

**DePauw University**  
**Comparative Politics and Government**  
**POLS 150C**  
**M/W/F 12:50 – 1:50 PM**  
**Room: AH 114**

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Welcome! During the semester we shall be exploring the theories, approaches, and tools of the subfield of political science known as comparative politics. The comparative political scientist is interested in comparing their own political system and political concepts to the outside world. In our case, we shall prepare ourselves to investigate three political systems outside the United States, with the intention of using such inquiries to further our own knowledge about government here at home and politics in general.

We live in an exciting and dangerous age. Global advances in communication allow us to gain instantaneous knowledge of the world around us at the touch of a button. This unrivalled time of access to information exposes us to a world that often seems too complicated to understand. Even now, genocide is killing hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Violence has seized several nations in the Middle East, including Iraq where the United States Armed Forces are currently seeking to establish stability. In East Asia, the traditional balance of power is being disrupted by both North Korea threatening nuclear conflict and China's increasing desire to seize regional supremacy. Yet, not all the news at our fingertips promises danger. Global communication is connecting people from all over the globe who seek to work together towards a more sustainable environment, or to heal the wounds left from war. Through comparative politics, we can better understand what aspects of humanity are universal and which features are specified to particular communities.

Our work this semester will be broken down into sections. We shall begin with a section designed to introduce you to the comparative method. From this introduction we shall explore several of the larger theories that dominate the subfield today. These include theories on social movements, political development, democracy, and culture. We shall conclude the semester with three cases studies. These case studies allow us to investigate the political systems of three places: the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China, and Iran/Central Asia.

Teaching Method:

This course requires a specific level of participation from each student. I expect that each student will engage not only the reading material assigned, but to come to class each session prepared to discuss the material. I do not run my classrooms as lecture halls.

Students should always expect that I will give lectures on material to provide greater contextual information and historical relevance, but the majority of learning will be a collective enterprise. Since this course is dependent upon student discussion, I demand that each student be shown respect for his or her contributions to our dialogues. I will not tolerate any type of ridicule or personal attack in this classroom.

All of my courses are designed to facilitate a liberal arts education. By that I mean a learning environment that helps train the mind to think critically and creatively. Such a goal cannot be achieved if we do not share our ideas publicly in the classroom. A lively classroom where participation among students is a regular feature sustains the type of learning that I prefer. I know that I shall learn quite a bit from each of you over the semester, as I know you shall learn from each other and your professor. You should always feel free to express your mind, to offer your own theories, and to ask questions. I further encourage you to maintain your participation outside the classroom by regularly seeing me during office hours (I require you to visit occasionally throughout the semester) and meeting amongst yourselves to discuss the materials from class.

#### Course Goals:

This course has particular goals that I, with your assistance, will pursue throughout the semester. At the conclusion of our meetings I hope that you shall each walk away from the course with the following: greater knowledge regarding the political affairs of the world around you, a familiarity with the basic tools used in comparative politics, an improved ability to critically review the important issues of our day, a stronger ability to communicate your ideas through both written text and speech, and a heightened willingness to engage in your world as an active participant, or what could be called a citizen.

I do demand a great deal of all of my students. I expect you to come to class each and every day prepared, which means you have read the assigned reading and are prepared to discuss it. I allow those who wish to volunteer their thoughts to begin our discussions, but I will seek to include everyone in our discussion. Thus, participate regularly and by doing so make your education an active experience. Beyond readings and participation, I demand the highest quality of written work. You shall each be asked to read difficult material and engage complicated concepts, but I promise that I shall be available to help you in working through it all.

#### Course Readings:

The following texts are required for this course. You may purchase them at the DePauw University bookstore.

-Almond, Gabriel et al. Comparative Politics Today: a World View (9<sup>th</sup> Edition). Person/Longman (ISBN: 978-0-205-52931-5)

-Wiarda, Howard. Introduction to Comparative Politics: Concepts and Processes (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Thomson/Wadsworth (ISBN: 978-0-155-07869-7)

Further readings will be posted on our moodle page (including a link for e-reserves). Note – the textbooks in this course serve as the primary source of information, but you shall be referencing outside readings regularly.

### Course Requirements:

*Examinations (30%):* You will have two scheduled in-class examinations in this course. The first examination is scheduled for Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and is worth 10% of your final grade. The second examination shall take place on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and is worth 20% of your final grade. Both examinations are a vital component of your grade that you cannot miss and hope to still achieve excellent course marks. The examinations shall consist of short answer, identification, and short essay questions.

*Midterm Paper (25%):* A midterm paper is due on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Each paper should use standard formatting parameters (12 pt Times New Roman font, default margins, 8.5 X 11 paper size) and be between 5-7 pages of written text (you may use graphics, cover pages, pictures, and charts but they do not count towards the page total). You must use at least 7 sources for this paper, 4 of which must be scholarly. You may use footnoting techniques with full citation information appearing at the bottom of the page it references or use internal citations with a full works cited page. The topic(s) of the paper shall be distributed in class.

