POLS 260-1 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Fall 2018
Department of Political Science
Northern Illinois University
Lectures: M/W 2-3.15
Room: DU461

Instructor: Professor Kikue Hamayotsu
Office: Zulauf 404
Office Hours: M12-2 and by appointment
E-mail: khamayotsu@niu.edu
Phone: 815-753-1011 (Emergency only)
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Eunji Won
Office: DU476
Office Hours: T/TH 9.30-11
E-mail: ewon1@niu.edu

Course Overview:

Where and how has a modern liberal democracy developed? Why and how can some regimes maintain authoritarian rule? How do other democracies differ from the American democracy? Will a democratic government help reduce poverty and make people live longer and happier lives than an undemocratic government? This course will help students to assess and learn how politics work around the world and outside the U.S. in order to answer these general questions which are pertinent to the interests of citizens. The course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts, themes, and issues in Comparative Politics such as democracy, authoritarianism, the political roots of development and poverty, national and ethnic identities, civil society and social movements, and political parties and elections. If you are interested in political science as a major, this class helps to prepare you for upper-level political science courses. If you just want to better understand current affairs across the world, this class will provide you with useful analytical perspectives, as well as a factual background, on a number of important countries and regions.

The course will focus on the three essential themes of comparative political analysis: (1) The State, Political Regimes and Institutions; (2) Political Participation and State-Society Relations; and (3) Political Economy and Welfare. The underlying purpose of the course is to identify and explain differences and similarities in political systems and political life across a set of diverse countries and regions of the world. To this end, we will be primarily (but not exclusively) focusing on seven countries—Britain, France, Japan, Russia, China, and Iran, as well as the US.

This is a lecture course. However, students are encouraged to actively participate in class
discussion, learn from one another, and respect various viewpoints.

** This course is a Global Connections Pathway course. 3 credit hours will be earned towards fulfillment of the requirement once it is completed.

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (Aug 27/29)</th>
<th>Introduction/Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (Sept 3/5)</td>
<td>Labor Day (NO CLASS)/State and State formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (Sept 10/12)</td>
<td>Nationalism and Nation-building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Sept 17/19)</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Sept 24/26)</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Oct 1/3)</td>
<td>Liberal Democracy: UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (Oct 8/10)</td>
<td>Liberal Democracy: France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (Oct 15/17)</td>
<td>Mid-term review/exam (10/17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (Oct 22/24)</td>
<td>Liberal Democracy: Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (Oct 29/31)</td>
<td>Authoritarianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11 (Nov 5/7)</td>
<td>Illiberal Democracy: Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 (Nov 12/14)</td>
<td>Communist Authoritarianism: China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 (Nov 19/21)</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays (Consultation only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14 (Nov 26/28)</td>
<td>Theocracy: Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15 (Dec 3/5)</td>
<td>Review <strong>Term Paper Due (12/3)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Class Attendance and participation (10% of total grade)**
   a. Students are required to attend all the classes. More than three consecutive unexcused absences will jeopardize your entire Class Attendance grade. The instructor reserves full discretion to decide students’ final grade. Please notify and provide credible supporting document to your TA in advance if you must miss class.
   b. Class attendance is evaluated as follows, with 10% being full marks:
      10% (0-2 unexcused absences); 9% (3-4 unexcused absences); 8% (5-6 unexcused absences); 7% (7-8 unexcused absences); 0% (9 or more unexcused absences).
   c. You are expected to participate actively in class discussions. If you make a significant
point to contribute to class discussion, you will be given a point equivalent of a class attendance added to your Class Attendance grade.

d. If you are deemed to be causing a disturbance to class, you will lose a point equivalent of a class attendance from your Class Attendance grade.

2. Readings:
   a. Students are expected to **come to class having read all the required readings**.
   b. Recommended readings are provided in some sections to help students write their essay assignments (see 4 in Course Requirements below).
   c. Both required and recommended readings are available (in alphabetical order) in the E-reserves section on the Blackboard. Please make sure to refer to the required reading list in Course Outline below before reading them.
   d. Students are expected to come to class having done the required reading beforehand and to actively participate in discussion. It is helpful to approach the readings with the following questions in mind: (a) what is the central question/debate? (b) what is the main point/argument? (c) what is the evidence for the argument? (d) what are the problems with the argument? (e) can you think of counterarguments? Students should also address these questions in writing assignments.

