

Political Science 2245E Section 550
Huron University College
Comparative Politics
Course Outline

Type: Full Course (Essay) Sept.2021 to April 2022

Prerequisite: Pol. Sci. 1020E (former 020E)

Class Room: H111

Time: Wednesdays 6.30-9.30pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson **Office:** V125;

Home E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4pm-6pm (regular hours only if classes are on campus)
otherwise, I will answer some e-mails during this time (you may e-mail at other times too)

Required Reading: (available at U.W.O. bookstore – you may purchase a used copy)

1/Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph. Introduction to Comparative Politics. 8th Ed. (Cenage, Boston: 2018.)

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=W2021&courses%5B0%5D=550_HC/POL2245E

Learning Objectives:

Students should have definitional knowledge and understanding of comparative political science, a foundational knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of comparative analysis and approaches, a preliminary knowledge and understanding of the political systems of several important nation-states, a preliminary knowledge and appreciation of political science in the context of other disciplines, and an ability to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the core substantive learning objectives of Political Science 2245E.

Structure: Political Science 2245E is an introductory course in the field of comparative politics. The course will focus on theories of comparative politics and then go on to look at several nation-states in terms of how they compare along several dimensions of political life. It may prove difficult at times to keep to the schedule below but every effort will be made to follow it. It is lecture course.

OWL: This course uses 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 the course.

Term 1

Sept. 8: Course outline and expectations

Sept.15: Intro to comparative politics Ch.1

Sept.22: comparative method Ch.1

Sept. 29: comparative approaches Ch.1

Oct. 6: United Kingdom Ch.2

Oct. 13: UK con't

Oct. 20: UK con't

Wed. Oct.27: **mid-term test 1 hour** 6.30pm-7.30pm in class; essay

Nov.3: Fall Reading Week

Nov. 10: France Ch.3

Nov. 17: essay workshop and help

Wed. Nov. 24: **essay hard copy due** in class (at start); and e-file needs to be sent to OWL – Assignments – Essay by 9.30pm;

Dec. 1: France con't

Dec. 8: France con't:

Term 2

Jan.5: Germany Ch.4

Jan.12: Germany con't

Jan. 19: Germany con't

Jan.26: Russia Ch.13

Feb. 2: Russia con't

Feb. 9: Russia con't

Feb.16: Mexico Ch.10

Feb. 23: Winter Reading Week

March 2: Mexico con't

March 9: Mexico con't

March 16: Nigeria Ch.12

March 23: Nigeria con't

March 30: Nigeria con't

Final Exam: (room and date TBA) - essay format

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 35% (TBA)

Mid-term: 15% (Wednesday, October 27/21; in class 6.30-7.30pm; 1 hour; essay)

Essay: 50% (13-16 pages, double-spaced; due Wednesday, November 24/21)

NOTE: If you legitimately miss the mid-term, there will be no make-up exam but your final exam will then count for 50%.

NOTE: All page requirements in the outline use the Times New Roman 12 standard.

Late Penalty for Essay: 2% penalty per working day; after 2 weeks late (including weekends), the paper gets a zero; computer breakdown is not an excuse; you must keep a backup copy of your paper (e-file); essays will be put into Turnitin

POLISCI. 2245E ESSAY

Length: 13-16 pages double-spaced

Due date: Wednesday, November 24/21 (hand hard copy in it at start of class)

The e-file is to be put into OWL – Assignments – Essay by 9.30pm on the due date (do not wait until the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced, especially if the course is still online; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline); the hard copy and e-file must be both submitted and be the same

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper.

Advice: Please see essay writing document on OWL.

Appeals: You may see me about your grade (but not on the day I return your work), but be aware that I mark carefully! **YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING.** I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your paper (bring documents to prove). Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade. See more details in course rules below.

See essay instructions sheet on OWL for more information.

All essays must be put in Turnitin in OWL Assignments – Essay as e-file attachments (by the same due date as above). You must hand in a paper copy on the due date above if the class is held. The paper copy and the e-file must be identical.

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form.

Essay questions/ thesis statements

1/ Examine any two countries along some political dimension and compare to create a thesis statement. For example, the German Senate (Bundesrat) is more reflective of German provincial concerns than the Canadian Senate is reflective of Canadian provincial concerns. These can be countries covered in the course or any others, including Canada.

COURSE PROCEDURES

1/ **E-Mail:** You may e-mail me at rjonasso@uwo.ca anytime. I will check e-mail Monday to Saturday (not including any holidays) – from 10am to 6pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 6pm to 10am, you may e-mail, but I will take longer to respond). There may be some exceptions to the above, but I will try to stick to this schedule. Please always be courteous.

2/ **Questions:** Ask questions intelligently. Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show ‘interest’, to ‘stick out’ etc.). Please ask specific questions about the topics; questions like ‘can you explain this topic to me?’ are too broad. I cannot tutor each student obviously. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline or on other documents. Of course, ask away! I’m especially glad to answer thoughtful questions.

3/ **Lecture Notes:** These are on OWL in Resources. They are now the most detailed ever. They are crucial to what I want you to know. The textbook is excellent but use it to illuminate the material in the notes (you must read it though!). Material in the textbook not covered in the notes will not be tested (even if I still hope you will read it!). If the notes and text disagree, go with me. I have placed all the notes together by topics (in order). How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly breakdown.

4/ **Grading:** All grade values in the course outline are ‘set in stone’. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curve. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
F below 50% Fail

5/ Appeals: You may ask me to revisit your grades, but be aware that I mark carefully! **YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING.** I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your assignment, paper or exam. Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade (indeed, it is difficult to get to know students in an on-line course in any case). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

NOTE: Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Profs assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the prof that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

6/ Due dates: All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

7/ Extensions: As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note) which is shown/sent to **Academic Counselling**. Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. The Instructor must be notified by **Academic Counselling** within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test. **I must have the clear approval of Academic Counselling for any extension which requires this office.** The permission must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam. If an extension is warranted, the prof and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

8/ Problems with OWL/Internet: If OWL is officially down for all students generally for a period of more than 12 hours on the day something is due, I will permit an extension to all students – generally, the next day. However, short problems cannot justify this, even to the deadline itself. My advice is do not wait to submit work to 11.59pm on due days! *Personal computer/internet/OWL issues are not valid grounds for an excuse.*

9/ If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the prof strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

10/ Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

11/ NOTE: the following updated policy takes effect for all reference requests past August 1, 2021 for past or current students

I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 3 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 85% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (e.g. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks' notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. 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.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on 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 website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The

appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

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>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on 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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has

already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.