*Participation (10%):* A significant portion of your final course grade rests on your level of participation in this course. **You must not be afraid to speak up in this course, but I demand that you be respectful of others in that process.** As the professor, my job is not to define your ideas or your worldview by forcing you to conform to my factual interpretations or ideological positions. The decision maker in any classroom should be the student. What I will do in this course is to challenge your beliefs, assumptions, positions – the end goal being to make your positions more clearly thought out and to provide you knowledge on how to think critically about your world.

A component of your participation grade shall be made up of various in-class activities. During some classroom sessions we shall break up into small groups to discuss the text. Other times we may take on a role playing exercise where I shall have you the students represent certain actors relevant to our investigation. We may even have formal debates on particular days. These in-class activities shall be graded based upon your attendance (obviously) and how well you perform the task at hand. In addition to these activities, I am requiring each student to register electronically for an online news source. Further details shall be discussed in class, but these online versions are free. We shall begin each and every day with a discussion of the news, which means it is an absolute necessity that you remain up to date on world events. Related to this current events requirement is that I have created a blog ([pols150csp08.wordpress.depauw.edu](http://pols150csp08.wordpress.depauw.edu)) for every one of you to use for posting relevant information. I shall be regularly monitoring who is participating by posting and who is not. Videos, links, pictures, and articles shall regularly be posted by the professor to facilitate our blog discussion.

Please remember that participation points cannot be awarded if you do not attend class. Thus, it is in your own best interests to always make a point of attending class. Three or more unexcused absences shall negatively impact your participation grade. Students shall be excused from class based upon university rules. Excused absences include personal illness, university-sponsored activities, and personal/family tragedy.

I understand that some of you may have apprehensions regarding public speaking. First, the classroom is a controlled environment ideally suited to assist in easing such tension with public speech. Yet, I will ensure that every student has ample opportunity to earn the maximum in participation even if they do not feel comfortable speaking in class. We shall work to offer replacements to in-class discussion including position papers, office hour discussions, and written reviews of the readings.

*Quizzes (5%):* Quizzes are a component of this course and will be factored into your final grade. The quizzes will not be scheduled (they are pop-quizzes) and shall be made up of short answer questions. Under no circumstances will I offer make-up times for missed quizzes.

*Final Examination (30%):* You will have a cumulative final examination in this course. The exam is scheduled for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30 AM in our regular meeting room. The examination will include short answer, identification, short essay, and long essay components. We shall use our final meeting time as a period for the entire class to review course materials and I shall make myself available as much as possible near the end of the semester to assist you in your preparations.

*Conference:* I am requiring that students meet with me at least twice during the semester. The first meeting must take place between February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>. This meeting shall be used to discuss your first course grade and to address questions regarding the midterm. The second meeting must take place between March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. In the second meeting we shall discuss your overall progress in the class and address any continuing questions. These two meetings are required of all students, but you should meet with me more than twice during the semester.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	Highest Caliber Work
90-92	A-	Outstanding Work
87-89	B+	Excellent Work
83-86	B	Good Work
80-82	B-	Fine Work
77-79	C+	Above Average Work
73-76	C	Average Work
70-72	C-	Below Average Work
67-69	D+	Very Below Average
63-66	D	Poor Work
60-62	D-	Near Failing
0-59	F	Failing

Note – I do not use a curve to modify grades.

**Note:** The Academic Resource Center in 211 Harrison Hall has a plethora of resources for you to use. The Writing Center is included in the center and can help with all forms of writing. The Speaking and Listening Center is also located in the same location to assist you in any hesitations you have regarding public speaking. The center's resources are regularly busy, so plan your visit ahead of time.

**Technology:**

Our classroom, LIB LL, offers us the chance to use technology resources regularly in class. Our course blog shall be used as a resource in class and I will regularly be showing videos, articles, and images to assist in our classroom activities. I have no problem with any of you using laptops in our course, but if they become a distraction to participation I will ask you to put them away (thus stay engaged). On some occasions, I shall require you to bring your laptop (dates are marked on syllabus). I shall not be posting lecture notes on either the blog or our moodle page and therefore I expect each of you to take focused notes at your discretion.

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, plagiarism, submission of the work of others, etc. violates DePauw policy on academic integrity and may result in penalties ranging from a lowered grade to course failure or expulsion. The policy and discussion of each student's obligations and rights are in the Student Handbook. We can discuss any concerns you have regarding citations and academic integrity further during office hours.

**Special Accommodations:**

It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one week's notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis.

