

**PSCI 2101B**

**Comparative Politics of the Global North**

Tuesday, 2:35-4:25 pm

Online Synchronous

**Instructor: Alex McDougall**

**Office Hours:** by appointment (online only).

**Email:** [alex.mcdougall@carleton.ca](mailto:alex.mcdougall@carleton.ca)

- **Course description**

From the rise of nationalism and populism, to the popularization of conspiracy theories, growing distrust of elites, and growing inequality, democracy in the west appears to be in crisis. This course introduces students to empirical political science with a focus on modern political issues in developed countries. The first part of the course examines literature on the origins of states and democracies. The second section looks at constitutions and political economy issues. The final section examines various issues confront modern democracies, from nationalism and identity politics, to economic change and inequality. The course concludes by looking at some recent work on the future of western democracies. This course will try and keep the focus on contemporary issues as much as possible. In addition to the textbook, the course will provide students with the opportunity to engage in some recent literatures on these topics (i.e. written within the last 10 years).

- **Method of Delivery**

In general, the lectures and tutorial groups for this course will be delivered in real time (synchronously) via Zoom at the schedule class time. Students will receive a Zoom invite link by email and posted on culearn several minutes prior to the start of the lecture.

- **Materials**

Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. *Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world*. Cambridge University Press, 2020..

Other reading material will be available online through culearn (the course webpage) and the library's electronic resources.

Powerpoint lectures will be posted online.

- **Evaluation**

Item	Description	Due Date	% of total
<b>Tutorial Group Attendance and Participation</b>	Students should attend and participate in tutorials.	Continuous through the semester	15
<b>Review Essay X2</b>	<p>Read and write two, 5-page essays reviewing and critically analyzing any of the following books from the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Applebaum – <i>The Twilight of Democracy: the seductive lure of authoritarianism</i>, 2020.</li> <li>• Mason, Lilliana. <i>Uncivil agreement: How politics became our identity</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2018.</li> <li>• Caplan, Bryan. <i>The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies</i>-New Edition. Princeton University Press, 2011.</li> <li>• Fukuyama, Francis. <i>Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy</i>. Macmillan, 2014.</li> <li>• Garrett Jones: <i>10 Percent Less Democracy. Why Should You Trust Elites a Little More and the Masses a Little Less</i></li> <li>• Kaufmann, Eric. <i>Whiteshift: Populism, immigration and the future of white majorities</i>. Penguin UK, 2018.</li> <li>• Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. <i>How democracies die</i>. Broadway Books, 2018.</li> <li>• Gurri, Martin. <i>The Revolt of the Public and the Crisis of Authority in the New Millennium</i>. Stripe Press, 2018.</li> <li>• D. Vorath, <i>Fully Grown: Why a Stagnant Economy is a Sign of Success</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2020.</li> <li>• Fredrik Deboer, <i>the Cult of Smart: How our Broken Education System Perpetuates Social Injustice</i>, OUP, 2020.</li> </ul> <p>Each paper should focus on one book. The second paper should not review the same book covered in the first paper.</p> <p>Each paper should advance an argument about or critique of the book that was reviewed. As such, the paper should have “thesis statement”, which is then supported with arguments throughout. This means that it is not sufficient to simply summarize the book.</p>	<p>Paper 1: February 9</p> <p>Paper 2: April 6</p>	<p>50% (25% X2)</p>

	The paper must go further, and actually analyze the book. A strong paper will put forward a well-thought-out critical analysis, demonstrate understanding of the reviewed book, and present the material in a well organized and structured manner. The paper should also look professional and will be judged accordingly on writing quality and style.		
<i>Quiz 1</i>	This is a short, online, open book quiz on course material up to this date. The questions will be short answer or multiple choice. The quiz will be open for a 24 hour period beginning on February 2.	Open Feb 2	10
<i>Quiz 2</i>	Students will complete a comprehensive quiz on course material. It will be conducted online. It will be open for 48 hours. The questions will be short answer, multiple choice, or essay style	April 13-15	25

- **Other issues**

*Lateness policy:* late assignments will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day (i.e. A reduced to A-).

- **Schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan. 12, 2021	Introduction to class – the problem of political order	Michael Munger – “the thing itself”  Chapter 1 of Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. <i>Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Chapter 1 of Fukuyama, Francis. <i>Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy</i> . Macmillan, 2014.
Jan. 19, 2021	Perspectives on politics: rational choice and institutionalism	Chapter 1, 6, 7 of Caplan, Bryan. <i>The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies</i> -New Edition. Princeton University Press, 2011.  Chapter 2, Fukuyama, Francis. <i>Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy</i> . Macmillan, 2014.
Jan. 26, 2021	States and state capacity	Chapter 2 – of Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. <i>Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Chapter 4 of Fukuyama, Francis. <i>Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy</i> . Macmillan, 2014.  For discussion: Bosancianu, Constantin Manuel, et al. "Political and social correlates of covid-19 mortality." (2020).

Feb. 2, 2021	The origin and spread of democracy	Chapter 4 of Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Chapter 27, 28, 29 of Fukuyama, Francis. <i>Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy</i> . Macmillan, 2014.
February 9, 2021	Constitutions	Chapter 5 of Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Selections of - Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. How democracies die. Broadway Books, 2018.  For discussion: Leeson, Peter T. "The invisible hook: the law and economics of pirate tolerance." NYUJL & Liberty 4 (2009): 139.
Feb. 16, 2021	Winter Break – no class	
February 23, 2021	Political Economy and Public Spending Issues in Modern Democracies	Chapter 16- Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Chapter 1, 2, 17 of Vollrath, Dietrich. <i>Fully Grown: Why a Stagnant Economy is a Sign of Success</i> . University of Chicago Press, 2020.
March 2, 2021		Chapter 1-3 of Fredrik Deboer, <i>the Cult of Smart: How our Broken Education System Perpetuates Social Injustice</i> , OUP, 2020.
March 9, 2020	Bureaucracy and technocratic institutions	Chapter 8 - Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Chapter 3, 4, 8 Garrett Jones: 10 Percent Less Democracy. Why Should You Trust Elites a Little More and the Masses a Little Less
March 16, 2021	Political parties	Chapter 13- Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Selections of - Mason, Lilliana. <i>Uncivil agreement: How politics became our identity</i> . University of Chicago Press, 2018.
March 23, 2021	Interest groups and social movements	Chapter 10 - Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Guest Speaker: Matt Bufton, Executive Director of the Institute for Liberal Studies
March 30, 2021	Political Ideologies	Chapter 14- Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth.

		Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Selections - Arnold Kling – <i>Three Languages of Politics</i>
April 6, 2021	Authoritarianism and Populism	Chapter 1-3 of Anne Applebaum – <i>The Twilight of Democracy: the seductive lure of authoritarianism</i> (2020)  Chapter 2-4 of Kaufmann, Eric. <i>Whiteshift: Populism, immigration and the future of white majorities</i> . Penguin UK, 2018.
April 13, 2021	The Future of the Democratic State	Chapter 17- Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. Van Deth. Foundations of comparative politics: democracies of the modern world. Cambridge University Press, 2020.  Rauch, Jonathan. "The Constitution of Knowledge." <i>National Affairs</i> 37 (2018).

#### 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](http://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](http://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 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](http://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).