

POL2245E
Introduction to Comparative Politics

September 2022 – April 2023

Class: Wednesdays 9:30-11:20am and Fridays 10:30-11:20am

Dr. Lindsay Scorgie

Office: A212

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-12:20 and Thursdays 11:30-12:20

Email: lscorgi@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

POL2245E will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, one of the main subfields of political science. Key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and debates within comparative politics will be examined. Numerous in-depth country case studies – including the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, India, Iran, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria – will be used to illustrate the material. Students will begin the course with an overview of the state and nation to provide a foundation from which to begin comparing different political systems and policies throughout the Global North and Global South. In considering various established democratic countries, emerging democracies, ‘backsliding’ democracies, quasi-communist states, postcommunist societies, and authoritarian regimes, students will become familiar with the comparative method. Sub-themes such as political economy, political violence, and globalization (amongst others) will be further used as tools through which to compare such polities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will not only have a strong grasp of the concepts and theories of comparative politics, but will also be able to critically analyze the differences and similarities between political regimes and policies around the world.

CLASS METHODOLOGY

POL2245 is a lecture and tutorial course. Wednesdays will involve a lecture delivered by the professor, while Fridays will focus on student-led discussions regarding that week’s readings. There will be a strong emphasis on class participation, and it is accordingly essential that students arrive to class prepared. Adequate preparation includes having completed weekly readings in advance, and being willing to discuss the reading and lecture material with fellow classmates. As the final exam will include reading, lecture, and discussion material, it is strongly advised that students take notes re. all three course components.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics, Second Edition, by Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, & Don Share, 2020.

The textbook is available from the UWO bookstore. All readings listed under the ‘Lecture & Tutorial Schedule’ are required readings, to be done in advance of class. Those readings not found in the textbook are provided under the ‘Required Readings’ tab found within the ‘Resources’ folder on the course website. At times additional readings about current topical events will be added to the required reading list. These will be particularly relevant for tutorial discussions. At least one week advanced notice will be given with regards to these readings, and students will be notified via the course website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment:

- Participation

Value:

Value 15%

Date Due:

Ongoing evaluation

- Seminar discussion	Value 10%	TBD
- First term quiz	Value 10%	Nov. 9
- Critical response papers 5 response papers in total (4% each)	Value 20%	Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Jan. 13
- Research essay	Value 20%	March 29
- Final exam	Value 25%	During spring exam period

Participation:

Class participation will be graded on the basis of active participation in class. Please note that simply attending class does not achieve marks; students must participate in order to achieve credit. However – the professor will take into account the *quality* of one’s contributions – not simply the quantity – when assessing participation in class.

Seminar discussion:

Students will be required to lead one tutorial discussion. This should be approximately 10 minutes, followed by two discussion questions for the class. In the presentation, students should critically discuss (ONLY) one major point addressed in the week’s readings. The presentation should highlight important questions identified by the author(s), with the students providing their own observations and critical analysis on such issues. Sign-up for presentation dates will take place in early September. Please note that late penalties do not apply to these assignments and no extensions will be granted.

First term quiz:

This will take place in class on November 9, and students will have the full two hours to complete (though it is expected to only take approx. one hour). The format will be multiple choice and short answer. More details to follow closer to the date.

Critical response papers:

Students will be required to write five critical response papers examining the assigned reading(s) for the relevant week. The papers should be roughly 500-600 words in length. The purpose of the paper is not to summarize the readings. Rather, students should critically engage with two or three significant points addressed throughout the readings. No extra research/reading is required. Please note that late penalties do not apply to these assignments; they are due at the beginning of class, in person.

Research essay:

Students will be required to write a 2,500 word research essay. A list of possible research questions will be distributed at the end of the first term. The essay is to be based on a minimum of twelve academic sources (peer-reviewed journals, books, or book chapters), and is due March 29, 2023.

