

University of Western Ontario
Introduction to Comparative Politics
POL 2245E/650
Summer 2011

Instructor: Tom Deligiannis

I. OBJECTIVES

The course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, one of the main sub-fields of political science. The course examines theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics, and introduces students to the methodology of comparative politics through the study of both developed and developing societies. Comparative analysis is intended to provide students with the tools to move from the known to the unknown and, in so doing, to develop a helpful analysis and understanding of the social, economic, and political phenomenon found in political conflict around the world. We explore how political systems can be compared, and the differences between countries in the way in which politics is conducted. We will explore what democracy and authoritarianism means based on how it is carried out by states today, as well as why some countries are more democratic than others. We study major schools of thought about political economy, political institutions, political culture, and the effects of international factors for possible explanations of variations in levels of democracy in different parts of the world. We will also explore social movements, the causes of political violence and revolutions, and state collapse and reconstruction.

II. How to Contact the Instructor

Research has shown that student ready access to the instructor facilitates student success in online courses. In order to enable students to get as much guidance and direction as possible, I pledge to make myself easily available for students. I do not live in London, however, so face-to-face meetings are not possible. However, I am using various technology platforms to connect with students.

Email: tdeligia@uwo.ca

Feel free to email me anytime with questions. I pledge to respond to emails within 4 hours (usually much faster) if you send your messages between 7am – 10pm EST (Eastern Standard Time), Monday to Friday. I check my email on weekends, but less frequently.

Virtual Office Hours:

We are making use of various technology platforms like WebCT Chat, Discussion Lists, and Skype to give students as much access to the instructor as possible in this course. I

will be available three times per week for two hours each session on either WebCT Chat or Skype for help, questions, etc.

My Skype ID is: tom.deligiannis1 (See Skype.com for information on using Skype.)

Virtual Office Hour Times: Tuesdays 10am – 12pm (EST)
 Thursdays 2pm – 4pm (EST)
 Sundays 1pm – 3pm (EST)

If I am unable to attend these times for any reason, I will post a message on the WebCT announcement page.

I can also call students on the phone – cell/land lines - if necessary. Please email me with your question, a contact number, and a time when I can reach you.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean,
Faculty of Social Science

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

A comprehensive selection of readings has been assembled to complement the required textbooks and give students a detailed introduction to the study of comparative politics. In addition to the course readings, students will be required to participate in online discussions, prepare a research paper and its component parts, and write both a mid-term and final exam.

Course Texts – Required for purchase from the bookstore. See their site:

<http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca/eSolution/course.php>

- Patrick H. O’Neil, *Essentials Of Comparative Politics*, 3rd Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010).
- Daniele Caramani ed., *Comparative Politics*, 2nd Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).
- Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings In Comparative Politics*, 2nd Edition, (Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2010).

Other readings will be posted on WebCT in the folder, “Required Readings”. Additional supplementary readings will be posted in the folder “Recommended Supplementary Readings” for those who have time and interest to explore issues in greater depth.

Course Assessment

Student performance will be assessed according to the following exercises and assignments:

Online Discussion Participation:		15%
Mid-Term:	Sat. June 25 th , 2pm	20%
Research Essay:		45%
Essay Proposal (5%):	Due: May 25 th	
Literature Review (15%):	Due: June 17 th	
Final Essay (25%):	Due: July 15 th	
Final Exam:	Aug. 2 nd -5 th (date TBA)	20%

The instructor will provide detailed instructions for each assignment and an assessment rubric in advance to students. This rubric will explain the expectations and assessment criterion for each assignment and for participation in the online discussion. All assignment instructions and rubrics will be posted to WebCT. All assignments are due at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time on the due date.

Late submissions will be assessed a 5% per day late penalty, weekends included. Extensions are rarely granted, and only for exception circumstances, such as a documented medical illness. Please see the section below on Medical Accommodation.

