Comparative Politics Spring 2018

Course Name	Comparative Politics
Course ID & Section	CPO 3103 Section 002; Credit Hours: 3
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location and Meeting Times	Classroom Building 1, Room 308; Tuesday-Thursday: 10:30-11:45 AM

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall, Orlando Main Campus. Also available in Canvas Chat during office hours, upon request.
Office Hours	Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 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.

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, 4th edition, 2017. 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: https://edge.sagepub.com/orvis4e

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.

Academic Calendar

Date	Topic(s)	Readings
01/10	Introduction and Class Overview	Syllabus and Introductory Materials
01/12	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 1
01/16	The Modern State	Drogus and Orvis Ch.2 Pages 36-68
01/18	The Modern State	Drogus and Orvis Ch.2 Pages 68-97
01/24	States, Citizens and Regimes	Drogus and Orvis Ch.3 Pages 98-123
01/26	States, Citizens and Regimes	Drogus and Orvis Ch.3 Pages 123-145
01/30	States and Identity	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 4 Pages 146-180
02/02	States and Identity	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 4 Pages 180-212
02/6	**Exam 1**	
02/8	Governing Institutions in Democracies	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 5 Pages 214-249
02/13	Governing Institutions in Democracies	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 5 Pages 249-281
02/15	Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 6 Pages 282-310
02/20	Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 6 Pages 310-355
02/22	Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolution	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 7 Pages 356-386
02/27	Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolution	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 7 Pages 386-407
03/1	Authoritarian Institutions	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 8 Pages 408-439
03/6	Authoritarian Institutions	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 8 Pages 439-466

03/8	Regime Change	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 9 Pages 468-497
03/13 &15	Spring Break	No Class
03/20	**Exam 2**	
03/22	Regime Change	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 9 Pages 497-520
03/27	Political Economy of Wealth	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 10 Pages 522-552
03/29	Political Economy of Wealth	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 10 Pages 552-581
04/03	Political Economy of Development	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 11 Pages 582-610
04/05	Political Economy of Development	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 11 Pages 610-633
04/10	Public Policies when Markets Fail	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 12 Pages 634-669
04/12	Public Policies when Markets Fail	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 12 Pages 670-704
04/17	**Exam 3**	
04/19	Review for Final Exam	
05/01	**Final Exam 10:00 AM-12:50 PM**	

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	**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. Exams will cover material from the readings and from the lectures. 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. **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 at will. There are two exceptions. First, for personal emergencies (a death in the family, medical problems), students should obtain a note from the dean of students or their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. I do not accept notification after the fact (“I did not take the test last week because I had a match/concert”).

Grade Release	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. Students who have concerns about grades should put them in writing and contact the professor 24 hours after they find out their grade. Students are not allowed to take exams home. The university needs to keep exams and papers for official records, thus students have to return them to the instructor. If a student fails to return an exam or paper, s/he will not be allowed to sit for the next exam or will be given a grade of zero for that exam.
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.
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, Newsweek, Haaretz, Jerusalem Post. I will provide links to current events through the Canvas Web Link folder. I will prompt you each time I add material to that folder and will let you know if I expect to test you on that material.
Canvas	Canvas will be used to send e-mails, post announcements, post assigned articles, host a discussion forum, and post grades. Students should be familiar with Canvas and check class updates and Canvas e-mail regularly.
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.
Federal Financial Aid Requirement	Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, 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. As of Fall 2014, 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 be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes, **no later than January 12th**. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the

	disbursement of your financial aid, or will mean that students will not receive their aid.
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. An important 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. **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.
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 I will make sure that students suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade
Class Withdrawal	Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/
Student Grievance Procedures	Procedures regarding student grievances can be found here: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/student%20grievance%20procedure.pdf
Incomplete Grades	Procedures regarding class withdrawal can be found here: http://catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/

Student Accessibility 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 Accessibility Services: http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/
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. For more details, consult: http://catalog.ucf.edu/policies/academic-regulations#Religious_Observances

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