

Political Science 2245E-650  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Summer 2017

Instructor: Tammy Lambert

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## 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. 2245E also 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. Introduction to Comparative Politics explores how political systems can be compared, and the differences between countries that shape the way 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. PREREQUISITES

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.

## III. CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR

Email: [tlamber8@uwo.ca](mailto:tlamber8@uwo.ca)

Email is likely the most efficient way to contact the instructor and is a useful avenue for relatively straightforward questions and concerns. Other communication mediums may be more beneficial for complex discussions and detailed conversations about the course materials and course research essay. Please feel free to email the instructor to set up an appointment in person, via Skype or over the telephone. To arrange for a meeting via Skype or telephone, please contact me by email and provide a phone number or Skype ID as well as three available time slots.

#### IV. TEXTBOOK REQUIREMENTS

Patrick H. O’Neil. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York: W.W. Norton, 2015.

Daniele Caramani ed., *Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Mark Kesselman ed., *Readings in Comparative Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2010.

- Other readings listed on the course outline that are not in these textbooks will be made available on OWL.

#### V. EVALUATION

Weekly Online Discussion	Value 20% - 2% x 10 weeks
Research Essay	Value 35% - Due June 23, 11:59pm
Short Reflection Paper	Value 15% - Due July 21, 11:59pm
Final Exam	Value 30% - to be scheduled during exam period

Instructions and details for the assignments will be posted to OWL.

#### VI. LECTURES

In lieu of in-person lectures, weekly lecture notes will be posted to OWL under the lectures tab. Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures in addition to the required readings.

#### VII. WESTERN OWL

This course uses Western OWL as a learning tool on a regular basis. It is important that students are checking the OWL site frequently and accessing the learning materials hosted there.

Login to OWL by going to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and entering your user ID and password. Check that you have access to your course.

Please be aware, students will NOT receive any materials from Distance Studies. Instead students will receive an email advising them how to access the Distance Studies website at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance\\_studies/accessing\\_your\\_courses.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance_studies/accessing_your_courses.html). Here, students will find online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and links to their UWO email and OWL.

If you are experiencing problems with OWL, there are three ways of getting help. First, you can contact the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. Next, you can submit a question online here: <https://servlet.uwo.ca/vistahelpdesk/>. Finally, you can stop by the ITS help desk in person. Directions and hours are here: <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>. For hours and additional contact information please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>. Additional OWL student help information can be found here: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>.

## VIII. TURNITIN

“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> ).”

## 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](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.

## Schedule of Readings and Weekly Discussion Questions

### Week 1: May 8

#### Unit 1: Introduction

Required reading:

- Caramani, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, 1-48.

#### Unit 2: States

Required reading:

- O’ Neil, Chapter 2, 30-61.
- Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” in Patrick H. O’Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (New York, W.W. Norton, 2010), 22-28.

**No online discussion this week.**

## Week 2: May 15

### Unit 3: Nations

Required reading:

- O'Neil, Chapter 3, 62 – 97.

### Unit 4: Political Economy

Required reading:

- O'Neil, Chapter 4, 98- 132.

### Online Discussion Topic: Capitalism and Development in the Modern World

#### Required Reading:

David Coates, “Models of Capitalism in the New World Order, in Kesselman, 129-137.

Robert J.S. Ross and Anita Chan, “From North-South to South-South,” in Kesselman, 164-170.

## Week 3: May 22

### Unit 5: Democracies

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 5, 79-95.

### Unit 6: Authoritarian Regimes

Required reading:

- Caramani Chapter 6, 96-110.

### Online Discussion Topic: Democracy as a Universal Value

#### Required Reading:

Amartya Sen, “Democracy as a Universal Value,” in Kesselman, 184-193.

Thomas Carothers, “The End of the Transition Paradigm,” in Kesselman, 247-255.

## Week 4: May 29

### Unit 7: Communism and Post-Communism

Required reading:

- O'Neil, Chapter 9, 270 – 307.

