CPO 3103 - Comparative Politics

Section: 0W60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Fall 2025
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Anca Turcu
Office Location: Online--virtual
Email: Anca.Turcu@ucf.edu

Office Hours

Tuesday 2:00- 3:30 (via Canvas Chat) or by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Saskia Papsova Saskia.Papsova@ucf.edu

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 several country.

In an effort to provide an inclusive, diverse outlook and evaluation of political systems and realities.

Course Description

CPO 3103 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Comparative Politics: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Government and politics in selected nations, with emphasis upon comparative analysis of contemporary problems, politics, political culture, behavior, and institutions. Spring.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze differences between the institutions and governmental systems of different countries, (also with reference to the United States)
2. Discuss the implications of different electoral systems for institutional change in various countries around the Globe
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 Course Materials and Resources

Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context
ISBN: 1544374453
Authors: by Orvis, Stephen Walter and Carol Ann Drogus
Publication Date: 2024
Edition: 6th
Notes: 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. Notes: 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.

Class Schedule

Week	**Module**	**Topic(s)**	**Readings**
Intro Week (8/18)	Introductory Module	Introduction and Class Overview	Syllabus
Week 1 (8/25)	Module 1	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Orvis Ch. 1
Week 2 (9/2)	Module 2	The Modern State	Orvis Ch. 2
Week 3 (9/8)	Module 3	States, Citizens and Regimes	Orvis Ch. 3
Week 4 (9/15)	Module 4	States and Identity	Orvis Ch. 4
Week 5 (9/22)	Module 5	Governing Institutions in Democracies	Orvis Ch. 5
Week 6 (9/29)	Module 6	Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies	Orvis Ch. 6
Week 7 (10/6)	Module 7	Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolution	Orvis Ch. 7
Week 8 (10/13)	Module 8	Authoritarian Institutions	Orvis Ch. 8
Week 9 (10/20)	Module 9	Regime Change	Orvis Ch. 9
Week 10	Module 10	Political Economy of Wealth	

(10/27)			Orvis Ch. 10
Week 11 (11/3)	Module 11	Political Economy of Development	Orvis Ch. 11
Week 12 (11/10)	Module 11	Public Policies When Markets Fail	Orvis Ch.12
Week 13 (11/17)	Module 12	Final Paper Posted	None
Week14 (11/24- 12/1)	Final Paper	Final Paper Due 12/1	None

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Weekly Assignments Twelve weekly assignments (due starting with week 1) will test your knowledge of the material from the module covered during each week. Your two lowest scoring weekly assignments will be dropped at the end of class, leaving you with ten weekly assignments scores, worth 7% of your grade each. That is, ten weekly assignments 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 the Monday evening (at 11:59 PM EST), of the following week. After an assignment closes, I will release grades and correct answers within a week and you will have one week to review your answers and let me know if you have questions regarding your grade. After that, assignment questions and correct answers will no longer be visible. Note that no weekly assignments will be due for the introductory week and one week when you will be working on your final paper. Weekly assignments may be quizzes, short essays or discussion posts. On some weeks, you might be given a choice between a quiz and a written assignment or discussions. More details to follow in the weekly module overviews.

Final Paper: Students will have to submit a Final Paper. This paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. The final paper will be posted on Monday 11/17 and will be due on Monday, 12/1 at 11:59 PM. Note that the final assignment must be submitted through the Canvas online submission system as text, not as attachment. This system 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 cheat, commit plagiarism or engage in any other type of dishonest academic behavior will fail the class, (will receive an FZ grade) and will also be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Please review the UCF Golden Rule: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ Please allow for plenty of time to complete each assignment, so that you avoid last minute submissions and the technical difficulties that sometimes accompany them. Final assignments should not be submitted late. Final assignments submitted more than 24 hours post due date will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0.

Note: Students who request a review of final paper grading should be aware that I re-grade the whole paper once I receive such a request. This may sometimes result in a lower grade than the one previously granted. A regrade request needs to be detailed and point to specific questions or concerns regarding the grading/ comments or grade.

Policies for Course Grade

Weekly assignments: due weekly on Monday evenings by 11:59 PM EST. Modules open always on Monday mornings, except for Week 3, when it will open on Tuesday 9/2, as the Monday previous UCF is closed for Labor Day.