Students can choose to write their exams in London, Toronto, Ottawa, Barrie, Sudbury or Vancouver. Independent proctors are NOT an option. Please inform the instructor as soon as possible if you choose to write the exams in Toronto, Ottawa, Barrie, Sudbury, or Vancouver.

IV. WebCT OWL

This course will utilize WebCT OWL as a learning tool on a regular basis.

Ensure that your computer is properly prepared for WebCT OWL. Much like cars, a few minutes of maintenance before you hit the virtual highway can prevent the headaches of a roadside breakdown. You can test your computer by visiting <http://webct.uwo.ca/> and clicking on the Check My Browser link.

Login to WebCT OWL by going to <http://webct.uwo.ca/> and clicking on the University of Western Ontario button. Check that you have access to your course.

Please be aware, students will NOT receive any materials from Distance Studies. Instead, they will receive an email advising them how to access the Distance Studies website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/infoservices/distance.cfm. Here, they will find online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and links to their UWO email and WebCT OWL.

Students will turn in assignments electronically using the WebCT OWL assignment tool. Student submissions will be time stamped when submitted online. All assignments are due at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time on the due date. Late submissions will be assessed a 5% per day late penalty, weekends included.

Student Problems with WebCT OWL...

If you are experiencing problems, please direct them to the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. For hours and additional contact information please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/> Troubleshooting information is also available online, a list of common problems and solutions are available at <http://webct.uwo.ca/commonProblems.html> Students should also ensure their computer is properly prepared by visiting <http://webct.uwo.ca/> and clicking on the Check My Browser link

V. PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you

must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

If you are unsure about what plagiarism is or how to avoid it, ask me!

VII. MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counseling as soon as possible. The Academic Counselors will contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

VIII. Weekly Subject Outline

Introduction and Historical Context

Week of May 9th

Unit 1. Introduction

- Caramani, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-48.

Unit 2. States

- O'Neil, Chapter 2, pp. 21-46.
- Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010): pp. 20-8.

Online Discussion Topic: The State in the Modern World

Readings:

- Susan Strange, "The Retreat of the State: The Diffusion of Power in the World Economy," in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 81-88.
- Saskia Sassan, "The State and Globalization," in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 89-94.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985): pp. 169-187.
- John Rapley, "The New Middle Ages," *Foreign Affairs* 85(3), May-June 2006: pp. 95-103.

Week of May 16th

Unit 3. Nations

- O'Neil, Chapter 3, pp. 47-76.

Unit 4. Political Economy

- O'Neil, Chapter 4, pp. 77-108.

Online Discussion Topic – Capitalism and Economic Development in the Modern World

Readings:

- David Coates, "Models of Capitalism in the New World Order," in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political*

Challenges and Changing Agendas, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 129-137.

Optional Suggested Reading

- Peter Gourevitch, “Political Economy,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 123-128.
- Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, “An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 138-149.
- Robert J. S. Ross and Anita Chan, “From North-South to South-South,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp.164-170.

Week of May 23rd

Unit 5. Democracies

- Caramani, Chapter 5, pp. 84-101.

Unit 6. Authoritarian Regimes

- Caramani, Chapter 6, pp. 102-118.

Online Discussion Topic – Democracy as a Universal Value

Readings:

- Amartya Sen, “Democracy as a Universal Value,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 184-93.
- Thomas Carothers, “The End of the Transition Paradigm,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 247-255.

Optional Suggested Reading

- Robert A. Dahl, “Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp.194-200.
- Guillermo O’Donnell, “Illusions About Consolidation,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp.232-246.

Week of May 30th

Unit 7. Communism and Post-Communism

- O'Neil, Chapter 8, pp. 197-229.

Unit 8. Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries

- James Chiriyankandath, "Colonialism and Post-Colonial Development," Chapter 2 in Peter Burnell, Vicky Randell, and Lise Rakner, *Politics in the Deveveloping World* (New York: Oxford U.P., 2011): pp. 36-52.
- O'Neil, Chapter 9, pp. 230-260.

