Course Syllabus

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CPO 3103 - Comparative Politics

Instructor: Konstantin Ash Office Hours: MW 3:30-5 over Zoom/HPH 302D or by appointment.

Instructor E-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu (mailto:konstantin.ash@ucf.edu)

Course Description

Comparative politics is the study of the differences and similarities in political institutions and behavior in countries around the world. This course is an introduction to both the concepts and ideas within comparative politics and research on the subject. Throughout the semester, we will look at numerous subjects relating to politics within countries around the world and how those politics vary along numerous dimensions. Our core question will relate to political institutions -- rules and structures that govern political behavior. Specifically, we will analyze the extent to which these institutions influence political behavior and vice versa. Thus, the primary objective of this course is for students to develop an understanding of and ability to analyze research in comparative politics.

A secondary goal of the class is to develop writing and basic research skills through assignments that supplement the traditional exam structure. Students will be asked to generate a writing assignment based on an interview with an individual who was born and lived a major part of their life in another country and the theories we have reviewed in class. These assignments will reinforce communication, interview, and research skills that have broad applications to careers beyond that of the traditional political science major.

Assignments

Essay Exams

The course will include five exams. All will be single essay **take-home** prompts. They will be due after every even-numbered module of the course and ask questions about the preceding two modules. They will be due the Wednesday night after the conclusion of the even-numbered module.

Students will be asked to apply the theories and cases they learned about in class and contribute with a novel analysis of the subject. Each essay will be worth 12% of the total grade for a total of 60% for all five exams.

Writing Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/assignments/7972409)

Students will be asked to develop a writing assignment throughout the quarter that involves an important aspect of comparative politics: fieldwork. Since Central Florida is a diverse place with many people from other backgrounds, it is a good opportunity to learn about political systems in other parts of the world. The assignment requires choosing one theme which we have covered at any point in the course (may be an article or an entire week) and a country. Students will be asked to interview another person that was born in and spent a substantial part of their lives in that country. Using evidence from the interview, students will be asked to apply a theory relating to their chosen theme to the evidence they have gathered and evaluate the effectiveness of that theory in their chosen country.

Papers should be at least 7 pages (before citations), 12-point Times New Roman font and use in-text citations. Students are required to consult with me through either e-mail or in office hours before proceeding with their topic. Please see rubric for detailed requirements.

Papers MUST have in-text citations. Papers are due Sunday, April 28 at 11:59pm to WebCourses.

Topic Approval

Topics for the writing assignment MUST be submitted for approval by Monday, March 25 at 11:59 PM for full credit to my e-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu. This should include your research question, the reading(s) whose theories you will be testing through your interview, the interview subject's basic biographical information, and some possible interview questions. You lose one point from your assignment grade for every day that the topic is late. If revisions are needed, students are required to consult with me in person or over Skype to develop their topic.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given weekly and are worth a total of 10% of your grade (1% for each quiz with the lowest quiz grade dropped out). Quizzes are available from the time each Lecture is posted on Monday until 11:59p every Sunday. Quiz content includes **both** readings *and* lectures. Any tutorials that are given each week will also be part of the quiz.

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Percentage of Grade

Essay Exams	60%
Field Writing Assignment	30%
Quizzes	10%
Total	100%

Academic Honesty

Students should familiarize themselves with **UCF's Rules of Conduct (https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/studentrules-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 that 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.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, **The Golden Rule (http://%C2%A0https://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 a 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, and participating in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

As this is an online course, extensions will only be granted for documented involvement in university-approved activities or documented mental or physical incapacitation. Please do not invent excuses as a way of getting an extension. Evidence of fake excuses will be considered academic dishonesty and will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for investigation.

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 met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Disability Services (http://www.sds.sdes.ucf.edu/)** , Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, 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.

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 or Co-curricular Activities

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 religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu (https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu)

and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

• Title IX – OIE – http://oie.ucf.edu/ & askanadvocate@ucf.edu

• Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services

• Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events

• UCF Compliance and Ethics Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu

• Ombuds Office

Campus Safety

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at **https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index (https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index)**
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED(Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations
- To stay informed about emergencies, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to < **www.getrave.com/login/ucf (http://www.getrave.com/login/ucf)** and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including your e-mail address and cellphone number.

Students with special needs related to emergencies should speak with their instructors outside of class.

To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (< https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk)

Course Schedule and Readings

Each week's courses will follow the same structure. Lectures and quizzes will be made available on Monday until Sunday at 11:59p . Essay exams will be active starting on Monday of each even-numbered week and will be due the following Wednesday.

All readings will be made available on WebCourses under the "Files" (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/files/folder/Readings) tab. Below is a schedule of readings and major course events.

Please consult the **Reading Focus Questions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/pages/reading-focus-questions)** before starting each reading.

