

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
Course Number and Section	POLISCI	2245E 550
Instructor Name(s):	Dr. Laszlo Sarkany, and Dr. Zheger Hassan	
Instructor Email(s):	lsarkan@uwo.ca	

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to both, the methodological foundations of comparing political structures, processes and systems, and the critical analysis of states and nations located in global 'south' and the global 'north'. Students will, therefore, strive to understand 'how' comparative political analysis takes place, and to understand 'what' the subjects of analysis within comparative political analysis are. The thematic foci of this course will be on methods, regimes, institutions, the nation, identity, nation-building, ethnicity and nationalism, political economy, capitalism, and civil society. The lectures and discussions will further be animated by discussions and analyses of state structures in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, along with Russia, China, India, Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa, among others.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Learn about the fundamental approaches and concepts comparative politics scholars use to understand both developing and developed states and nations
- Understand the role of the comparative method as a methodological approach to the study of comparing states, nations and their formation
- Research and analyze the development, structure and functioning of selected states among developed and developing states and nations
- Critically evaluate and analyze at least one developing and one developed state
- Engage in active, weekly reflections on the course material

Textbooks and Course Materials:

- 1) "Essentials of Comparative Politics", 8th ed., Patrick H. O'Neil, W. W. Norton Company, ISBN: 978-0-393-93897-5 [Price: \$55 USD]
- 2) "Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics", 3rd, ed. Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl J. Fields, , W. W. Norton Company, ISBN: 978-0-393-93754-1 [Price: \$55.95 USD]
- 3) "Comparative Politics of the Global South: Linking Concepts and Cases", 5th ed. December Green and Laura Luehrmann, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-955055-55-0 pb

[Price: \$39.95 USD]

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class participation - fall term	December 2026	10
Book review	October 7th, 2026	10
Midterm exam	December 2026	20
Class participation	April 2026	10
Research essay outline	February 5th, 2027	5
Research essay presentation	March 2026	5
Research essay	March 26th, 2027	15
Final exam	April 2027	25

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$140.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.