

Carleton University
Summer 2013
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2101 A
Comparative Politics of the Global North
Monday and Wednesday 14:35 - 17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Daniel Preece
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to the major analytical approaches to the comparative study of politics in the Global North and the key issues facing these societies within the era of globalization. Through a comparative examination of political institutions and key policy issues, this course will investigate how different states are responding to similar challenges in different ways and debunk the myth that globalization forces governments to adopt a single set of policies. By comparing and contrasting the different political structures, political cultures, and political economies of these states, this course will enable students to understand the complex and changing nature of politics in the Global North. More specifically, this introductory course in comparative politics has three overlapping objectives:

- First, students will learn to apply a comparative analysis to understand why different governments in the Global North act in the manner that they do;
- Second, students will develop an understanding of how the structural changes accompanying globalization are reshaping political, economic, and social practices among advanced industrial economies;
- Third, students will engage in discussion and debate that will emphasize critical thinking and critical analysis and will encourage students to develop their own perspectives on major political issues facing societies in the Global North.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT:

The following textbook is available for purchase in **Haven Books** (43 Seneca Street).

Caramani, Daniele, ed. 2011. *Comparative Politics*, Second Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (ISBN 978-0-19-957497-1)

As well, students should utilise the excellent Online Resource Centre that was developed for this text. The Resource Centre includes review questions, case studies, glossary, and Web links. The web address is <http://www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin/9780199574971/>

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

- **Research Paper Proposal:** 10% of course grade

Each student is responsible for writing a research paper that compares the policy response of two countries in the Global North to a contemporary issue or challenge faced by these societies; a list of essay topics will be distributed on WebCT by the second week in January. In order to receive early feedback on the research paper, each student is responsible writing a short research paper proposal. The research paper proposal should be a maximum of two pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font and 1 inch margins. As well, the proposals must contain four components: a one paragraph background summary of your paper that details the foundation of your investigation and introduces the issues you will be exploring in your research, a one sentence thesis statement that explicitly identifies the main point you expect your paper will seek to demonstrate, an outline of the key arguments you will be using in your paper to demonstrate your thesis, and a working bibliography of at least four academic sources. The research paper proposal is due in your seminar on **May 15**.

- **Mid-Term Examination:** 30% of course grade

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **May 29**. The exam will consist of both short answer and essay questions, and more details will be announced in class. Mid-term examinations will be returned to students in lecture.

- **Research Paper:** 30% of course grade

The research essay will build and elaborate on the topic selected in the proposal, with appropriate consideration of any changes recommended by the TA and the instructor. The research paper should be eight pages (not including cover page and bibliography), double-spaced, 12 pt font and 1 inch margins. The research paper should draw on eight academic sources and students must ensure that all quotations and references are properly formatted with the necessary bibliographical information. Papers will be evaluated on form (grammar, syntax, and presentation), content (use of relevant, original, and current material) and analysis (nuance, balance, and critical assessment). The paper is due in class on **June 12**.

- **Final Examination:** 30% of course grade

The final exam will be held during the official exam period in June. The exam will consist of both short answer and essay questions, and more precise details will be announced in class.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Citation format: The citation format required in this class is the APA citation style.

Submission of assignments: All assignments must be submitted in class and I will not accept faxes or email attachments of any assignments. Any assignment that is submitted in the Political Science drop box will be subjected to a mandatory late penalty, even if it is submitted on the due date.

Late assignments: It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reason for being late does not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to

be penalised by one grade per day (e.g. an assignment that would have received a grade of A-, but was two days late, will instead receive a grade of B), including weekends. The Political Science drop-box cut-off time is 4 pm. Any paper submitted in the drop-box after 4 pm will be stamped for the following weekday. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only if you have extenuating circumstances and are unable to submit the paper directly to your TA in class. Justified lateness includes, among others, sickness and death in the family and you will have to submit proper medical or other professional documentation with the late work.

Current events: In addition to weekly readings, students are strongly encouraged to read either daily, weekly, or monthly newspapers in order to be aware of current events. Many news organizations are available for free on-line:

- The CBC: www.cbc.ca
- The BBC: www.bbc.co.uk
- The Economist: www.economist.com
- Financial Times: www.ft.com
- The Globe and Mail: www.globeandmail.com
- The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk
- Le Monde Diplomatique (in English): <http://mondediplo.com/>
- The New York Times: www.nytimes.com

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

Date	Topic and Readings
May 6	Introduction to class <i>Recommended:</i> Chapter 1 from the Caramani Textbook
May 8	Theories and Methods in Comparative Politics Chapters 2 & 3 from the Caramani Textbook
May 13	Core Concepts in Comparative Politics Chapters 4 & 5 from the Caramani Textbook
May 15	Institutions of Government 1: Legislatures and the Executive Branch Chapters 7 & 8 from the Caramani Textbook Research Paper Proposal Due
May 20	Victoria Day
May 22	Institutions of Government 2: Multilevel Governance and the Judiciary Chapters 9 & 11 from the Caramani Textbook
May 27	Institutions of Government 3: Elections and Political Parties Chapters 10 & 12 from the Caramani Textbook
May 29	Midterm
June 3	Movie: TBA

Date	Topic and Readings
June 5	Shaping the Policy Process Chapters 14 & 20 from the Caramani Textbook
June 10	Civil Society and Extra-parliamentary Politics Chapters 16 & 18 from the Caramani Textbook
June 12	Shaping Ideas: Culture and Communication Chapters 17 & 19 from the Caramani Textbook Research paper due
June 17	Comparative Political Economy Chapters 21 & 22 from the Caramani Textbook

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.