R. Sunstein. *How Change Happens*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 2019.
3. Kathryn Sikkink. *Evidence for Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017.

Additional readings will be made available electronically 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 online forum, details below

**18% Online quiz, to be completed between November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:25 a.m. (Ottawa time) and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 p.m. (Ottawa time)**

**20% First written assignment** due October 6 (submitted online at CuLearn)

**20% Second written assignment** due on or before December 1, to be submitted online at CuLearn according to instructions below.

**30% Final examination** (take-home exam due December 23).

**Total 100%**

**Attendance and participation:** For the following weeks: 2,3,5,6,7,9 and 10, the professor will post a weekly question related to the course material. For full marks, students are expected to post reasoned and informed responses of 100-150 words to **4** of these questions (2.5 points per post); plus **tactful and constructive responses** of 50-100 words to **2 posts** of peers in the classroom (1 point for each reply). These posts are expected to appear on the CuLearn Website by the Tuesday of the week following the week in which the question appears (Exception: replies to the question posted the week before February break will be due the first Tuesday after the February break).

**On-line test, to be completed online through CuLearn, between between November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:25 a.m. (Ottawa time) and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 p.m. (Ottawa time)** 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 2-6, including asynchronous video lectures and all assigned readings. Students are well advised to participate in synchronous learning sessions as these will provide opportunities for questions and answers, discussion and review.

Since students will complete the quiz on their own, they will be able to refer to hard copy books and notes during the quiz, 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/>

### **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:** Online submission, due October 6. The format and instructions for the first written assignment will be posted online. The assignment will require students to find particular research sources online; to 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' 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.

**Second written assignment:** Online submission, due December 1. 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 assigned readings and all virtual lectures. The exam questions and instructions will be posted by November 24. The exam will be due by 12:00 noon (Ottawa time) on December 23.

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### **CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR**

*Due to COVID-19, in-person conversations in the professor's office are not possible at the time of posting of this course outline; students are encouraged to check CuLearn and Carleton email for possible announcements regarding the evolving situation. Students who have individual concerns or who wish to discuss an assignment are strongly encouraged to contact the professor by telephone for a conversation, or to request a video consultation. The professor will also hold a designated chat room time for student questions. 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.*

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### **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. 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.*

### **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 all students. Marks will be deducted for lateness unless an extension has been given as an accommodation. The university schedule establishes a final deadline of December 11 for all assignments. After this date, late papers will be marked only if permission has been granted to defer term work.*

### **SCHEDULE OF COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

**Week 1 (September 15).** Introduction

**Week 2 (September 22).** Problem-based comparative politics research: states and citizens

Required Reading: Sikkink, chapters 1-2; Fukuyama, Preface.

**Week 3 (September 29).** Democracy and the state

Required Reading: Sikkink, chapters 3-4; Sunstein, pp. 3-18.

**Week 4 (October 6).** Assumptions, Ideas, and Development

Required Reading: Fukuyama, chapters 1-3.

**Week 5 (October 13)**

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 6 (October 20)** Reflection on Key Concepts; Identity, Ethnicity and Nationalism

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapters 4-7.

READING WEEK OCTOBER 26-30

**Week 7 (November 3)** Political Crises and Upheavals

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapter 8.

Sikkink, chapter 6.

Sunstein, pp. 19-36.

**Week 8 (November 10)** Contemporary Challenges in Democracy and Elections

Required Reading:

Fukuyama, chapters 9-10, 12-13.

Sunstein, chapter 16.

**Week 9 (November 17)** Reform and Political Change 1: Changing People

Required Reading:

Sunstein, pp. 39-77 and chapter 7.

**Week 10 (November 24)** Reform and Political Change 2: Policies and Institutions

Required Reading: Fukuyama, pp. 175-183

Sunstein, 79-94 and chapters 8-11.

**Week 11 (December 1)** Reform and Political Change 3: Social Movements

Required Reading:

Sikkink, chapter 7.

Fukuyama, 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 12 (December 8) Conclusion and Review

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### Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: [https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19\\_Self-declaration.pdf](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf)

### Academic Accommodations

#### Pregnancy

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](https://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](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

#### 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 its 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)

#### 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](https://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.

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).