WEEK 1 (JANUARY 8-14) - POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND BEHAVIOR AROUND THE WORLD

Required Readings:'

- Adam Przeworski, "Institutions Matter?" Government and Opposition 39, 2004: 527-540

Tutorial: Reading Academic Articles

WEEK 2 (JANUARY 15-21) - THE STATE AND STATE CAPACITY

Required Readings:

- Tilly, Charles. 1990. Coercion, Capital, and European States: AD 990-1990. Cambridge: Blackwell: Chapter 67-91.
- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 98-116, 133-136.

WEEK 3 (JANUARY 22-28) - DEMOCRACY: DEFINITIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Required Readings:

- Schmitter, Philippe C, and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is. . . and Is Not." Journal of Democracy 2(3): 75–88.
- Robert A. Dahl. Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971. Read pages 1-16.

Essay Exam 1 Due January 31 @ 11:59p.

WEEK 4 (JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Required Readings:

- Arend Lijphart. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Chapter 8.
- William H. Riker, “The Two-Party System and Duverger’s Law.” American Political Science Review 76, 4 (December 1982), 753-766.
- Patrick Dunleavy. 2012. "**Duverger’s Law is a dead parrot. Outside the USA, first-past-the-post voting has no tendency at all to produce two-party politics (http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/duvergers-law-dead-parrot-dunleavy/)** " London School of Economics.

WEEK 5 (FEBRUARY 5 - 11) - VARIETIES IN DEMOCRACY: PRESIDENTIALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM

Required Readings:

- Linz, Juan J. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” 1(1): 51–69.
- Linz, Juan J. (Juan José). 1990. “The Virtues of Parliamentarism.” Journal of Democracy 1(4):84–91.
- Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew S. Shugart. 1997. “Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal.” Comparative Politics 29(4): 449–71.

Tutorial: Research Question Workshop

Essay Exam 2 Due February 14 @ 11:59p.

WEEK 6 - (FEBRUARY 12 - 18) IDENTITY POLITICS

Required Readings:

- Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. ``What Is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?'' Annual Review of Political Science 9(1): 397-424.
- Posner, Daniel. 2004. The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi. American Political Science Review, 98(4): 529-545.

WEEK 7 (FEBRUARY 19 - 25) - THE RISE OF POPULISM IN ESTABLISHED DEMOCRACIES

Required Readings:

- Mudde, Cas. “The populist zeitgeist”’ Government and opposition 39, no. 4 (2004): 541-563.

- Berman, Sheri, and Maria Snegovaya. "Populism and the decline of social democracy." Journal of Democracy 30, no. 3 (2019): 5-19.

Tutorial: Writing Academic Research Papers

Essay Exam 3 Due February 28 @ 11:59p.

WEEK 8 - (FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3) TYPES OF AUTOCRACY

Required Readings:

- Zakaria, Fareed. November/December 1997. The Rise of Illiberal Democracy. Foreign Affairs. 22-43.
- Gandhi, Jennifer 2008, Political Institutions Under Dictatorship. Cambridge University Press. pp. 42-72.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico. New York: Cambridge University Press: pp. 1-3, 15-28.

Tutorial: Interview Questions

WEEK 9 - (MARCH 4 - 10) TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

Required Readings:

- Huntington, Samuel. 1991. ``Democracy's Third Wave.'' Journal of Democracy 2(2): 12-34.
- Haggard, Stephen and Kaufman, Robert R. The Political Economy of Authoritarian Withdrawals. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 25-44.

Tutorial: Linking Claims to Evidence

Essay Exam 4 Due March 13 @ 11:59p.

WEEK 10 - (MARCH 11 - 17) SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND REVOLUTIONS

Required Readings:

- Kuran, Timur (1991). “Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989.” World Politics 44: 7–48.

Tutorial: Paraphrasing

WEEK 12 - (MARCH 25 - 31) CONFLICT: EXPLAINING CIVIL WARS AND TERRORISM

Required Readings:

- Crenshaw, Martha, ”The Causes of Terrorism,” Comparative Politics 13, no. 4 (1981): 379-389.
- Sandler, Todd and Enders, Walter. 2006. Political Economy of Terrorism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 24-40.

- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War” American Political Science Review.

Essay Exam 5 Due April 3 @ 11:59p.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE SUNDAY, APRIL 28 @ 11:59PM THROUGH WEBCOURSES

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 8, 2024	Office Hours (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2995299&include_contexts=course_1430280)	3:30pm to 5pm
Wed Jan 10, 2024	Office Hours (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2995300&include_contexts=course_1430280)	3:30pm to 5pm
Fri Jan 12, 2024	Student Engagement Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/assignments/7972408)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 14, 2024	Week 1 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/assignments/7972456)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 17, 2024	Office Hours (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2995302&include_contexts=course_1430280)	3:30pm to 5pm
Sun Jan 21, 2024	Week 2 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/assignments/7972395)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 22, 2024	Office Hours (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2995303&include_contexts=course_1430280)	3:30pm to 5pm
Wed Jan 24, 2024	Office Hours (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2995304&include_contexts=course_1430280)	3:30pm to 5pm
Sun Jan 28, 2024	Week 3 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1430280/assignments/7972393)	due by 11:59pm