University of Western Ontario  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
POL 2245E/650  
Summer 2014  
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

I believe that making myself easily accessible during the course will lead to higher student success. So, in order to enable students to get as much guidance and direction as possible, I have created a variety of ways for students to connect with me. I do not live in London, so face-to-face meetings are not possible. However, I am using various technology platforms to maintain easy communication.

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 Discussion Lists, email, 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 email or Skype for help, questions, etc.

My Skype ID is: tom.deligiannis2 (See Skype.com for information on using Skype.)

Virtual Office Hour Times:   Tuesdays 10am – 12pm (EST)  
                            Thursdays 2pm – 4pm (EST)  
                            Sundays 9 pm – 11pm (EST)  

If I am unable to attend these times for any reason, I will post a message on the OWL 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 literature review, essay proposal, research essay, and a final exam.

Course Texts – Required for purchase from the bookstore. See their site: <http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca/eSolution/course.php>


Other readings will be posted on OWL 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: (10 weekly sessions @ 2%) 20%

Research Essay:
- Literature Review (20%): Due: May 28th
- Essay Proposal (10%): Due: June 9th
- Final Essay (25%): Due: July 14th

Final Exam: July 28th to July 31st (date TBA) 25%

Detailed instructions for each assignment and an assessment rubrics are available on OWL, in the Resources tab, filed in the Assignment folder. The rubrics will explain the expectations and assessment criterion for each assignment and for participation in the online discussion. 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 final exam in London, Toronto, Ottawa, Barrie, Sudbury, Calgary, or Vancouver. Independent proctors are NOT an option. Please inform the instructor as soon as possible if you choose to write the exam in Toronto, Ottawa, Barrie, Sudbury, Calgary, or Vancouver.

IV. Western OWL

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

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, they 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. Here, they will find online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and links to their UWO email and OWL.

Students will turn in assignments electronically using the 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 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/tool/f8597ddc-7aaa-4ff6-a0dc-ee89000d4073?pageName=%2Fsite%2F8fdbf430-43ff-4df1-b004-f180db17dc0b%2Fstudent+information&action=view&panel=Main&realm=%2Fsite%2F8fdbf430-43ff-4df1-b004-f180db17dc0b
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 'At 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

I. Week of May 5th

Unit 1. Introduction
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-45.

Unit 2. Comparative Research Methods
- Caramani, Chapter 3, pp. 48-59.

II. Week of May 12th

Unit 3. Nation-States
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 4, pp. 64-77.

Optional Suggested Reading
- O’Neil, Chapter 3, pp. 47-76.

Unit 4. Political Economy
Required Readings:
- O’Neil, Chapter 4, pp. 91-123.

Optional Suggested Reading

Online Discussion Topic 1: Capitalism and Economic Development in the Modern World
Required Readings:

III. Week of May 19th

Unit 5. **Democracies**  
Required Readings:  
- Caramani, Chapter 5, pp. 80-94.

Unit 6. **Authoritarian Regimes**  
Required Readings:  
- Caramani, Chapter 6, pp. 97-109.

**Online Discussion Topic 2: Democracy as a Universal Value**  
Required Readings:  

Optional Suggested Reading  

IV. Week of May 26th

**Wed., May 28th – Literature Review Due**

Unit 7. **Communism and Post-Communism**  
Required Readings:  
- O’Neil, Chapter 9, pp. 256-289.
Unit 8. Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries  
Required Readings:  

Online Discussion Topic 3: What’s the key to economic development in poor countries?  
Required Readings: (Read any two of the following)  

Optional Suggested Reading  

Structures and Institutions  

V. Week of June 2nd  

Unit 9. Legislatures  
Required Readings:  
- Caramani, Chapter. 7, pp. 114-130.

Unit 10. Governments and Bureaucracies  
Required Readings:  
- Caramani, Chapter 8, pp. 132-148.
Online Discussion Topic 4: Parliamentary versus Presidential systems
Required Readings:

Optional Suggested Reading

VI. Week of June 9th

Unit 11. Constitutions and Judicial Power
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 9, pp. 151-164.

Unit 12. Elections and Referendums
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 10, pp. 166-180.

Online Discussion Topic 5: What’s the fairest electoral system for Canada?
Required Readings:

Optional Suggested Reading

**Actors and Processes**

**VII. Week of June 16th**

**Unit 13. Federal and Local Government Institutions**
Required Readings:
• Caramani, Chapter 11, pp. 182-195.

**Unit 14. Political Parties and Party Systems**
Required Readings:
• Caramani, Chapters 12 & 13, pp. 200-235.

**Online Discussion Topic 6: Institutional Arrangements for divided societies – The Paradox of Federalism?**
Required Readings:

Optional Suggested Reading:
VIII. Week of June 23rd

Unit 15. Regions
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 15, pp. 253-265.

Unit 16. Political Culture
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 17, pp. 285-301.

Online Discussion Topic 7: Individualization and the Decline of Social Capital
Required Readings:

Optional Suggested Reading:

IX. Week of June 30th

Unit 17. Interest Groups
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 14, pp. 237-251.

Unit 18. Social Movements
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 16, pp. 267-283.

Online Discussion Topic 8: Social Movements in Recent Uprisings in North Africa
Required Readings: Read Any 3 of the following short articles.

Optional Suggested Reading:

Video Links:
X. Week of July 7th

Unit 19. Political Violence and Revolution
Required Readings:
- O’Neil, Chapter 7, pp. 192-290.

Unit 20 State Collapse and State Re-Building
Required Readings:

Online Discussion Topic 9: Debating State-Building in Afghanistan and Beyond
Required Readings:

Optional Suggested Reading:

Video Links:

XI. Week of July 14th

Unit 21. The EU as a new political system
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 23, pp. 388-404.

Unit 22. Globalization and the Nation-State
Required Readings:
- Caramani, Chapter 24, pp. 408-419.
Online Discussion Topic 10: The State in the Modern World

Required Readings:


Optional Suggested Reading:


XII. Week of July 21st

Unit 23. Supporting Democracy

Required Readings:

- Caramani, Chapter 25, pp. 422-435.

Optional Suggested Reading:


Online Discussion Topic: Final Exam Review

July 28th to July 31st – Final Exam Period: Exact Time and Location To Be Announced
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

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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.

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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.

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

Accessibility at Western: Please contact 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.