

**PCSI 2101 A**  
**Comparative Politics of the Global North**  
**Friday 3:35–5:25**  
Confirm Location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Said Yaqub Ibrahim  
Office: B642, Loeb Building  
Office Hours: Friday, 1:00–2:00 or by appointment  
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## **I. Course Description**

This course offers an introduction to the comparative politics of the Global North, with a focus on applying comparative theories and methods to the study of political institutions in advanced industrialized democracies. Students will examine key topics including the origins and evolution of modern states, the formation of nations and nationalism, constitutional design, systems of government, the emergence and collapse of democratic regimes, authoritarianism and democratic breakdown, political parties and movements, and comparative political economy.

The course will engage with fundamental questions such as: What is comparative politics? How do comparative methods enhance our understanding of political development in the Global North? How and why did states in this region emerge and consolidate? Why has democracy become the dominant political system across much of the Global North? These questions will be explored through theoretical, methodological, and historical perspectives, drawing on case studies from a range of developed countries to illustrate patterns of political development, stability, and change.

## **II. Required Reading:**

Patrick H. O’Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds). *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2017). A physical copy of the book will be available on a 4-hour loan at the Carleton Library, and students may also purchase a copy through the Carleton Bookstore. All other required readings will be accessible via Ares.

### **III. Course Evaluation**

All written assignments must adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (author–date citation format) for references and citations. The final grade will be determined based on the following components: attendance and active participation in discussion groups (25%), a short paper (15%), a term paper (30%), and a final examination (30%) based on following criteria:

#### **A) Attendance and Participation (25%)**

Attendance at all discussion groups is mandatory. An unexcused absence from a tutorial will result in a loss of 100% of the grade allocated for that session. Tutorial participation is an essential component of the course and will be conducted in a seminar-style format. Accordingly, students are expected to arrive fully prepared to engage in informed, thoughtful, and respectful discussion of the assigned material. Participation will be assessed on both the quality and quantity of contributions. Constructive engagement, characterized by critical thinking, evidence-based argumentation, and respect for differing viewpoints, is expected. The grade for this component will be divided equally between attendance (50%) and the quality and quantity/frequency of participation in discussions (50%).

#### **B) Short Paper (15%)**

Due Online: September 26

Students are required to submit a short paper analyzing a specific concept, theory, or method in comparative politics. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided one week before the due date. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length, double-spaced, using a 12-point font, and must adhere to proper citation and referencing guidelines.

#### **C) Term Paper (30%)**

Due Online: November 28

For the term paper, students are required to conduct a comparative analysis of a selected political issue across two countries from the Global North. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: modern state, modern nationhood, democracy, authoritarianism, constitutional frameworks, political parties and protest movements, systems of government, and political economy. Students must choose one topic and two countries for analysis; both the topic and country selections must receive prior approval from the Teaching Assistant. The paper should be 8–10 pages in length, double-spaced, using a 12-point font, and must include a bibliography and footnotes. All citations must adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (author–date) format.

High-quality submissions will:

- Demonstrate critical engagement with relevant scholarly literature.

- Present a coherent and well-articulated argument.
- Ground their argument in empirical evidence and scholarly sources.

Papers that summarize existing literature, lack a clear central argument, or fail to connect the argument to supporting evidence will receive a lower grade.

#### **D) Final Exam (30%)**

Online examination. It is an open book examination. Students are expected to write two essay papers and submit them online to Brightspace. All instructions will be provided in the last class.

#### **IV. Late Submission Policy**

Assignments must be submitted online on Brightspace. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized on a daily basis (i.e. 2% of the overall grade for the assignment per day). Requests for extensions must be submitted prior to the assignment due date and arranged directly with the Teaching Assistant.

#### **Statement on use of AI**

Unless explicitly authorized by the instructor or teaching assistants, the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce any assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, images, summaries, videos, etc.) constitutes a violation of Carleton University's academic integrity standards.

#### **V. Class Schedule**

##### **Class 1 (September 5): Introduction to Course**

Instructor reviews the syllabus, discusses the course content, requirements and evaluations, and answers questions.

##### **Class 2 (September 12): Comparative Politics**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 1

##### **Class 3 (September 19): Political Development: two perspectives**

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party

Max Weber, Politics as a Vocation

**Class 4 (September 26): Modern States**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 2, pp. 35–57.

**Class 5 (October 3): Nations and Nationalism**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 3

**Class 6 (October 10): Democracy**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapters 5 & 8

**Class 7 (October 17): Non-Democratic Regimes**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 6

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*, Chapter 1, 2.

***October 24: Fall Break, No Class.***

**Class 8 (October 31): Political Violence**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 7

**Lecture 9 (November 7): Communism**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 9

**Lecture 10 (November 14): Developing Countries**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 10

**Lecture 11 (November 21): Globalization**

O'Neil and Rogowski, Chapter 11

**Lecture 12 (November 28): Course overview, final exam instruction**

Instructor will overview the course material and answer questions; provide information about the structure and requirements of the final exam.

## **Political Science Course Outline Appendix**

### **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:

#### **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/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

#### **Academic consideration for medical or other**

**extenuating circumstances:** Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

**Pregnancy:** 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, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

**Religious obligation:** 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](#).

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with**

**Disabilities:** 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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*).

**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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

#### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

#### 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.

#### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

#### OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

**For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).**

#### GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

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.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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#### 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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

#### RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640
Loeb	
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory