



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: POLS

Course and Section #: 2200 X01

Course Title: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Credits: 3

Course Description

Studies comparative politics and looks at attitudes and causes of political problems. Examines methods and means employed by selected countries to solve political problems, and studies successes and failures of different approaches. Examines the means which different nations employ to deal with political problems. Explores the politics, institutions, and governments of seven selected nations.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Hong Pang

Student Learning Outcomes

1. describe the methods and processes used in the study of comparative politics
 2. define the major concepts used in comparative politics
 3. identify different political attitudes and political ideologies
 4. distinguish different political regimes and economic systems
 5. examine the reasons for different methods chosen by selected countries to solve their political and economic problems
 6. evaluate the successes and failures of different methods employed by selected countries to solve their political and economic problems.
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Course Materials and Texts

1. O'Neil, Patrick H. 2020. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

- O’Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2020. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Evaluation Items	Deadline	Points	%
Assessment Test	Jan. 12, 11:59pm	50 points	5%
Assignments	As Scheduled on Canvas	3*20 points each=60 points	6%
Quizzes	As Scheduled on Canvas	5*10 points each=50 points	13%
1 st Midterm Exam	Feb. 25, 11:59pm	4*20 points each=80 points	14%
2 nd Midterm Exam	Apr. 1, 11:59pm	140 points	14%
Final Exam	Apr. 29, 11:59pm	180 points	18%
Presentation	As Scheduled on Canvas	100 points	10%
Country Comparison Report	Apr. 30, 11:59pm	100 points	10%
Class Attendance			5%
Class Participation			5%

A	[93, 100)
A-	[90, 93)
B+	[87, 90)
B	[83, 87)
B-	[80, 83)
C+	[77, 80)
C	[73, 77)
C-	[70, 73)
D+	[67, 70)
D	[63, 67)
D-	[60, 63)
E	<60
I	With any major part of assignments unfinished

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

- O’Neil, Patrick H. 2020. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. Chapter 1-9.
- O’Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2020. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. Chapter 2, 6, 7, 8.
- Brooks, David. 2009. “What Life Asks of Us,” *New York Times* 158(54568).
- Skarbek David. 2011. “Governance and Prison Gangs.” *The American Political Science Review*, 105(4): 702–716.
- Schmitter, Philippe and Terry Karl. 1991. “What Democracy is . . . and is Not.” *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88.
- The Economists. 2014. “How North Korea’s Elections Work?”

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: Introduction of the class

Week 2: Introduction of Comparative Politics (What to Compare? Why Compare? How to Compare?)

Week 3-4: States (Institutions; Key attribute of states; Rise of modern states; Ways to compare states)

Week 5: Nations and Society (Ethnicity; Nationality; Reasons for ethnic and national conflicts; Political attitudes; Political ideologies)

Week 6-7: Political Economy (Basic concepts of political economy; Economic policies; Political economic systems; Measure and compare economic development)

Week 8: Political Violence (Definitions of political violence; Revolutions; Terrorism; State responses to political violence)

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 9-12: Democratic Regime (Definition of democracy; Reasons for democratization; Democratic institutions; Democratic systems; Electoral systems)

Week 13: Developed Democracies (Similarities and differences of developed democracies; Political, social, and economic challenges for developed democracies)

Week 14-15: Nondemocratic Regime (Definitions; Reasons for persistence of nondemocracy; Means of control in nondemocracies; Types of nondemocracies)

Week 16: Communism and Post-Communism (Communism as a theory; Communism as a practice; Communism's collapse and post-communism)

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

The use of any sort of artificial intelligence service (e.g. ChatGPT) is strictly prohibited in this course. It is the height of dishonesty and laziness, and will not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form. If you are considering using this type of tool to complete assignments in this course, **DON'T**. It is not going to work for you the way you think it will, and it will be severely punished. Students caught submitting work generated by an artificial intelligence service will receive an automatic failing grade not just for the assignment, but for the entire course.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed

by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.