

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**COURSE OUTLINE
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POL S 235 (SEM A1)
FALL 2016**

**Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM-12:20 PM
Tory Building, 1st Floor, Room 103**

Instructor: Julián Castro-Rea
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Available: Wednesday, 1–3 PM or by appointment.

DESCRIPTION:

A critical introduction to the study of comparative politics, intended for undergraduate students. This course examines major theories and methods of comparative inquiry, and surveys the main concepts and key debates defining the field of comparative politics today.

GOALS:

By successfully completing this course, students will develop:

- a critical understanding of comparative politics as a distinct field of political science,
- the skills to identify and relate different theories and methods,
- the ability to understand a comparative politics research protocol.

CLASS FORMAT:

This is a lecture course, where attendance is mandatory and necessary to take full advantage of it.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Policy about course outlines, grading and related matters can be found in Section 23.4 (2) of the University Calendar. Students should note that in all but exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4 (3) of the University Calendar. Students are expected to be present in all course sessions. All requirements will be assigned a partial mark

expressed in percentage points, the sum of which will be translated into an equivalent letter for final grading purposes.

GRADING:

Attendance to class 10%

Attendance is important for the class to become an engaged community of inquiry, to better understand the links between the assigned readings, and to better know and cooperatively work with people in the cohort. Readings and online components of the course cannot fully replace physical presence in class.

Participation in class 10%

The quality (not quantity) of participation in and contribution to class discussions matters. It will be considered for assigning a percentage grading, at the instructor's discretion.

Two minor assignments 20% (10% each)

Assignments will consist in answering one question, or series of short questions, in essay format; within one week from the day they are requested. Length: two to four pages per assignment. Minor assignments will be requested on September 26 (due in class October 3) and November 28 (due in class December 5). Only hard copies will be accepted, no electronic submissions will be considered. Late submissions will be penalized 1% of the final grade (not the assignment grade) per day, including weekends.

Mid-term exam (October 31) 20% Sit-down exam.

Final exam (due December 14) 40%

Take-home exam, covering material (lectures, readings and screenings) from the whole term. Questions will be distributed on the last day of classes (December 6). Only hard copies will be accepted, no electronic submissions will be considered. Late submissions will be penalized 5% of the final grade (not the exam grade) per day, including weekends.

READINGS:

Most readings are included in a textbook: Dickovick, J. Tyler & Jonathan Eastwood, *Comparative Politics. Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases*, New York City: Oxford University Press, 2016. Some units will be supplemented with readings drawn from other sources. **All readings listed on this course description are mandatory, their contents will be incorporated in the assignments and exams.**

COURSE SCHEDULE:

September 5 - Introduction and Explanation of Course Expectations.

September 7 - Why Compare in Politics?

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 2-9.
- Bara, Judith, "Methodologies for Comparative Analysis" in Bara, J. & Mark Pennington, eds., *Comparative Politics. Explaining Democratic Systems*, Los Angeles: Sage, 2009; pp. 41-48.

September 12, 14, 19 - How to Compare? Approaches to Comparative Politics.**Part 1: Theories****Readings:**

- Alford, Robert & Roger Friedland, *Powers of Theory: Capitalism, the State and Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985; pp. 1-32.
- Gilman, Nils, *Mandarins of the Future: Modernization Theory in Cold War America*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003; pp. 1-23.
- Levi, Margaret, "A Model, A Method and A Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis" in Lichbach, Mark Irving & Alan S. Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics: rationality, culture, and structure*, New York City: Cambridge University Press, 2009; pp. 19-37.

September 21, 26 - How to Compare? Approaches to Comparative Politics.**Part 2: Methods.****Readings:**

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 9-40.
- Castro-Rea, Julián, "Hypothesis", in Mills, Albert J. et al, eds., *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research*, New York City: Sage, 2009.
- Burnham, Peter et al, *Research Methods and Politics*, New York City: Palgrave, 2004; pp. 58-79.
- Peters, Guy, *Comparative Politics. Theory and Method*, New York: New York University Press, 1998; pp. 137-155.

September 26 – First assignment requested, due October 3 at 11:00 AM, Tory Building, 1st Floor, Room 103 (at the beginning of class)

September 28 – Ten Central Concepts in Comparative Political Science**Reading:**

- Trent, John E., "Issues and Trends in Political Science at the beginning of the 21st Century: Perspectives from the World of Political Science Book Series" in Trent, J. & Michael Stein, eds., *The World of Political Science: A Critical Overview of the Development of Political Studies around the Globe: 1990-2012*, Opladen: Barbara Budrich, 2012; pp. 91-153.

October 3, 5 – DEMOCRACY (& democratization, elections, parties)**Readings:**

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 120-140.
- Schmitter, Philippe & Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy is... and is not" in O'Neil, Patrick & Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, New York City: W. W. Norton, 2010; pp. 151-160.

- Varieties of Democracy project, available at <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en>

October 10, 12 - DEVELOPMENT (& political economy)

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 97-114.
- Acemoglu, Daron, "Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development" in O'Neil, P. & R. Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings...*; pp. 128-132.

October 17, 19 - STATE (& system, regime, institutions, political change)

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 47-64.
- Migdal, Joel S., "Studying the State" in Lichbach, M. & A. Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 208-235.
- Skocpol, Theda, "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions" in O'Neil, P. & R. Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings...*; pp. 442-460.

