

# POSC 2401-101

## Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2017

M, W, F 11:00 – 11:50 AM  
Wehr Chemistry 107

Instructor: Nicholas R. Davis  
Email: [nicholas.r.davis@marquette.edu](mailto:nicholas.r.davis@marquette.edu)  
Office: Wehr Physics 451  
Office Hours: M,W 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### Course Overview

This introductory course offers different analytical frameworks— identity, political economy, institutions— which can be used to explore a diverse array of political phenomena. We will consider a range of theoretical arguments and empirical evidence, including several in-depth country case studies, to help understand several broad questions in political science. Such questions include: why are some countries democracies, yet others are not? What explains varying levels of economic development? What explains patterns of repression and conflict? Country cases include the United Kingdom, Germany, India, Nigeria and others. At the end of this course, you should be able to understand and analyze a wide range of political events around the world by drawing on the theoretical explanations covered in the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

POSC 2401 falls under the “Individual and Social Behavior” section of Marquette’s Core of Common Studies. As a result, this course will contribute to your ability to understand central concepts, theories, and methods used to explain individual and social behavior in political science; to use knowledge of social scientific methods to analyze examples of individual and social behavior, and to evaluate the applicability of social scientific knowledge for understanding individual and social behavior in particular contexts. The purpose of this course is to introduce the ways in which different countries organize politics. Central to this exercise, students will learn how to use social science methods and theories to conduct research, evaluate arguments, and identify themes and patterns among political phenomena.

# Course Requirements

In this course you will prepare for and attend lectures, participate in class discussions, take two exams, and complete two longer writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below.

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

There is a companion website to the course available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about exams and assigned tasks. I will also collect your writing assignments and post grades on D2L. You may direct all questions regarding the performance of D2L to the University Help Desk at 414-288-7799 or <http://www.marquette.edu/its/help>. I expect you to check the D2L course site often for announcements and other materials, and to be sure to check your university email as well.

When sending emails to myself or other students, I expect that you will be professional, courteous, and write in complete sentences. Any email correspondence that does not include a salutation (i.e. "Hello,") and some identification of who you are (i.e. "Thanks, A. Student") **will not receive a response**. You should get in the habit of writing emails in a professional manner, since instructors, employers, or clients will react much better to well-written correspondence.

## REQUIRED MATERIAL

I expect that you will prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned material from the textbook(s). The required textbooks for this course are:

O'Neil, P. 2015. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. Fifth Edition.  
ISBN (format): 978-0-393-93897-5 (paperback)

O'Neil, P., K. Fields, and D. Share. 2015. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. Fifth Ed.  
ISBN (format): 978-0-393-93754-1 (paperback)

You can purchase these books through the campus bookstore, although I strongly urge you to explore rental options or obtain the books from Amazon or elsewhere. There is no reason to buy a brand new copy if you can get a good used copy or if you are comfortable with a rental or an eBook, which typically are much less expensive. You must have a copy of these books to succeed in the course, however. There are a few additional readings which will be made available on D2L.

## EXAMS

There are two exams in this class, each worth 25% of your final grade. Both the midterm and the final will include forty (40) multiple choice questions and two (2) essay questions.

The midterm will cover the material in the first half of the class, and the final exam will cover the material in the second half.

If you have a university-approved excuse for missing an exam, you have 24 hours to contact me in order to have the opportunity for a make-up. If you do not contact me within this time and provide documentation of your absence, you will not be allowed a make up.

## **CRITICAL ESSAYS**

There are two written assignments in this course, each worth 10% of your final grade. Each essay will be between three (3) and five (5) double-spaced pages. The purpose of these essays is to formulate an argument (thesis) and credibly defend your perspective by providing evidence from the readings. Being “right” is not important; being clear, concise, and leveraging the case study evidence to argue a point is essential.

The guidelines document for formatting the essays and the rubric I use to grade them are posted on D2L. Failure to follow the formatting rules for will result in non-passing grade for the essay, as evidenced by the rubric. For the first essay, you will have the opportunity to restructure the document for full points only after meeting with me. For the other essay you will not have this opportunity and the grade will be final. I am happy to meet with you prior to the deadline to read your essay and ensure you have done the assignment correctly.

Essays must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 11:59 PM on Sunday (due dates listed in the schedule below). The document must be one of the following file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf note that Apple Pages cannot be read by D2L. Unreadable files will receive no points. Grades will be assigned via a rubric, available on D2L. Late essay assignments can at most only earn the class average.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Participation is important in this class. In addition to the exams and essays, I can assess how well the class is doing processing the readings and lectures by how students participate in class discussion. While I encourage all students to ask questions during lectures, it is often difficult to assign grades to such sporadic or impromptu class discussion. As such, I have built in six (6) class discussions in which all students should plan to participate.

