CPO 4754 - Comparative Political Institutions

Section: 0W60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Myunghee Kim
Office Location: HPH311F
Office Hours
M: 3:30pm-4:45pm (online), T: 2:20pm-4:35pm (in person), W: 3:30pm-4:30 (online), by appointment
Email: Myunghee.Kim@ucf.edu

Teaching Assistants

India Simmons

Course Description

CPO 4754 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Comparative Political Institutions: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. The course analyzes major types of political institutions from a comparative perspective including electoral laws, division of power, types of democracy, federalism, and the judiciary. Occasional.

Student Learning Outcomes

Comparative Politics 4754, Comparative Political Institutions, analyzes major types of political institutions from a comparative perspective. Political institutions include, but not limited to, electoral laws, division of power, types of democracy, and federalism. Three main objectives are:

• understandings of fundamental concepts in comparative politics as well as institutional designs

• comparisons of the major aspects of democratic institutions and institutional changes

• institutional performance and interaction with private sectors as well as the public, i.e., responsiveness and collective representation.

Required Course Materials and Resources

Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries
ISBN: 9780300172027
Authors: Lijphart, Arend
Publisher: Yale University Press
Publication Date: 2012
Edition: 2nd edition
Online Access: https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt32bg23?saml_data=eyJzYW1sVG9rZW4iOiJjZGY0Yjc1MC02YTQwLTQxNDItODk3My1kYjVjMjNmYTRjNTkiLCJlbWFpbCI6Ik15dW5naGVlLktpbUB1Y2YuZWR1IiwiaW5zdGl0dXRpb25JZHMiOlsiOWRiMzdiYjQtZjMyMC00NmEzLTg1ZjItNzg1YWVkMThhM2UzIl19

Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research
Subtitle: Ch. 1 “The Science in Social Science” (pp. 3-33)
ISBN: 0691034702

Authors: King, Gary, Robert R. Keohane, and Sidney Verba
Publisher: Princeton University Press
Publication Date: 1994
Online Access: https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt7sfxj?saml_data=eyJzYW1sVG9rZW4iOiI1MzY5ZmZkNS0yZTNjLTRkZDgtYTQxYS04ZmE4OThiMmI3N2IiLCJlbWFpbCI6Ik15dW5naGVlLktpbUB1Y2YuZWR1IiwiaW5zdGl0dXRpb25JZHMiOlsiOWRiMzdiYjQtZjMyMC00NmEzLTg1ZjItNzg1YWVkMThhM2UzIl19

"Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions."
Subtitle: Governance Volume 9, Issue 3, pp. 247-264
Authors: March, James, and Johan Olsen
Publication Date: 1996
Notes: Pdf file is available in the corresponding module

Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions
Subtitle: Ch. 11 "Institutions: General Remarks" (pp. 299-311)
Authors: Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Boncheck
Publisher: W. W. Norton
Publication Date: 1997
Notes: Pdf file is available in the corresponding module

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Assignments 1 & 2	5% each = 10%
Quizzes 1-12	5% each = 60%
Final exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%

Letter Grade	Percentage
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

- Do not miss quizzes and exams. Without instructor's prior permission to a specific student and without official documents, there will be no make-up quizzes/examinations.
- Make-up quiz/exam cannot be given prior to the date and time of the regularly scheduled quiz/exam.
- Make-up quiz/exam will not be scheduled after the "classes end" date.

Missed/Late Assignments

- Late submissions are discouraged. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade, and the deduction is accumulated by each class day. No work will be accepted more than a week after the due date.
- You have one submission for each assignment. Only Word (docx.) and pdf files are accepted. All other forms of submission will not be considered.

Attendance

- The student should have regular access to the internet and plan on logging into the course at least twice each week, or students should plan on at least five hours' worth of homework outside of class each week.
- Students who add this class later have a full responsibility to catch up with materials and announcements that they missed (no make-up quiz for late add).

Extra Credit

- No extra credit assignments will be permitted.

Quiz Review

- After you finish each quiz, you have one chance to see which one you answered incorrectly. Accordingly, after each quiz, make sure you review those questions.

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.

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:

1. 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 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 assessment, 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.

2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. 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 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.
4. 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" designated 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.

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.

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.

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 arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's 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 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.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors 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.

Class Schedule

Theme	Assignments	Open	Close
Getting started	Two truths and one lie introduction (financial aid requirement)	Jan. 12, 8am	Due: Jan. 16, 11:59pm Close: Jan. 23, 11:59pm
Module 1: Analyzing Politics	King, Keohane, and Verba, pp. 3-33 Quiz 1	Jan. 12, 8am Jan. 21, 8am	Jan. 22, 8am
Module 2: What are Political Institutions?	March and Olsen, pp.247-264 Shepsle and Boncheck, pp. 299-311 Lijphart, Ch1, pp. 1-8 Quiz 2	Jan. 22, 8am Jan. 28, 8am	Jan. 29, 8am
Module 3: Two Models of Democracy: Westminster Model	Lijphart, Ch. 2, pp. 9-29 Quiz 3	Jan. 29, 8am Feb. 4, 8am	Feb. 5, 8am
Module 4: Two Models of	Lijphart, Ch. 3, pp. 30-45 Lijphart, Ch. 4, pp. 46-59 Quiz 4	Feb. 5, 8am Feb. 11, 8am	Feb. 12, 8am

Democracy: Consensus Model, 36 Democracies	Reaction paper 1	Jan. 29, 8am	Feb. 12, 11:59pm
Module 5: Electoral Systems	Lijphart, Ch. 8, pp. 130-157 Quiz 5 Reaction paper 2	Feb. 12, 8am Feb. 19, 8am Feb. 5, 8am	 Feb. 20, 8am Feb. 19, 11:59pm
Module 6: Party Systems	Lijphart, Ch. 5, pp. 60-78 Quiz 6	Feb. 20, 8am Feb. 26, 8am	 Feb. 27, 8am
Module 7: Interest Groups	Lijphart, Ch. 9, pp. 158-173 Quiz 7	Feb. 27, 8am Mar. 5, 8am	 Mar. 6, 8am
Module 8: Cabinets	Lijphart, Ch. 6, pp. 79-104 Quiz 8	Mar. 6, 8am Mar. 12, 8am	 Mar.13, 8am
Module 9: Balance of Power	Lijphart, Ch. 7, pp. 105-129 Quiz 9	Mar. 13, 8am Mar. 26, 8am	 Mar. 27, 8am
Module 10: Concentration of Power	Lijphart, Ch. 10, pp. 174-186 Lijphart, Ch. 11, pp. 187-203 Quiz 10	Mar. 27, 8am Apr. 2, 8am	 Apr. 3, 8am
Module 11: Judicial Review	Lijphart, Ch. 12, pp. 204-225 Quiz 11	Apr. 3, 8am Apr. 9, 8am	 Apr. 10, 8am
Module 12: Performance of Democracy, Quality of Democracy	Lijphart, Ch. 15, pp. 255-273 Lijphart, Ch. 16, pp. 274-294 Quiz 12	Apr. 10, 8am Apr. 16, 8am	 Apr. 17, 8am
Final Examination	Good Luck!	May 4, 8am	May 5, 8am

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus in the course of the semester/session.