Final Paper: due by 12/1 at 11:59 PM EST

Weekly grades will be recorded and released via Canvas. Students can use the scale, rules and formula below in order to calculate their final class grade.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Assignments (10)	70%
Final Paper	30%
Total	100%

Grading Formula

(final project*.30) + [(sum of 10 highest scoring weekly assignments assignments/10) *.70] = final grade

Late Work

Weekly quizzes or assignments submitted late will receive no credit.

Final Papers should not be submitted late and will incur a 10 points penalty for the first 24 hours delay post due date. Final assignments submitted more than 24 hours post due date will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

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. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

I will not grant extensions if you fail to submit your work due to technical difficulties. You are solely responsible if you fail to submit 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 and I will work with you to determine the best course of action. Other circumstances, which may be considered "unavoidable", include medical or legal emergencies. Pertinent official documentation will be required if you plan on requesting to make up a quiz or assignment due to unavoidable circumstances. You have to submit such documentation no later than a week after the due date of the missed assignment has passed. Documentation submitted after that date will not be deemed acceptable.

Extra Credit

Your professor does not anticipate offering any extra credit assignments in this class. Should this change, you will be notified in a timely manner via Canvas e-mail.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%

Letter Grade	Percentage
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

For weekly written assignments and your final paper, make sure to follow these citation and referencing rules:

The use of A.I. technology (ChatGPT or any other) to complete any assignments or parts of assignments for this class is not allowed in any way, shape or form. Students who do not respect this rule will receive a zero for their assignments (or will fail the class, depending on the gravity of the transgression) and will be reported to the university for misconduct.

All legitimate, non-AI sources used have to be sanctioned by your professor (see prompt and module overview for every assignment) Do not use other sources for your answers.

If you are copy-pasting a text from a source into the assignment, that text should be put in inverted commas "…". This is called a direct quote. It should be followed by a parenthetical citation (page number, author, year).

However, be mindful that most assignments in this class do not allow direct quotes and such quotes will not receive credit (see individual assignment prompts). Instead, you should ***paraphrase***, in other words, use your own words to summarize and convey the same idea. This one too should be followed by a parenthetical citation (page number, author, year).

So, each time you paraphrase or use a source, make sure you use in text parenthetical citations. These can be: (page number, author, year)—for textbooks, books, articles, other sources such as documentaries. For sources in the module use: for PowerPoints

(Turcu, current year, module number, slide number); or, for module overviews (Turcu, current year, module overview number).

Make sure to use this in text format to credit every source you use for your answer. Not giving credit, or not substantiating an answer with its rightful source may very likely result in a serious penalty, as it will very likely constitute plagiarism.

All sources included in parenthetical citations throughout the text, have to be listed as references at the end of the assignment, in APA, MLA or Chicago referencing styles (look online for details on each citation style). Just choose one of the styles and stick with it.

Be mindful to respect these rules starting with Module 1 and for the rest of the semester.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Class Quizzes and Lock Down Browser

Weekly quizzes for this class will be proctored via Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. Quizzes are closed notes, closed book, no other sources (electronic or non) allowed, but your recollection of the material you studied in this module. Remember, the Respondus system is there to make sure you follow these rules and any sign of non-compliance will result in a penalty, or in more egregious cases, in no credit being granted for the quiz. Monitor is a UCF test monitoring system that utilizes a webcam to monitor test-taking activity during online testing. It is an add-on to the Respondus Lockdown browser. Videos are only accessible to your instructor and are stored in a secure environment. If you do not have a webcam, there are computers with webcams in the UCF library, or you can visit the LibTech desk at the library to check one out. LibTech can also direct you to a computer in the library with a webcam. Please note that these computers cannot be reserved ahead of time. It is your responsibility to ensure that you will have access to a computer with a webcam and know how to log into and use Monitor prior to the time that the tests start. If an issue occurs during a test, finish the test and contact me via my email, as listed above.
For information on Respondus, and in order to download the Browser, access this link: https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/student/proctored-exams/
For assistance with setup, contact Webcourses@UCF Support at 407-823-0407 or visit their webpage

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express

written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

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*. 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 and Academic Integrity, 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.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the ONAC website or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

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.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Important 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.