You will be given a discussion topic or question before you come to class and should prepare some ideas as a response. Often I will assign a particular reading which will help frame the class discussion. During these classes, I will act as a moderator and guide discussion rather than as a lecturer. Unlike in normal lectures, I will call on students who appear unprepared, distracted, or are simply not offering anything in the discussion.

Each discussion will be graded on a three-point scale. The best performance will receive two (2) points, an attempt to participate will get one (1) point, and failure to participate will get a zero. Failure to participate may occur for any of the following reasons: student is not present, student not prepared, student violated expectations for professionalism (see below).

Due to the number of students in the class, it is possible that some prepared students may feel as though they were not able to participate despite being prepared. Therefore, I will offer a discussion “insurance policy” for any and all interested students. I will have a dropbox on D2L corresponding to each class discussion. Any student may upload a document no longer than one (1) page containing an outline of ideas or talking points for the class discussion. **Note that this dropbox will close at the beginning of the class period.**

If at the end of class you feel as though you were not able to participate at a level commensurate to your level of preparation, you may instruct me (via email) to consider your insurance document. This is an insurance policy, meaning that (a) it is not required, (b) it does not substitute for an unexcused absence, (c) it must be uploaded prior to class, and (d) I will only access the document if you ask me to. I encourage all students to use this insurance policy, since even if you never need to ask me to consider your insurance documents, you have prepared some ideas and remarks before class, and should therefore be more likely to get a good discussion grade each session.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important to your success in this class. Not counting the first class day of class or scheduled off days and exams, there are 38 attendance days. You can miss up to six (6) unexcused absences without it negatively affecting your grade. Every missed class thereafter will result in an entire letter grade reduction in your attendance grade. You must contact me immediately if you are going to be late or if you have an emergency and need to leave early. If you miss a partial class period without discussing it with me, you will lose that entire attendance point. If you are only a few minutes late, you will be warned; but know that I will eventually take away partial or complete attendance points for students who are habitually late, depending on the severity of the offense.

## Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: two exams at 25% each (50%), two essays at 15% each (30%), and attendance (10%) and participation (10%) for a total 100%.

### Final Grade Calculation

Two exams, 100 points each	50%
Two essays, 100 points each	30%
Attendance, 38 points	10%
Participation, 12 points	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in five business days or less. Grades will be calculated using the scale below. Rounding and grade curves are at my discretion. You are responsible for ensuring that you have received grades for all completed work. If you do not see a grade for a completed exam, essay, or participation exercise you should contact me immediately. After the last class meeting I will not entertain any questions about missing work or grades on work completed during the semester.

#### Grading Scale

100–93	A	87–83	B	77–73	C	67–63	D
92–90	A–	82–80	B–	72–70	C–	62–60	D–
89–88	B+	79–78	C+	69–68	D+	59– 0	F

### PROFESSIONALISM

You will be expected to behave professionally in this class. That is to say, you will be expected to arrive on time and to attend all meetings. You will be prepared for each class and actively participate in discussion. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to: reading non-class material, conversing during lectures, insulting classmates or the instructor, or leaving early. I also will not tolerate students who do not put forth every effort.

**During class you will not be allowed to use electronic devices for anything other than academic activities.** This means no social media, Youtube, etc. It is disruptive to other students and rude to the instructor and will not be tolerated. Should I encounter you misusing electronic devices during lecture, I reserve the right to take away your attendance/participation points for the day. If the behavior is distracting to other students you will be asked to surrender the device for the duration of the class or leave the room.

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I take plagiarism extremely seriously. Let it be noted for the record that cheating in any form will not be tolerated; besides, academic dishonesty violates Marquette's Honor Code. Anyone caught cheating on an examination will be punished according to University guidelines. In addition, if a paper is handed in without any citations, improper citations, or plagiarized material the paper will receive a zero, and you will be referred to the university for disciplinary action. Please consult the section on student academic dishonesty in the Undergraduate Bulletin for a listing of the practices that may be considered cheating.

## EQUAL ACCESS NOTICE

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services. If you are unsure of what you need to qualify for services, visit ODS's website at [www.marquette.edu/disability-services](http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services) or contact the Office of Disability Services at 414-288-1645.

## IMPORTANT REGISTRAR DEADLINES

You should be aware of these university-wide fall semester dates which apply this course.

