Comparative Politics
Summer 2014

Course Information

Course Name	Comparative Politics
Course ID & Section	CPO 3103 0W 59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Summer 2014
Location	World Wide Web

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	Online Canvas Conference
Office Hours	Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM EST
E-mail	Anca.Turcu@ucf.edu You may also e-mail me by using the Canvas e-mail/ message system. I will use that system to send out updates, important messages or announcements. If you e-mail me, I will do my best to get back to you quickly, but I may take up to 48 hours to respond. Please note that I do only respond to e-mail during regular business hours. Also please note that I cannot share grades via UCF or Knights e-mail.
Academic and Content Related Questions	If you have questions about the academic material or class content, do not hesitate to contact me! Questions, feedback or comments are all welcome. For technical questions, please see below.
Other Contact Information	If you have questions regarding technical support you have to seek help through the technical support link on the class Home Page.

Course Description

This class will explore the government and politics of a number of countries around the Globe while providing a comparative insight into the institutions, electoral systems and processes that are specific to their governments. We will also examine historical contexts, political culture, social realities and policy outcomes specific to each country.

Course Objectives

On completing this course students will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze differences between the institutions and governmental systems of different countries.
2. Discuss the implications of different electoral systems for institutional change.
3. Comprehend traits of political culture and current developments in different countries.
4. Analyze the impact of institutions and government policies upon the democratization process in each country.

Course Materials

Required Text

- "Introducing Comparative Politics" by Carol Ann Drogus and Stephen Orvis, Sage-CQPress, 3rd edition, 2014. Please note that this text is accompanied by web material that we may use in this class and that will be helpful in assisting you prepare for tests and assignments. I strongly encourage you to access the textbook companion website and use the student resources for every chapter. Just copy and paste this link in your browser: http://www.sagepub.com/sageEdge/orvis3e/#.U16d_fldWSq

Note: Political Science texts change significantly from one edition to the next, as elections and current events reshape institutions and societies. Thus, it is imperative that you purchase the edition listed above.

Other Materials: Documentaries and Clips

For several modules in this class, you will be asked to watch documentaries, clips and other multimedia materials. These clips will be available for free online via YouTube, PBS.org, TEDTalks and other sources. I will provide details about these video materials in each individual module and provide you with links or a clear indication where you can find the material. Not viewing these clips is not an option, since they are a central part of the class and quizzes and the final assignment will draw on these materials quite extensively.

Academic Calendar

Week	Date	Module	Topic(s)	Readings
Week 1	05/12-19	Module 0 AND Module 1	Introduction and class overview AND The Modern State (Part I)	Syllabus and Introductory Materials D & O Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 p.38-46
Week 2	05/19-26	Module 2	The Modern State (Part II) States and Citizens	D & O Ch.2 p. 46- 93 and Ch. 3
Week 3	05/26-06/02	Module 3	The State and Identity; The State and the Market;	D & O Ch. 4, 5
Week 4	06/02-09	Module 4	Political Institutions: Governing, Participation and Representation	D & O Ch. 6, 7
Week 5	06/09-16	Module 5	Authoritarian Institutions	D & O Ch. 8
Week 6	06/16-23	Module 6	Regime Change	D & O Ch. 9
Week 7	06/23-30	Module 7	Globalization, Deindustrialization & Development	D & O Ch. 10
Week 8	06/30-07/07	Module 8	Public Policy when Markets Fail: Welfare, Health and the Environment	D & O Ch. 11
Week 9	07/07-14	Module 9	Policies and Politics of Inclusion and Clashing Values	D & O Ch. 12

Due Dates

Weekly Assignments

Due every week by Monday evening, at 11.59 PM, EST

Final Paper:

Final Paper requirements will be posted on the class website on 06/30, and will be due on Friday, 7/11 at 11:59 PM. See below for submission details.

Course Requirements

Weekly Assignments

Weekly quizzes or written assignments will test your knowledge of material from weekly modules, readings and clips or documentaries. You will have to answer short essay questions, or multiple choice and true/ false questions. If you complete all nine weekly assignments, your two lowest weekly scores will be dropped at the end of the semester, leaving you with seven scores, worth 10% of your grade each. That is, seven weekly assingments will make up 70% of your final grade. If you miss a weekly assignment, or fail to submit it on time, you will automatically be assigned a grade of 0 for that assignment. Assignments will be available, with the rest of the content for each module, on the Monday of each week and will close by Monday evening of the following week, at 11:59 PM EST. Your work may be submitted for grading only once. Please avoid last minute submissions in order to avoid technical difficulties.

Final Paper

You will have to complete a final paper that will cover numerous topics discussed in the various modules. The final paper assignment will be posted on the class website on 06/30 and you will have until 07/11 at 11:59 PM to complete and submit your work. The final paper must be submitted to: www.turnitin.com. Please create an account with this site using the class ID: 7960706 and the password: cposummer14. This site is designed to help me identify plagiarism, so make sure to take all necessary measures needed to avoid plagiarism. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial: http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116 Students who plagiarize will receive and automatic FZ grade for the entire class. Please allow for plenty of time to complete the assignment, so that you avoid last minute submissions and the technical difficulties that sometimes accompany them. Assignments submitted late will be penalized by 10 points/24 hours, up to (but no later than) 72 hours post due date.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

No extensions will be granted if you fail to submit your work due to technical difficulties. Should you encounter technical problems, please contact Canvas web support. I cannot help you with technical issues. Also, please keep in mind that you are solely responsible if you fail to submit a quiz or an assignment due to technical difficulties, save for a major natural disaster (i.e. a hurricane). In the event of a hurricane, which causes power outages and evacuations, do not panic about your online assignments. Your safety and that of your family is your first priority. When power is restored, contact me. I will work with individual students to determine the best course of action. Remember, your professor could be experiencing the same or similar problems in the event of a hurricane! Other circumstances, which may be considered "unavoidable", include medical emergencies. Pertinent documentation, deemed acceptable by the professor, will be required for any delayed assignment. If you miss an assignment due to illness, e-mail me (scan) an official notification form a doctor or hospital at the latest a week after due date, in order to be allowed to make up missed work.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Assignments (7)	70
Final Paper	30
Total	100

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Grading Formula

(final paper *.30) + [(sum of seven highest scoring weekly assignments/7) *.70]= final grade

Attendance Policy

This course is web-based, fully online and considered a "W" course. Students are expected to fully participate in all online activities and to complete all assignments by the due dates.

Participation and a timely completion of work and assignments are both considered similar to attendance in a face-to-face class. Assignments that are not turned into Canvas by the due date, will receive 0 points.

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take the UCF library tutorial.

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic FZ grade for the class.

Disability Statement

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. No accommodations will be provided until the student has contacted Student Disabilities Services, and the professor, in order 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.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Religious Holidays

The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department.

E-mail Protocols

E-mail will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you: Check your e-mail at least once every 48 hours during regular business hours (more often is better).

Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Please not that your professor only checks and answers to e-mails during regular business hours.

Include “Subject” headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.

Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important, but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.

Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.

Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).

Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Sign your e-mail messages.

Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would mind seeing on the evening news.

Disclaimer

Please note that the academic calendar, policies, procedures and assignments listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.