UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
CPO 3103-0001: COMPARATIVE POLITICS
SPRING 2012

Professor: Myunghee Kim
Class: MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm
Credit hours: 3
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Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 2:10 pm
MW 3:40 – 4:30 pm
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CPO 3103 introduces comparative politics as a subfield of political science. This course is designed to develop the understandings and skills to major or minor in political science by examining the world's different political systems. Two main objectives are: 1) understandings of fundamental concepts in major four aspects of political science – structural, historical-cultural, behavioral, and global aspects; 2) comparisons of the major aspects of liberal democratic and non-democratic ideologies, political economic features of democratic and authoritarian regimes, key institutions, political parties, interest groups, political issues, and cleavages.

REQUIREMENTS

Readings

O'Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 3rd Edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2010.

All other reserved readings, articles, and chapters of various books are listed from page 4 to 5 in this syllabus.

Examinations

Four examinations are required for this course. The midterm examination is **20** percent each and the final examination is **25** percent of your total grade. The midterm examination will be held on February 15, March 21, and April 9 during the class. The final examination will follow the University schedule (http://www.registrar.sdes.ucf.edu/calendar/exam/). The details on examinations will be discussed during the class. Without instructor's prior permission to a specific student, there will be no make-up examinations.

Assignment/Quiz

Homework assignments for information/data gathering or quizzes will be given during classes. Five percent of the total grade is assigned for the miscellaneous assignments. Late submission will be subjected to be one grade lower for each class day.

Attendance

Students in this course are required to be present in the class. In each class, participants have to follow the readings to contribute group discussion and debates as well as to submit the assignments. Attendance consists of **10** percent of your total grade. The 10 percent is divided by the number of total classes during the semester, thereby equally weighing each class. If a student has to be absent a class, it is the person's responsibility to provide an appropriate (official) document. Without official documents, the absence will be deducted from your grade.

FINAL GRADE

In sum, your grade will be determined by:

midterm exams 60% (each 20%),
final exam 25%,
attendance 10%,
quiz/assignment 5%

100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; lower than 60 F

POLICIES

- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Any disruptive and disrespectful behavior to me and to other participants will result in an F. Be professional, courteous and sensitive to the rights of others.
- Raise your hand and ask to be recognized. Do not interrupt.
- Late submissions are discouraged. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade, and the deduction is cumulated by each class day. No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- Plagiarism, the purposeful or *accidental* use of source material by other writers without giving appropriate credit, is a crime! If any indication of plagiarism is shown in a participant's assignment, the participant will receive an F for the assignment.
- No extra credit assignments will be permitted.
- Do not miss quizzes and exams. Without instructor's prior permission to a specific student and without official documents, there will be no make-up examinations.
- You will not be permitted to take the exam if you arrive more than fifteen minutes after the beginning of an exam or after the first student has finished.
- Do not miss documentaries. I do not lend documentaries to a student.
- Homework assignment or paper as a form of e-mail attachment is not accepted.
- Homework, if it is given, should be type-written and stapled.
- Do not be late for class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- If you need to leave earlier, inform me at the beginning of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- Tape recording and videotaping are NOT allowed without instructor's permission in advance.
- Turn off your cell phone, blackberries, and other electronic devices (including headsets and i-pod). You are NOT allowed to answer your phone calls or to send text messages during the class meeting time.
- Laptop computer is not allowed.
- I often communicate via e-mail, e.g., changes of schedule, announcement, etc. Thus, pay attention to the e-mail messages from me. It is your responsibility to manage your e-mail account. I do not have an obligation to respond to any "non-knight" e-mails.
- An individual who is not enrolled in this course is not allowed to be in the classroom during the class time.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus in the course of the semester/session.

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations (Please notify me no later than the end of the first week of class concerning any academic accommodations you will need). No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Day 1 (January 9). Introduction
Introduction to the course. Review Syllabus.

Days 2 and 3 (January 11, 13). Basics of Politics and Political Science
Reading:
- O'Neil, Ch. 1 "Introduction" (pp. 1-3)

Days 4, 5 and 6 (January 18, 20, 23). Analyzing Politics, Comparative Methods
Readings:
- O'Neil, Ch. 1 "Introduction" (pp. 3-7)

Choose one from the following
- Hoover, Kenneth, and Todd Donovan. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking*. 8th Edition. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004. (Ch. 2 "The Elements of Science," pp. 15-44).
- King, Gary, Robert R. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994. Ch. 1 "The *Science* in Social Science" (pp. 3-33).

Days 7 and 8 (January 25, 27). Development of Comparative Politics
Readings:
- O'Neil, Ch. 1 "Introduction" (pp. 7-20)

Days 9 and 10 (January 30, February 1). Development of State
Reading:
- O'Neil, Ch. 2 "States" (pp. 21-34)

Days 11, 12 and 13 (February 3, 6, 8). State Power
Reading:
- O'Neil, Ch. 2 "States" (pp. 35-46)

Days 14 and 15 (February 10, 13). Nations, Society, Ideology
Reading:
- O'Neil, Ch. 3 "Nations and Society" (pp. 44-76)

Day 16 (February 15). Examination I

Days 17, 18 and 19 (February 17, 20, 22). Political Economy
Reading:
- O'Neil, Ch. 4, "Political Economy" (pp. 77-108)

Days 20, 21 and 22 (February 24, 27, 29). Democratic Governance, Elections
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 5 "Democratic Regimes" (pp. 109-118, 129-140)

Days 23, 24 and 25 (March 2, 12, 14). Political Parties and Constitutional Design
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 5 "Democratic Regimes" (pp. 118-128)

Days 26 and 27 (March 16, 19). Nondemocracies
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 6 "Nondemocratic Regimes" (pp. 141-166)

Day 28 (March 21). Examination II

Days 29, 30 and 31 (March 23, 26, 28). Communism
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 8 "Communism and Postcommunism" (pp. 197-214)

Days 32 and 33 (March 30, April 2). Postcommunism
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 8 "Communism and Postcommunism" (pp. 214-229)

Days 34 and 35 (April 4, 6). Imperialism, Post Imperialism, Democratization
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 9 "Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries" (pp. 230-260)

Day 36 (April 9). Examination III

Days 37, 38 and 39 (April 11, 13, 16). Globalization
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 11 "Globalization" (pp. 291-317)

Days 40, 41 and 42 (April 18, 20, 23). Political Violence
Reading:

- O'Neil, Ch. 11 "Political Violence" (pp. 261-290)

Day 43 (April 25, 10:00am-12:50pm). Final Examination
Good luck!