3. Two in-class Exams (20% + 40% of total grade, respectively)
   a. **The Mid-term Exam**: consists of a short-answer section and essay questions. The exam will cover the first half of the course. Students will be expected to write clear and coherent essays.
   b. **The Final Exam**: consists of a short-answer section and essay questions. The exam will primarily cover materials from the second half of the course, but will test your overall understanding of the materials covered in the course.
   c. Students will be provided with a study guide including potential questions one week before each exam.

4. One Term Paper (30% of total grade)
   a. Students will be required to write a short term paper (approximately 5-6 pages). The paper topics and guideline are attached below in Appendix B, and discussed in class.
   b. Students are encouraged to consult with their TA about the topic they elect to write and composition of their paper in order to gain feedback.
   c. Students are strongly encouraged to consult **The University Writing Center**
d. **The final paper due is Week 15-1 (December 3).** A hard copy must be submitted to the instructor in class after posted in the Safe Assign section on Blackboard.

e. The paper must be typewritten (Time New Roman 12 font), double-spaced, and properly cited.

f. Your paper will be evaluated according to the assessment rubric attached below in Appendix C.

---

**Grade Distribution:**

1. Class attendance (10%)
2. Mid-term exam (20%)
3. Final exam (40%)
4. Term paper (30%)

Final course grades will be translated into the letter grades as follows:

- A: 93-100%  
- A-: 90-92.9%  
- B+: 87-89.9%  
- B: 83-86.9%  
- B-: 80-82.9%
- C+: 77.5-79.9%  
- C: 70-77.4%  
- D: 60-69.9%  
- F: Less than 60%

---

**Course Rules and Penalties:**

1) **Late submission** will result in a grade reduction of 1/3 the letter grade per day (e.g., “A” will be lowered to “A-” if submission is one day late). No paper will be accepted that is more than one week late.

2) **Plagiarism Policy:** According to the NIU Undergraduate Catalogue “Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.” In short, all ideas that are not your own or are well known must be footnoted. A general rule is that if the information cannot be found in three or more commonly available sources, it should be footnoted. All direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks. If you are unsure as to what should be footnoted either play it safe and footnote, or ask for assistance. Failure to adhere to
the University’s plagiarism policy will result in punishments ranging from a failed course grade to suspension and even expulsion, depending on the egregiousness of the infraction.

3) **Make-up assignments (e.g., exams):**
   a) A make-up exam is permitted only under a justifiable circumstance. If you have to miss an exam or assignment on a given due date, you will have to request permission from the instructor/TA to make up the missed exam on an alternative date at the department. Submit a supporting document to seek permission in order to make an arrangement with the instructor/TA. You have to make an arrangement no later than one week after a due date.

4) **Basic Classroom Rules:**
   a) TURN OFF all your electronic devices unnecessary to participate in class (e.g., smartphones, iPad, cell phones)
   b) NO crosswords, Sudoku, or any other game or activity is permitted.
   c) Students are NOT permitted to leave the classroom without prior permission.
   d) RESPECT the instructor and other people: NO chatting is permitted when other people are talking. Students are expected to express their views in a civil manner and respect other people’s views.
   e) Students are asked to leave the class if their behaviors are deemed inappropriate and/or destructive to other people. You will also lose an attendance point (see *Course Requirement 1.c*).
   f) Under any reasonable circumstances, the instructor retains full discretion to advise whether students could stay in the course.
   g) See Appendix A “Classroom Decorum” for further information.

**Course Readings:**

The following textbooks have been ordered at the university bookstore and are available for purchase. Students are required to obtain the required text book by O’Neil, Fields, and Share. The recommended book is recommended to read in order to complete a term paper assignment but is optional according to students’ needs and budget. The rest of the required weekly readings (except the textbook) will be available in the E-reserve in Black Board so that students could download or read them online. All the books are reserved in the library reserve section so that students could borrow and read them for a limited time to complete their assignments. Students are free to search
an alternative outlet (e.g., Amazon) to purchase any of the assigned books but will have to read the latest editions assigned by the instructor.

Textbooks to purchase:


Recommended book:


Class Schedule:

PART I:  INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS


   - What is Comparative Politics? Why and how do we study it?

Required Readings:


PART II:  STATES, NATIONS AND REGIMES

2. (Sep 3/5)  States and State Formation

   **09/03 Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASS**

   - What is the state and what does it do?
   - Where does it come from?

Required Readings:

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, chap.2.