Online Discussion Topic – What's the key to economic development in poor countries?

Readings: (Read any two of the following)

- Richard F. Doner, Bryan K. Ritchie, and Dan Slater, "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of the Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective," in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 150-163.
- Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13(3), 1999: 3-22.
- Bill McKibben, "An Alternative to Growth," in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 421-428.

Optional Suggested Reading

- Robert J. Barro, "Democracy: A Recipe for Growth?" in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2010): pp. 428-431.
- Adam Przeworski et al., "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2010): pp. 431-440.

Structures and Institutions

Week of June 6th

Unit 9. Legislatures

- Caramani, Chapter. 7, pp. 121-140.

Unit 10. Governments and Bureaucracies

- Caramani, Chapter 8, pp. 141-161.

Online Discussion Topic: Parliamentary versus Presidential systems

Readings:

- Juan Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 318-328.
- Francis Fukuyama, Bjorn Dressel, and Boo-Seung Chang, “Facing the Perils of Presidentialism?” *Journal of Democracy*, 16(2), April 2005, pp. 102-116.

Optional Suggested Reading

- John M. Carey, *Legislative Voting and Accountability* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- Juan Linz and Arturo Valenzuela eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: Comparative Perspectives* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).
- Anibal Perez-Linan, *Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America* (New York: Cambridge U.P., 2007).
- Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart eds., *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America* (New York: Cambridge U. P., 1997).

Week of June 13th

Unit 11. Constitutions and Judicial Power

- Caramani, Chapter 9, pp. 162-180.

Unit 12. Federal and Local Government Institutions

- Caramani, Chapter 11, pp. 198-216.

Online Discussion Topic: Institutional Arrangements for divided societies – The Paradox of Federalism?

Readings:

- Jan Erk and Lawrence Anderson, “The Paradox of Federalism: Does Self-Rule Accommodate or Exacerbate Ethnic Divisions?” *Regional and Federal Studies*, 19(2), May 2009: pp. 191-202.
- David Cameron, “The Paradox of Federalism: Some Practical Reflections,” *Regional and Federal Studies*, 19(2), May 2009: pp. 309-319.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- Henry H. Hale, “Divided We Stand: International Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 345-356.

- Philip G. Roeder, “Ethnofederalism and the Mismanagement of Conflicting Nationalisms,” *Regional and Federal Studies*, 19(2), May 2009: pp. 203-219.

Actors and Processes

Week of June 20th

Unit 13. Political Parties and Party Systems

- Caramani, Chapters 12 &13, pp. 217-258.

Unit 14. Interest Associations

- Caramani, Chapter 14, pp. 259-274

Online Discussion Topic: Mid-Term Exam Review

Week of June 27th

Unit 15. Regions

- Caramani, Chapter 15, pp. 275-291.

Unit 16. Political Culture

- Caramani, Chapter 17, pp. 311-330.

Online Discussion Topic: Individualization and the Decline of Social Capital.

Readings:

- Robert D. Putnam, “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 392-402.
- Bo Rothstein and Dietlind Stolle, “The State And Social Capital: An Institutional Theory of Generalized Trust,” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 403-411.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- M. K. Smith, 'Social capital', *The Encyclopedia of Informal Education*, 2000-2009. < http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm>.
- Robert D. Putman, “Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America,” *Political Science & Politics* 28(4), Dec. 1995: pp. 664-683.

Week of July 4th

Unit 17. Public Policy

- G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russel J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom, *Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Framework*, 6th Edition (New York: Longman, 2012): Chapter 7, pp. 167-200.

Unit 18. Social Movements

- Caramani, Chapter 16, pp. 292-310.

Online Discussion Topic: Social Movements in Recent Uprisings in North Africa

Readings: Read Any 3 of the following short articles.

