

**Carleton University
Department of Political Science**

PSCI 2101B

Comparative Politics of Global North

Thursday: 9:35 to 11:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Said Yaqub Ibrahim

Office: Loeb Building, B642

Office Hours: Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 pm

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I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to comparative politics of the Global North. The course introduces students the use of comparative theories and methods to the study of political institutions in developed countries. Topics include the origin of modern states, nations and nationalism, comparative constitutions, governments, the emergence and breakdown of democracy, authoritarianism and democratic breakdown, political parties and protests, and comparative political economy. In this course, we address such questions as what comparative politics is, how comparative methods help study political development in the Global North, how states emerged and developed, why democracy is the dominant political system in the Global North, and a range of other related questions. These questions will be addressed in theoretical, methodological, and historical contexts of political development in a number of countries in the developed world.

II. Required Reading:

- J. Tyler Dickovick and J. Eastwood. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Third Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).
- Francis Fukuyama. *Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy*, Reprint Edition (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015).

III. Course Evaluation

All assignments should follow the Chicago Manual of Style (author, date format) of citation and reference. Course evaluation includes attendance and participation in discussion groups (25%), short paper (15%), term paper (30%), and final exam (30%) and will be calculated on the following basis:

A) Attendance and Participation (25%)

Attendance in discussion groups is mandatory and students who are absent from a tutorial will lose 100% of grades for the session. Tutorial participation is a critical component of this course. Tutorials are structured in a “seminar” format and, therefore, it is expected that every student

comes prepared to engage in class discussions. Participation should be constructive, critical, and respectful. Both the quality and quantity of your participation will be taken into account. Students receive 50% grade for their attendance and 50% for the quality and quantity of their participation in discussions.

B) Short Paper (15%)

Due as hard copy in discussion classes to TAs, February 14

Students are required to write a short paper on a specific concept, theory, or method of comparative politics. A detailed instruction of this assignment will be provided in due course. Papers should not exceed **3-4 pages** (double-spaced in 12-point font).

C) Term Paper (30%)

Due as hard copy in discussion classes to TAs, April 4

Students are required to compare a specific issue in two countries. The list of issues include modern state, modern nation, democracy, authoritarianism, constitution, political parties and protests, government, and political economy. Students will choose one issue and compare it in two specific countries. The list of countries that students will choose from include Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, and Brazil. Students are encouraged to choose two countries from this list to specialize in. The selection of issues and cases should be confirmed by Teaching Assistants. Papers should be **8-10 pages** including bibliography and footnotes (double-spaced in 12-point font). Papers should critically engage with the literature and develop a clear argument. Essays that are a simple summarization of the literature, lack a central argument, and are incapable of connecting the argument to research will receive a lower grade.

D) Final Exam (30%)

TBA

IV. Late Submission Policy

Short and term papers are due as hard copy and must be submitted in discussion classes to teaching assistants. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized on a daily basis (i.e. 5% of the overall grade for the assignment per day). Extensions will be granted on medical basis. Demand for extensions should be made prior to the due dates.

V. Class Schedule

Jan 10: Introduction to Course

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

Jan 17: Political Development: two perspectives

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party
- Max Weber, Politics as a Vocation
- Fukuyama, Chapter 1
- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1

January 24: Comparative Method

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 2
- Fukuyama, Chapter 2

January 31: Modern States

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 3
- Fukuyama, Chapter 3, 4

February 7: Modern Nations and Nationalism

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 13
- Fukuyama, Chapter 12

February 14: Liberal Democracy

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 6
- Fukuyama, Chapter 6, 27, 28
- Listen to Fukuyama discuss democracy on the Ezra Klein show

February 21: *Winter break, no class*

February 28: Authoritarianism

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 7
- Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*, Chapter 1, 2.

March 7: Comparative Constitutions

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 8, 9
- Fukuyama, Chapter 33, 34

March 14: Government and Governance

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 10
- Fukuyama, Chapter 13
- Ali Farazman, *Modern Systems of Government: Exploring the Role of Bureaucrats and Politicians* (London: SAGE Publications, 1997), Introduction & Chapter 2.

March 21: Political Parties and Political Protests

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 11, 12
- Fukuyama, Chapter 32

March 28: Comparative Political Economy

- Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 4
- Georg Menz, *Comparative Political Economy: Contours of a Subfield* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), Chapter 2

April 4: 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.

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

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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

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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> 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.