October 24, 26 - Fall break

October 31 – Mid-term exam

November 2, 7 - NATIONALISM (& Indigeneity)

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 304-320.
- Shulman, Stephen, "Challenging the Civic/Ethnic and West/East Dichotomies in the Study of Nationalism", in *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 35, no. 5, June 2002; pp. 554-585.
- Peeler, John, "Citizenship and Difference in Latin American Indigenous Politics: Democratic Theory and Comparative Politics" in Holmes, Jennifer, ed., *New Approaches to Comparative Politics*, Lanham: Lexington Books, 2003; pp. 65-82.

November 9, 21 - GOVERNANCE (& bureaucracy, policy analysis)

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 171-190.
- Orellana, Salomon, *Electoral systems and governance: how diversity can improve policy-making*, New York City: Routledge, 2014; pp. 1-10.

FEDERALISM (& local politics)

Reading:

- Watts, Ronald, *Comparing Federal Systems*, Kingston: Institute of Intergovernmental Relations-Queen's University, 1999; pp. 1-17.

November 14, 16 - Fall term reading week.

November 23, 28 - IDEOLOGIES (& religion, cultures, values)

Readings:

- Dickovick & Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 349-367.
- MacKenzie, Iain, "The Meaning of Ideology" in Geoghegan, Vincent & Rick Wilford, eds., *Political Ideologies. An Introduction*, London: Routledge, 2014; pp. 1-18.
- Noël, Alain & Jean-Philippe Thérien, *Left and Right in Global Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008; pp. 1-11.
- World Values Survey, available at <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>

November 28 – Second assignment requested, due December 5 at 11:00 AM, Tory Building, 1st Floor, Room 103 (at the beginning of class)

November 30, December 5 - SOCIETY (& grassroots politics, social movements, political sociology)

Readings:

- Putnam, Robert, "Tuning It, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America" in O'Neil, P. & R. Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings...*; pp. 170-198.
- Greene, Ronald & Kevin Kuswa, "'From the Arab Spring to Athens, From Occupy Wall Street to Moscow': Regional Accents and the Rhetorical Cartography of Power" in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 3, 2012; pp. 271-288.
- Barker, Adam J. "'A Direct Act of Resurgence, a Direct Act of Sovereignty': Reflections on Idle No More, Indigenous Activism, and Canadian Settler Colonialism", in *Globalizations*, vol. 12, No. 1, 2015; pp. 43-65.

December 7 - GENDER (& ethnicity, queer politics). Final exam questions are distributed.

Reading:

- Dickovick and Eastwood, *Comparative Politics...*; pp. 326-346
- Chappell, Louise et al, "Moving to a Comparative Politics of Gender", special issue of *Politics & Gender*, vol. 2, 2006; pp. 221-235.
- Frank, David J. & Nolan Phillips, "Sex Laws and Sexuality Rights in Comparative and Global Perspectives" in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, vol. 9, 2013; pp. 249-267.

General conclusions.

December 14 – Final exam due.

LATE PENALTIES, PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Late assignments: It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If there is no valid reason for late submission, supported by written evidence, then you should be prepared to be penalized 1% of the final grade per late day for the assignments, 5% of the final grade for the final exam. Please note: these percentages apply to the **final grade**, not to the assignment's or the exam's grade. Weekends are also considered for late day purposes.

Plagiarism & academic honesty: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (available online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/Cod eofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this course outline. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the "Student Conduct and Accountability" website (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. Students seeking the advice of English native speakers or experts should be aware that excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly produce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of Students at the Faculty of Arts.

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. If students feel that this policy is being violated, they are urged to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern, or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department of Political Science.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>) Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 (available at <http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/>)

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DISABILITY SERVICES:

Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact the professor at the beginning of the course with the appropriate documentation. Every effort will be made to accommodate such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage. Students requiring special support or services should be registered with the office of Student Accessibility Services (<http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/>). This is particularly important for students requiring special exam arrangements. Once they are registered with SAS, it is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with a "Letter of Introduction" and, if necessary, an "Exam Instruction & Authorization" form.

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?):

The Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 2-707 in the Students Union Building.
- Book an appointment: (780) 492-4268
- Visit: <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/>

EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
(UPDATED EFFECTIVE MAY 12, 2006)

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2) a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2) b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).

30.3.2(2) c No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

30.3.2(2) d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2) e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

Student Conduct and Accountability is a campus-wide policy regarding academic honesty. This policy was created to determine the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behavior. There are helpful tips for instructors and students.

Please take the time to visit the website at:
<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>

Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/>

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the *Code* are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the *Code*.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

More information can be found at: <http://www.osia.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>

**EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
FOR REVIEW WITH EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY TERM**

<i>Procedures for Instructors Regarding Plagiarism, Cheating, Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence</i> The following procedures are drawn from the <i>Code of Student Behaviour</i> as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean – or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655). 30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour 30.5.4(1) When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted. 30.5.4(2) If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.	Possible Sanctions One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts: 30.4.3(2) a.i a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour 30.4.3(2) a.ii Reduction of a grade in a course 30.4.3(2) a.iii a grade of F for a course 30.4.3(2) a.iv a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii 30.4.3(3) b Expulsion 30.4.3(3) c Suspension The following sanctions may be used in rare cases: 30.4.3(3) e Suspension of a Degree already awarded 30.4.3(3) f Rescission of a Degree already awarded 30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal 30.6.1(1) When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)e.ii, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.
PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY CHAIR, CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE	DR STEVEN DEW PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the *Code of Student Behaviour* and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 27/08/2015