- “North Africa: Tunisia’s Jasmine Revolution,” *Africa Research Bulletin: Political, Social, and Cultural Series* 48(1): Jan. 1st-31st, 2011: pp. 18675-18680.
- Salah Eddin Jorshi, “The Political Regime in Tunisia at a Crossroads,” *Arab Reform Brief* 45, February 2011.
- Augustus Richard Norton and Ashraf el-Sherif, “North Africa’s Epochal Year of Freedom,” *Current History*, 110(736), May 2011: pp. 201-03.
- “Arab League: Warning on “Unprecedented Anger,” *Africa Research Bulletin: Economic, Financial, and Technical Series* 48(1), March, 2011: pp. 18970-18971.
- “Egypt: Wave of Strikes,” *Africa Research Bulletin: Economic, Financial, and Technical Series* 48(1), 16 Jan. 2011-15 Feb. 2011: pp. 18967-18968.
- “Egypt: President Resigns,” *Africa Research Bulletin: Economic, Financial, and Technical Series* 48(2), Feb. 1st-28th, 2011: 18715-18718.
- “Tunisia’s Jasmine Revolution: Three Views,” *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 30(2), March 2011: pp. 12-15.
- National Democratic Institute, *Voices of a Revolution: Conversations with Tunisia’s Youth*, Washington DC: NDI, 2011.
- Max Rodenbeck, “Volcano of Rage,” *The New York Review of Books*, 24 March, 2011. Available online: [http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/mar/24/volcano-
rage/](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/mar/24/volcano-rage/)
- Sidney Tarrow, “A Movement Society?” in Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 2nd Edition, (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010): pp. 379-402.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- David S. Meyer and Daisy Verduzco Reyes, “Social Movements and Contentious Politics,” in Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins eds.,

Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective (New York; Springer, 2010): pp. 217-233.

Week of July 11th

Unit 19. Political Violence and Revolution

- O'Neil, Chapter 10, pp. 261-290.
- Jack A. Goldstone, *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies*, (Belmont, CA : Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003), chapter 1.

Unit 20 State Collapse and State Re-Building

- Robert Rotberg, "The Failure and collapse of Nation-States: Breakdown, Prevention, and Repair," in Robert I. Rotberg, ed., *When States Fail* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton U.P., 2004): pp. 1-49.

Online Discussion Topic: Debating State-Building in Afghanistan and Beyond

Readings:

- Ashraf Ghani et. al, "An Agenda for State-Building in the 21st Century," *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, 30(1), Winter 2006: pp. 101-123.
- Astri Suhrke, "Reconstruction as Modernization: The 'Post-Conflict' Project in Afghanistan," *Third World Quarterly* 28(7), pp. 2191-1308.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- Roland Paris, "Saving Liberal Peacebuilding," *Review of International Studies* 36(2), 2010: pp. 337-365.

Week of July 18th

Unit 21. The EU as a new political system

- Caramani, Chapter 23, pp. 427-450.

Unit 22. Globalization and the Nation-State

- Caramani, Chapter 24, pp. 451-466.

Online Discussion Topic: Can we protect the environment in a globalized world?

Readings:

- Adil Najam, David Runnalls and Mark Halle, *Environment and Globalization Five Propositions* (Winnipeg, MN: International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2007).
<<http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CBoQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iisd.org%2Fpdf%2F2007%2Ftrade>

[environment_globalization.pdf&ei=50XATYHgHYX00gH92OSiBQ&usg=AFQjCNEDEQUHjg3v7KCiJJgcOpAm_rL6bg>](#).

- Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007): chapter 11, “Environment in Peril?” pp. 135-161.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World : The Political Economy of the Global Environment*, 2nd Edition (Boston, MA: MIT Press), Chapter 2, “The Ecological Consequences of Globalization.”

Week of July 25th

Unit 23. Promoting Democracy

- Caramani, Chapter 25, pp. 467-483.

Optional Suggested Reading:

- Georg Sørensen, “Democracy and Democratization,” in Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins eds., *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective* (New York; Springer, 2010): pp. 441-458.

Online Discussion Topic: Final Exam Review

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different political science courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

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