

Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2101 B
Comparative Politics of the Global North
Friday 11:35-13:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Umut Riza Ozkan
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Course Description:

Comparative politics is a multi-disciplinary field which primarily focuses on comparing political cultures, institutions, and policies across different countries. To compare countries, comparative political scientists use a variety of research strategies such as case studies and small-N and large-N studies. Generally speaking, the main goals of comparative analysis are (a) to broaden our knowledge about different cases, (b) to make some generalizations on the role of domestic political systems in different countries, (c) to classify domestic political structures and processes, and (d) to test hypotheses on issues related to these domestic systems.

This introductory course is structured around a number of key themes associated with comparative politics, including nation state-building, different forms of democracy, political participation and social movements, electoral systems and voting behaviour, political parties and interest groups, federalism and decentralization, parliamentary versus presidential governments, welfare-state regimes, and varieties of capitalism. Throughout the class, the lecturer will mostly draw from examples of countries in the Global North to assist students in improving their understanding of comparative politics. Overall, the course is designed to:

- introduce students to some of the fundamental concepts of comparative politics (such as democracy, federalism, unitary states, electoral systems, varieties of capitalism, welfare-state regimes...etc.);
- engage students in discussions and debates that will encourage them to think analytically and critically about key methodological, theoretical, and empirical issues in comparative politics and to develop and write their own perspectives on these issues; and
- enable students to connect theoretical and methodological tools to concrete real world examples.

Course Readings:

The following textbook is used for this course:

Rod Hague and Martin Harrop. 2013. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*. 7th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

There are also additional required readings which have been placed on reserve in McOdrum Library. Journal articles can be accessed online at CuLearn (the course web page). Students are responsible for all of the readings in *the* course outline listed below.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- **10% Attendance and Participation in Discussion Groups.** The discussion sessions will be held weekly by the assigned Teaching Assistants from January 15th to April 8th, and students are expected to attend the discussion groups to which they are assigned. Students will be assessed through attendance (5%) and participation in group discussions (5%). Before attending each of these tutorials, students are required to read the course readings. If a student is not able to attend a scheduled tutorial, they should e-mail their TA with their reason for being absent, preferably before the tutorial takes place.
- **10% Take-home Quiz (February 5th).** There will be a take-home quiz (two questions) which will be posted on CuLearn on January 22nd and is due in class on February 5th. The questions will be based on material covered in the classes of January 8th, 15th, and 22nd. All answers should be written independently (no group work) and they must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class on the day it is due.

Answers that are not submitted on time will lose half a letter grade for each day that they are late (weekends count as one day). Accordingly, A would be assigned A-; A- becomes B+ ...etc.

- **10% Research Paper Outline (February 12th).** The research paper proposal should be a maximum of 4 pages double-spaced, 12 pt font and 1 inch margins. The proposal should include a research question that focuses on at least two countries (or political units). The research question should relate to the research objectives of comparative politics and its relevancy should be justified in the proposal. Examples for research questions include: why did the United States introduce a private health care system but Canada did not? Which types of policies and legislation were used by selected states to address bullying at schools? How do different forms of federalism influence pension reform in selected countries? Which countries have developed the most effective strategies for preserving the local culture of Aboriginal communities on reserves? Why did the province of British Columbia impose a carbon tax, but other provinces did not? Which kinds of policy instruments do Canada and Germany use to facilitate the economic and social integration of immigrants?

The proposal should also include the justification for the selection of countries to be studied, the thesis statement and supporting arguments, concepts and/or theories to

be used in the study, as well as references from at least four academic sources that are relevant to the study. Research proposals will be marked in regards to the originality and analytical quality of the research design.

- **20% Mid-term Exam (February 26th).** The mid-term exam will be composed of short answer and essay questions, which will be based on the course material, including lecture notes and course readings covered in lectures and discussion groups. The exam will be held in class.

20% Research Essay (April 1st). The research essay will build on the research proposal and feedback received from the Instructor and/or TA. The essay should be roughly 12-15 pages (double spaced, i.e., 3500-4500 words). It is important that essays are written in a way to answer the research question and use concepts and/or theories discussed in this course. The paper is due in your discussion group on April 1st.

Papers that are not submitted on time will lose half a letter grade for each day that they are late (weekends count as one day). Accordingly, A would be assigned A-; A- becomes B+ ...etc.

- **30% Final Exam.** The final exam will cover all course material and will take place during the final examination period that will be held sometime between April 11th and 23th.

Weekly Readings:

Session 1 – Introduction (January 8th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 1.

Session 2 – Concepts and Theoretical Approaches (January 15th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 5.

Lowndes, V. 2010. The institutional approach. In D. Marsh and G. Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, UK, 60–80.

Parsons, C. 2010. Constructivism and interpretive theory. In D. Marsh and G. Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, UK, 80–99.

Session 3 – Comparative Methodology (January 22nd)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 19.

Mahoney, J. 2007. Qualitative methodology and comparative politics. *Comparative Political Studies*, 40 (2): 122–144.

Session 4 – The State and Democracy (January 29th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 2 and 3.

Session 5 – Political Culture and Communication (February 5th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 6 and 7.

Session 6 – Political Participation and Elections (February 12th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 8 and 11.

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 19th: WINTER BREAK

Session 7 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION (February 26th) – The exam will be held in class. The mid-term will start at 11:40 a.m. and students will have 75 minutes to write the exam. There will be no lecture; **discussion groups for the week will take place as scheduled.**

Session 8 – Political Parties and Interest Groups (March 4th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 9 and 10.

Session 9 – Constitutions and Multi-Level Governance (March 11th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 13 and 14.

Session 10 – The Legislature and Executive (March 18th)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 15 and 16.

Session 11 – Comparative Public Policy (April 1st)

Hague and Harrop, Chapter 18.

Esping-Andersen, G. 1990. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press, 10–33.

Session 12 – Comparative Political Economy (April 8th)

Pontusson, J. 2005. Varieties of capitalism. In *Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe Vs. Liberal America*. Cornell University Press, USA, pp. 15–32.

Thelen, K. 2001. Varieties of labour politics in the developed democracies. In P. Hall and D. Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, pp. 71-103.

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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 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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

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

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

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.