Class Schedule (Subject to Modification):

Note – at beginning of each national unit there will be a list of resources given to all students

Almond = Readings from Comparative Politics Today

Wiarda = Readings from Introduction to Comparative Politics

Moodle = Readings available to students through moodle (moodle.depauw.edu)

E-reserve = Readings available to students through the University's library electronic reserve system (available through moodle)

*Week 1:*

M, Jan 28 – Introductions; Syllabus Review

W, Jan 30 – Library Resource Information Session

Laptops Required (Main Library, Lower Level)

F, Feb 1 – The Comparative Method: Introduction

Almond pgs 1-41

*Week 2:*

- M, Feb 4 – The Comparative Method: Tools  
Wiarda pgs 1-41
- W, Feb 6 – The Comparative Method: Uses  
Activity, no readings
- F, Feb 8 – Political Culture  
Almond pgs 43-56; Wiarda 62-79

*Week 3:*

- M, Feb 11 – Political Culture  
Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" (Moodle)
- W, Feb 13 – Political Culture  
Putnam's "Bowling Alone" (Moodle)
- F, Feb 15 – Modernization Theory  
Wiarda pgs 42-61; Readings from Globalization Reader (e-reserve)

*Week 4:*

- M, Feb 18 – Modernization Theory  
Wiarda pgs 79-87; Smith's "The Logic of Dependency Revisited"  
(Moodle)
- W, Feb 20 – Modernization/Dependency  
Valenzuela's "Modernization and Dependency" (Moodle)
- F, Feb 22 – Class Cancelled

*Week 5:*

- M, Feb 25 – Democratization  
Dahrendorf's Definition of Democracy (Moodle); Almond pgs 60-76  
(79-123 recommended)
- W, Feb 27 – Democratization  
Wiarda pgs 100-119; Dahl's "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale  
Democracy Require (Moodle)
- F, Feb 29 – Democratization  
Zakaria's "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy" (Moodle);  
Sen's "Democracy as a Universal Value" Journal of Democracy 10.3  
(Moodle)

*Week 6:*

- M, Mar 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Examination  
Study! Test covers through Democratization section.
- W, Mar 5 – New Institutionalism  
No Readings; Activity: the Game of Politics  
Laptops Required
- F, Mar 7 – New Institutionalism  
Rational Choice Debate in NYT (Moodle)

*Week 7:*

- M, Mar 10 – Social Mobilization  
Tarrow's Power in Movement, chapter 1 (e-reserve)
- W, Mar 12 – Social Mobilization  
Scott's Domination and the Arts of Resistance, selections (e-reserve)
- F, Mar 14 – Social Mobilization  
Tilly's Dynamics of Contention, selections (e-reserve)

*Week 8:*

- M, Mar 17 – Politics of Great Britain – Intro and History  
Almond pgs 152-163; British History (Moodle)
- W, Mar 19 – Politics of Great Britain – Institutions of State  
Almond pgs 164-172; Parliament and Prime Minister (Moodle)
- F, Mar 21 – Politics of Great Britain – Thatcherism and Blairism  
BBC and Assorted Articles (Moodle)  
Midterm Papers Due!

*Week 9:*

- M, W, F – Spring Recess (No Classes)

*Week 10:*

- M, Mar 31 – Politics of Great Britain – Political Culture/Participation/Parties  
Almond pgs 173-199; BBC and Other Interpretations of 2005 elections  
and other Periodicals (Moodle)
- W, April 2 – Politics of Great Britain – Political Controversies  
Readings on Geopolitics and Multiculturalism (Moodle)
- W, April 4 – Politics of Great Britain – Political Controversies  
Readings on Iraq War (Moodle)

*Week 11:*

- M, April 7 – Politics of PRC – Introduction and History  
Almond pgs 406-414; Fairbank's China: a New History selections (e-reserve)
- W, April 9 – Politics of PRC – Party/State I  
Almond 415-428
- F, April 11 – Politics of PRC – Party State II  
Lieberthal's Governing China selections (e-reserve)

*Week 12:*

- M, April 14 – Politics of PRC – Political Culture and Policy  
Almond 429-449
- W, April 16 – Politics of PRC – Economic Reform I  
Dickson's Red Capitalists in China selections (e-reserve)
- F, April 18 – Politics of PRC – Economic Reform II  
Gries' State and Society in 21<sup>st</sup> Century China selection (e-reserve)

*Week 13:*

- M, April 21 – Politics of PRC – Protest and Resistance  
Wei's "The Fifth Modernization" (Moodle); Activity on "Gate of Heavenly Peace"
- W, April 23 – Politics of PRC – Towards Democracy?  
Howell's Governance in China selections (e-reserve)
- F, April 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Examination  
Study! Exam covers all material prior to this stage.

*Week 14:*

- M, April 28 – Politics of Iran/CA – Introduction and State Institutions  
Almond 563-574; Luong's The Transformation of Central Asia selections (e-reserve)
- W, April 30 - Politics of Iran/CA – Governance Strategies/Protest and Resistance  
Almond 574-599
- F, May 2 - Politics of Iran/CA – Nationalism and Islam  
Molavi's "Buying Time in Tehran" (Moodle); Maynes' "America Discovers Central Asia" (Moodle)

*Week 15:*

- M, May 5 – Politics of Iran/CA – Islam, Democracy, and Development  
Boroumand's "Iran's Resilient Civil Society" (Moodle); Sazegara's "What Do 'We' Do Now?" (Moodle)
- W, May 7 – Concluding Remarks; Review for Final  
Laptops Recommended

Final Examination – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30 AM