### Unit 8: Less Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries

Required reading:

- O'Neil, Chapter 10, 308-341.
- James Chiriyankandath, “Colonialism and Post-Colonial Development,” in Peter Burnell, Vicky Randell, and List Rakner, eds., *Politics in the Developing World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011): 36-52.

### Online Discussion Topic: What is the Key to Economic Development in Poor Countries?

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 Kesselman, pages 150-163.

Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13, no. 3 (1999), pages 3-22.

## Week 5: June 5

### Unit 9: Legislatures

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 7, pages 113-130.

### Unit 10: Governments and Bureaucracies:

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 8, pages 131-149.

### Online Discussion Topic: Parliamentary versus Presidential Systems

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in Kesselman, 318-328.

Francis Fukuyama, Bjorn Dressel, and Boo-Seung Chang, "Facing the Perils of Presidentialism?" *Journal of Democracy* 16, no. 2 (2005): 102-116.

## Week 6: June 12

### Unit 11: Constitutions and Judicial Power

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 9, 150-165.

### Unit 12: Federal and Local Government Institutions

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 11, 181-196.

### Online Discussion Topic: Institutional Arrangements for Divided Societies – the Paradox of Federalism?

Jan Erk and Lawrence Anderson, "The Paradox of Federalism: Does Self-Rule Accommodate or Exacerbate Ethnic Divisions?" *Regional and Federal Studies* 19, no. 2 (2009): 191-202.

Henry H. Hale, "Divided We Stand: International Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse," in Kesselman, 345-356.

## Week 7: June 19

### Unit 13: Political Parties and Party Systems

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapters 12 and 13, 199-236.

#### **Unit 14: Interest Associations**

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 14, 237-251.

**No online discussion this week: paper due Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59pm**

### **Week 8: June 26**

#### **Unit 15: Regions**

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 15, 232-266.

#### **Unit 16: Political Culture**

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 17, 284-301.

#### **Online Discussion Topic: Individualization and the Decline of Social Capital**

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," in Kesselman, 392-402.

Bo Rothstein and Deitlind Stolle, "The State and Social Capital: An Institutional Theory of Generalized Trust," in Kesselman, 403-411.

### **Week 9: July 3**

#### **Unit 17: Public Policy**

Required reading:

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

#### **Unit 18: Social Movements**

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 16, 287-283.

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

Augustus Richard Norton and Ashraf el-Sherif, "North Africa's Epochal Year of Freedom," *Current History* 110 (736), 2011, 201-203.

"Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution: Three Views," *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* 30, no. 2 (2011), 12-15.

Sydney Tarrow, "A Movement Society," in Kesselman, 379-391.

## Week 10: July 10

### Unit 19: Political Violence and Revolution

Required reading:

- O'Neil, Chapter 7, 206-237.
- 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

Required Reading:

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

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

Ashraf Ghanie et al, "An Agenda for State-Building in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* 30, no. 1 (2006): 101-123.

Astri Suhrke, "Reconstruction as Modernization: The 'Post-Conflict' Project in Afghanistan," *Third World Quarterly* 28, no. 7 (2007): 2191-1308.

## Week 11: July 17

### Unit 21: The EU as a New Political System

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 23, 387-406.

### Unit 22: Globalization and the Nation-State

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 24, 407-420.

**Short reflection paper due Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11:59pm**

### Online Discussion Topic: The State in the Modern World

Susan Strange "The Retreat of the State: The Diffusion of Power in the World Economy," in Kesselman, 81-88.

Saskia Sassan, "The State and Globalization," in Kesselman, 89-94.

## Week 12: July 24

### Unit 23: Supporting Democracy

Required reading:

- Caramani, Chapter 25, 421-436.
- O'Neil, Chapter 6, 174 – 205.

Online Discussion Topic: To Be Announced

**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 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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**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you. **Mental Health at Western:** If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.