Formatting requirements for the essay are the following:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- double-spaced (except for footnotes and bibliography)
- 2.5cm margins
- pages numbered
- title page with student name, date, course title, and paper title
- footnotes and bibliography must be included
- Chicago Manual of Style citation format should be carefully and consistently followed throughout

Papers are due at the beginning of class, in person, on the specified due date. The late penalty for papers is 2 percent per working day (including if submitted late on the actual due date), and essays will not be accepted after 10 days past the submission deadline. In addition to submitting a hard copy of their papers, students will be required to submit an online copy to the course website, where it will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.com. All forms of plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously.

Please note: other than for serious cases of emergency, extensions will not be granted. Thus, having multiple work assignments due around the same time, employment responsibilities, or being out of town, do not constitute valid reasons for extensions. Extensions are very rarely granted.

Final exam:

The final exam will take place during the spring examination period, and the specific date will be set by the Office of the Registrar. It will cover the entire course: readings, lectures, and tutorials. It will be a combination of short answer questions and short essays.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

I am happy to meet with students during my office hours, both to discuss issues relating to the course, as well as your academic career more generally. If getting in-touch by email, please note that I will respond within two business days.

Students should check their UWO email account and OWL course site on a regular basis.

LECTURE & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Sept. 9	Introduction to POL2245E - No readings
Sept. 14 & 16	What is comparative politics? - O'Neil et al, Chapter 1
Sept. 21 & 23	States - O'Neil et al, Chapter 2 <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Sept. 28 & 30	Nations and Society - O'Neil et al, Chapter 3
Oct. 5 & 7	Political Economy - O'Neil et al, Chapter 4 <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Oct. 12 & 14	Political Violence - O'Neil et al, Chapter 5
Oct. 19 & 21	Continued Political Violence: Revolution & Terrorism In-Depth - Readings TBD <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Oct. 26 & 28	Comparative Politics Research Day - Readings TBD; further details provided closer to the date
Nov. 2 & 4	Reading Week

	- No readings
Nov. 9 & 11	First Term Quiz - No readings <i>Quiz takes place on the 9th; no class on the 11th</i>
Nov. 16 & 18	Continued Political Violence: Intrastate Conflict In-Depth - Readings TBD <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Nov. 23 & 25	Democratic Regimes - O'Neil et al, Chapter 6
Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	Continued Democratic Regimes: United Kingdom & United States In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 7 on United Kingdom & United States <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Dec. 7	Developed Democracies - O'Neil et al, Chapter 7 pgs. 188-217
Jan. 11 & 13	Continued Developed Democracies: Germany & Japan In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 7 on Germany & Japan <i>Critical response paper due</i>
Jan. 18 & 20	Nondemocratic Regimes - O'Neil et al, Chapter 8
Jan. 25 & 27	Continued Nondemocratic Regimes: Authoritarianism In-Depth - Readings TBD
Feb. 1 & 3	Communism and Postcommunism - O'Neil et al, Chapter 9, pgs. 390-425
Feb. 8 & 10	Continued Communism and Postcommunism: Russia & China In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 9 on Russia & China
Feb. 15 & 17	Developing Countries - O'Neil et al, Chapter 10, pgs. 482-513
Feb. 22 & 24	Reading Week
March 1 & 3	Continued Developing Countries: India & Iran In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 10 on India & Iran
March 8 & 10	Continued Developing Countries: Mexico & Brazil In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 10 on Mexico & Brazil
March 15 & 17	Continued Developing Countries: South Africa & Nigeria In-Depth - O'Neil et al, Sections of Chapter 10 on South Africa & Nigeria
March 22 & 24	Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics - O'Neil et al, Chapter 11

March 29 & 31 Wrap-up & Exam Review
- No readings
Research essay due

April 5 Catch-Up Class

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

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>.

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.

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: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

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: [Academic](#)

[Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). 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, tablets, 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

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**

3

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, 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) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar/) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

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

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. 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. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) 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. 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: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). 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://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
 Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
 Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports 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. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. 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

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

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)