University of Central Florida

Comparative Politics

	Course #	**CPO 3103 Section 0050**
	Professor	Dr. Anca Turcu
	Term	Fall 2015
	Class Meets	UCF Valencia West Campus Building 11, Room: 317 Wednesday 6:00-8:50 PM

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone	407 823 2608
Office Location	UCF Valencia West Building 11, Room 227
Email Address	Anca.Turcu@ucf.edu
Office Hours	Wednesday 4:00- 6:00PM or by appointment
Other Information	I encourage students to contact me if they have questions, problems, or concerns. You can contact me by official university e-mail. You can also call my office or contact me in person during office hours. If office hours are in conflict with your schedule, I am available for appointments during the week.

General Course Information

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.
Learning 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
Required Texts & Materials	***Required Text*** It is imperative that students use the edition indicated below. All assigned articles and chapters have to be read **prior** to coming to class. Essentials of Comparative Politics by Patrick O'Neil ISBN-13: 978-0393938975 ISBN-10: 0393938972 Edition: Fifth Edition, 2015 AND Cases in Comparative Politics by Patrick O'Neil ISBN-13: 978-0393937541 ISBN-10: 0393937542 Edition: Fifth Edition
Canvas	Canvas will be used to send e-mails, post the syllabus, post announcements, host a discussion forum and post grades.

Academic Calendar

Date	**Topics**	**Assignments**
Intro Week (08/26)	Introduction: The Comparative Study of Politics	Syllabus O'Neil "Essentials...": Ch.1 O'Neil "Cases...": Ch.1
Week 1 (09/02)	The State and the Nation	O'Neil "Essentials...": Ch.2 & 3
Week 2 (09/09)	Political Economy and Ideology	O'Neil "Essentials...": Ch.4 & 9
Week 3 (09/16)	Democracy: Institutions and Electoral Systems	O'Neil "Essentials..." Ch. 5
Week 4 (09/23)	**Exam 1**	
Week 5 (09/30)	Democratic and Non-democratic Regimes	O'Neil "Essentials...": Ch.6 & 8
Week 6 (10/07)	The United Kingdom	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch.2
Week 7 (10/14)	France	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch.4
Week 8 (10/21)	Germany	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch.5
Week 9 (10/28)	**Exam 2**	
Week 10	Japan	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch.6

(11/04)		
Week 11 (11/11)	**No Class**	**Veterans' Day**
Week 12 (11/18)	Russia	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch. 7
Week 13 (11/25)	China	O'Neil "Cases...": Ch. 8
Week 14 (12/02)	**Exam 3**	
(12/09)	**Final Exam**	**Important: the final exam starts at 7:00 PM**

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	Please note that grades will not be shared through phone, e-mail or mail. You will have to log on to Canvas in order to find out your grades. Three exams will make up 100% of your final grade. ***Exams*** There will be four exams in this class. Three exams are compulsory. If you do not take one of the three exams during the semester, the final exam will be compulsory. If you take the three exams during the semester and you are satisfied with your grade, you can choose not to take the final. If you take three exams and also decide to take the final, your lowest scoring exam will be replaced with the grade you receive for the final exam. There will be no exceptions: even if your grade in the final is lower than the grade you were seeking to replace, the grade in the final will be the one I will take into account in calculating your final grade. Please note that the final exam is comprehensive. Also note that once you sit for an exam you will receive a grade for that exam. Exam #1 will constitute 30% of your final grade, while exams #2 and #3 will each constitute 35% of your final grade. The value of the final exam will be assigned in accordance to the exam you missed during the semester. Bring picture identification to each exam. ***Exam Schedule*** September 23rd Exam 1 October 28th Exam 2 December 2nd Exam 3 TBA Final Exam ***Grading Formula*** `(exam1 *.3)+ (exam2*.35) +(exam3*.35)= final grade` ***Grading Scale*** 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 (Below 60%).

Make-up Exams	Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test or turn in a project late at will. There are two exceptions. First, for personal emergencies (a death in the family, medical problems), students should obtain a note from their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities that conflict exam dates, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. I do not accept notification after the test.
Extra Credit	For now, there are no extra credit opportunities offered in this class. The instructor may modify this policy during the semester and will announce the change in a timely manner.
Federal Financial Aid Requirement	UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. All faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their aid. In order to document that you began this course, you will have to submit the student introduction, opened under "discussions". Make sure you do so by no later than January 16th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid, or will mean that you will not receive your aid. A bonus for completing the student introduction post is the fact that you will receive 2 points extra credit added to your grade for the first quiz of the semester.
Media Resources	In order to do well in this and any Political Science class, students should have a good awareness and a good understanding of current events. I encourage students to keep informed through accessing visual, print and web media. Some credible and reliable news outlets include, among others: BBC World, the New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, The National Public Radio, Financial Times, The Economist, The Atlantic Monthly, Time Magazine and Newsweek.
Class Attendance	Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class.
Classroom Citizenship	Besides interactive participation, I expect discipline in the class room. Be courteous to others, be on time and do not leave early, unless there is a pertinent reason and you have notified me. Do not eat, text or talk to your colleagues during lecture. Part of being a college student is having manners and respecting those around you. **Turn off** your cell phones and **store them away** in your book bag, for the duration of the class. Set your laptop's volume on mute. <u>Laptop users: make sure you are using your laptop exclusively for taking notes while in class. Laptop usage is a privilege and I reserve the right to revoke it at any time during the semester if you do not follow these rules.</u>
Academic Integrity	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, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. 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 cheat, commit plagiarism or engage in any other type of dishonest academic behavior will fail the class, (will receive an F grade) and will also be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Please review the UCF Golden Rule: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/
Class Withdrawal	The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of " F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled. Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://www.catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/UCFUGRDCatalog1011.pdf
Student Grievance Procedures	Procedures regarding student grievances can be found here: http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.016StuAcademicAppeals_newJul09_001.pdf
Incomplete Grades	Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://www.catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/UCFUGRDCatalog1011.pdf
Disability Resources	If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will also need to contact the Student Disability Services: http://www.sds.sdes.ucf.edu/
Religious Holy Days	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. For more details, consult: http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.020ReligiousObservances NEW_Oct09_000.pdf

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. I will provide notification of such changes in a timely manner.