Late add deadline	Tuesday	09/05	11:59 PM
Last day to drop without W	Tuesday	09/05	11:59 PM
Last day to drop with W	Friday	11/17	

## Course Schedule

The topics covered and readings required for each class period appear below. Readings from the textbook are marked by a chapter number and page numbers. When I list the page number on which you should stop, I intend for you to read through the end of the section on that page. Often the next class days reading will pick up on that page with a new section in the text. Readings not in the textbook are available on D2L.

### Topics and Deadlines

Date	Topic	Reading(s)	
<i>I. Introduction</i>			
M 08/28	Course Introduction	Review syllabus	
W 08/30	What is political science?	KKV; Bartels; Rogowski	[D2L]
F 09/01	<i>No class – APSA Meeting</i>		
M 09/04	<i>No class – Labor Day</i>		
W 09/06	Comparative: Subfield or Method?	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 1	
F 09/08	<b>Discussion:</b> Making Comparisons	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 1	
<i>II. Foundations for Comparison</i>			
M 09/11	What are States?	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 2	
W 09/13	State Formation	Herbst (1990)	[D2L]
F 09/15	Identity and Conflict	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 3, pp 62–76 Connor (1994)	[D2L]

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Course Schedule, *Continued*

Date	Topic	Reading(s)	
M 09/18	Attitudes and Ideology	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 3, pp 77–87	
W 09/20	Religion and Culture	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 3, pp 88–97 Inglehart and Welzel (2010)	[D2L]
F 09/22	<b>Discussion:</b> Nationalism	Snyder & Ballentine (1996)	[D2L]
S 09/24	<b>Critical Essay 1 due 11:59 PM</b>		
M 09/25	Basics of Political Economy	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 4, pp 98–120	
W 09/27	Comparing Outcomes in CPE	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 4, pp 120–135	
F 09/29	Understanding Political Violence	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 7, pp 207–226	
M 10/02	What is Democracy?	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 5, pp 137–148 Schmitter and Karl (1991)	[D2L]
W 10/04	Democratic Political Institutions	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 5, pp 148–173	
F 10/06	What is Authoritarianism?	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 6, pp 175–193 Geddes et al., pp 313–319	[D2L]
M 10/09	Authoritarian Persistence	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 6, pp 193–205 Diamond (2002); Schedler	[D2L]
W 10/11	Consequences of Regime Type	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 7, pp 226–237 Olson (1993); Hegre (2014)	[D2L]
F 10/13	<b>Discussion:</b> Democracy In Decline?	Diamond (2003); Plattner	[D2L]
M 10/16	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
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<i>III. Comparing Cases</i>			
W 10/18	American Exceptionalism	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 3	
F 10/20	<i>No class – Midterm Break</i>		
M 10/23	Developed Democracies	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 8	
W 10/25	U.K. - Background, Institutions	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 2, pp 34–62	
F 10/27	U.K. - Politics and Society	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 2, pp 62–91	
M 10/30	Germany - Background, Institutions	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 5, 210–239	
W 11/01	Germany - Politics and Society	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 5, 239–269	
F 11/03	<b>Discussion:</b> Comparing Democracies	Lijphart (1996); Cusack et al.	[D2L]
M 11/06	Developing Countries	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 10	
W 11/08	India - Background, Institutions	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 9, pp 444–469	
F 11/10	India - Politics and Society	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 9, pp 470–501	
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<i>IV. Challenges to Development</i>			
M 11/13	South Africa	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 13	
W 11/15	Nigeria - Background, Institutions	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 14, pp 726–752	
F 11/17	Nigeria - Politics and Society	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 14, pp 753–776	

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Course Schedule, *Continued*

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
S 11/19	<b>Critical Essay 2 due 11:59 PM</b>	
M 11/20	<b>Discussion:</b> Comparative Development	Collier & Gunning; Ross (2006) [D2L]
W 11/22	<i>No class – Thanksgiving break</i>	
F 11/24	<i>No class – Thanksgiving break</i>	
M 11/27	Communism	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 9
W 11/29	China - Background, Institutions	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 8, pp 380–408
F 12/01	China - Politics and Society	<i>Cases</i> Ch. 8, pp 409–443
M 12/04	Globalization	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 11, pp 342–360
W 12/06	The Future of Comparative	<i>Essentials</i> Ch. 11, pp 361–371
F 12/08	<b>Discussion:</b> Looking to the Future	Florida (2005) [D2L]
M 12/11	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> at 1:00 PM	