CPO 6091: Seminar in Comparative Politics
Department of Political Science

College of Sciences

3 Credit Hours
Course Syllabus
Spring 2021

Instructor:	Jonathan Powell, PhD	Class Location:	NSC O113
Office:	302H HPH	Office Hours:	M2-4, W9-11, by appointment
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Course Description

Introduction to the theory and methodology of comparative politics, institutions, and contextual factors of selected political systems such as Canada, European, and Third World nations.

Prerequisites: Admission to a graduate degree-seeking program or C.I.

Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

Students will ultimately accomplish three broad objectives in this class. First, the will gain a stronger understanding of comparative politics as a general subject matter. Second, students will develop skills that will allow them to critically reflect on both real-world events and assess comparative scholarship. Other than simply learning the contents of a book or article, students should become more capable of critically evaluating theoretical arguments, research methodology, data validity and reliability, and other aspects of the research process. In doing so, students will gain reinforcement of the study of politics as a *science*. Finally, students will move from being consumers of knowledge to producers of it. Students will directly apply their knowledge of politics and the tools acquired in this and other classes to execute an original research paper. Ideally, the resulting paper should be sufficient to present at a professional conference and be a major step toward publishing.

Workload

It is very important that you take the demands of the class seriously from the outset. For perspective, the university policy on credit hours is as follows:

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that ***reasonably approximates not less than:***

> *One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and* ***a minimum of two hours*** *of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or*
>
> *At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (a) of this definition for academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.*

A typical three-credit hour class in a 15-week semester thus requires "a minimum" of three hours per week direct faculty instruction and six to nine hours outside of a classroom environment (***or its "equivalent…"***). It is very important for you to commit to dedicating the requisite amount of time to succeed in the class.

Required Texts and Materials

The instructor will make an effort to upload all readings to webcourses. However, aside from selected pages from books to which students might not have access, it is the responsibility of the student to access reading materials.

Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Weekly preparation, participation, and quizzes	15%
Design Critiques (3, 1 will be dropped)	30%
Case Assessments (3, 1 will be dropped)	30%
Final Project	25%
Total	100%

Preparation, participation, and quizzes

Students are expected to complete, review, and reflect on all readings prior to attending class. This should include having specific questions and comments prepared prior to arriving in class. Given the realities of an in-person class during Covid-19, I will be extremely flexible with attendance. While there will not be an explicit attendance policy, you will be required to demonstrate preparation through various means. These will be discussed in the first week of class.

Design Critiques

Students will complete three essays that critically reflect on research design issues in the assigned readings. These will be due at different points in the semester. They will task students will critiquing either a specific reading or set of readings, following a prompt that will be provided and discussed during the second week of class. These are required to be submitted prior to the start of class for which the readings are assigned.

Case Assessments

Students will complete three essays in which they will apply a reading or a set of readings to a specific case or set of cases. In other words, this assignment requires the student to master the assigned readings and to evaluate the applicability of the theory, data, and findings to an "out of sample" case. The prompt for these assignments will be discussed in class during the third week.

Grading Scale

A: 94.00-100	A-: 90.00-93.99		
B+: 87.00-89.99	B: 84.00-86.99	B-:	80.00-83.99
C+: 77.00-79.99	C: 74.00-76.99	C-:	70.00-73.99
D+: 67.00-69.99	D: 64.00-66.99	D-:	60.00-63.99
F: 0-59.99			

Office hours

Office hours will be held in person on Mondays (2:00-4:00) and via zoom on Wednesdays (9:00-11:00). Zoom office hours will work the same as regular office hours. If you try to enter the session, but another student is already talking with me, I can only allow you to enter the session once I am finished with the other student. I will send you a message if there is more than one student in the waiting room. Since the office staff will have a reduced in-person schedule, it could be that case that the front office is locked. If this is every the case during in-person office hours, simply send an email to me and I will let you in.

University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf. Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

I am committed to making this class as accessible as possible. Though everyone is responsible for all class materials, I do not intend to enforce an attendance policy. And though I will not able to live-stream the class, I will attempt to make the class available remotely through a variety of means. More details will be provided in the first week of class.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was

obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor. This includes excerpts of prior work.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with

SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Make Up Assignments for Authorized University Events

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

Religious Observances

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>.

Late Work

Requests for extensions, regardless of the justification, will be given fair consideration when the request is made 48 hours prior to the due date. Assignments are designed so that students (either through planning or through unforeseen circumstances) can miss some assignments without penalty. Students are, however, ultimately responsible for all material since assignments are cumulative.

Students should distinguish between the due date on Webcourses and the data the assignment closes. Assignments not submitted by the due date can be penalized. Once an assignment closes, submissions will not be accepted at all. Again, the assignment close date is not the same as the due date.

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Technology and Media

Enrolling in this course requires access to a computer with the requisite technology requirements (https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/student/technology-requirements/). Failure to complete class assignments due to technical issues will only be excused when the issue can be documented to have occurred due to a problem on UCF's end. In other words, problems with your own computer or connection are not justification for extension.

Email:

Emails should include the course number or another indicator in the subject line that identifies the message as relevant to the class. In accordance with UCF policy, I can only correspond with your official UCF Knights email address. If you message from a different email address, it could be ignored.

Professionalism Policy:

Though this class is online, students may occasionally interact with each other via the discussion sessions. Interactions should always be conducted in a respectful, professional manner. Language should remain formal and courteous, even if strongly disagreeing on a specific point. Insults and inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Students will receive one warning from the instructor if they engage inappropriately. Each subsequent offense will result in a 5% reduction in the end-of-semester grade.

Turinitin.com:

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly,

you will be expected to submit all assignments in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit http://www.turnitin.com.

You should be aware that Turnitin is simply a similarity score, based on identical wording in different texts. It is not specifically a plagiarism detector, and a low similarity score does not mean the paper is properly attributed. Plagiarism involves far more than identical wording, including the lack of attribution of ideas more generally.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Important Dates and Notices for Graduate Studies

Dissertation Defense Announcement Due: Two weeks prior to defense date

Last day to submit Thesis Proposal Defense Announcement (if final semester): Friday, January 22, 2021

Thesis Proposal Defense Deadline (if final semester): Friday, February 5, 2021

MA Comprehensive Exam request form due: Friday, February 5, 2021

Non-Thesis Proposal Approval form (if final semester) due: Friday, February 5, 2021

MA Comprehensive Exam: Friday, February 19, 2021

Dissertation Format Review Deadline: Friday, March 12, 2021 **(PhD Students)**

Thesis Format Review Deadline: Friday, March 26, 2021

First draft of Non-Thesis Paper due to your readers: Friday, March 26, 2021

Thesis Students – Visit myUCF to complete Thesis Release Option before defense.

Last day to submit Thesis/Non-Thesis Defense Announcement: Friday, March 26, 2021

Dissertation Defense Deadline: Friday, April 9, 2021 **(PhD Students)**

Dissertation Defense Approval Form and Final Draft Submission Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2021 **(PhD Students)**

Degree Conferral Date: Thursday, May 26, 2021

Thesis/Non-Thesis Defense Deadline: Friday, April 9, 2021

Thesis Defense Approval Form and Final Draft Submission Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2021

Last day of classes: Monday, April 26, 2021

Notification of Approval of Non-Thesis (Chair must sign and submit Non-Thesis Approval Form to Program Assistant): Monday, April 26, 2021