Page 6 of 17

3. **(Sept 10/12) Nationalism and Nation-Building**
   - Where does a “national identity” come from?
   - What model is the best for accommodating immigrants into a nation peacefully?
   - Video: “French banning of headscarves”

   Case: Europe

**Required Readings:**
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, chap.3.


4. **(Sept 17/19) Political Economy**
   - What is Political Economy?
   - How and why does the state regulate the economy? What are the benefits and costs of state regulation of economy?

**Required Readings:**
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, chap.4.

__________________________________________________________

**PART III: ADVANCED LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES**

5. **(Sept 24/26) Democracy**
   - What is democracy and what is not?
   - What are the prerequisites for democracy?
   - Are certain cultural traits required for establishing democracy?

**Required Readings:**
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, chap.7 (pp.174-201).
“What’s gone wrong with democracy”, The Economist, March 1, 2014.

Recommended Readings:
Zakaria, Introduction and chap.4.

6. (Oct 1/3) Liberal Democracy: United Kingdom
   - How does a parliamentary democracy differ from a presidential democracy?
   - Does the British Prime Minister or the American President have more power?

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:
“Scottish Nationalism: How did it come to this?” The Economist, July 12, 2014.
“Scottish Independence: Don’t leave us this way,” The Economist, July 12, 2014.

7. (Oct 8/10) Liberal Democracy: France
   - Dual-executive system
   - Multi-party system
   - Why do the French hate “headscarves”?

Required Readings:
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “France” (pp.260-91).


“Violent strikes against labour reforms are causing chaos in France,” *The Economist*, May 27, 2016.


8. (Oct.15/17) Mid-term Review/Exam
10/17 – Mid-term Exam (In class)

9. (Oct 22/24) Liberal Democracy: Japan

   ▪ Where does Japan’s liberal democracy come from?
   ▪ How can we explain Japan’s post-war rapid grown and economic success?

**Required Readings:**

O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “Japan” (pp.322-53).


**Recommended Readings:**


---

**PART IV: AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES**

10. (Oct 29/31) Authoritarianism

   ▪ What is authoritarianism/autocracy?
   ▪ Under what conditions does authoritarian rule emerge and survive?
Required Readings:
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, chap.8 “Nondemocratic Regimes” (pp.354-81).

11. (Nov 5/7)  Illiberal Democracy: Russia
   ▪ Is Russia a liberal democracy?
   ▪ What has gone wrong with democratic transition in Russia?
   ▪ How does Putin remain in power?

Required Readings:
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “Russia” (pp.416-43).

Recommended Readings:
Zakaria, chap.3.

12. (Nov 12/14)  Authoritarianism: China
   ▪ Where does China’s authoritarianism come from?
   ▪ What explains the resilience of China’s authoritarian regime?
   ▪ Why does economic growth not produce democracy in China?

Required Readings:
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “China” (pp.444-79).
“China Special Report,” *The Economist*, April 19, 2014 (pp.3-16).

Recommended Readings:

13. (Nov 19/21)  Thanks Giving Holidays
   ▪ NO CLASS (Consultation only)
PART V: STATES AND REGIMES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

14. (Nov 26/28) Theocracy: Iran
   - What is a theocratic state? How does it work?
   - What is the role of religious leaders?

Required Readings:
O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “Iran” (pp.540-67).

15. (Dec 3/5) Review week
12/03 -- Term Paper Due (in class)

December 10 FINAL EXAM
   - In class (2-3.50pm)

* The final exam is strictly administered according to the University’s final exam policy. No unjustifiable exception is allowed. Please check the university website (http://www.niu.edu/regrec/dates/finalexam.shtml) for the final exam date and relevant policy.
Appendix A: Tips for Doing Well in this Class

1. Do the readings AND come to class. Lectures will refer to the assigned readings but they will not summarize them and they are not an adequate substitute. Likewise, lectures will cover material that is not in the readings, and that may appear on the exams.

2. Read critically. As you read, note questions that you would like to raise in lecture or section, and think critically about the author's evidence and arguments.

3. Think comparatively. Ask yourself how the particular case you are reading about compares with similar developments in other countries, regions, or periods.

4. Participate actively in discussion sections and in lecture. Take notes on lectures, and be engaged in the question and discussion periods that will be held during the final minutes of class.

5. Keep up with current events. If you do not already do so, read the international pages of at least one major national / international newspaper every day. Examples include The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, The Financial Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Think about how contemporary events relate to the themes and cases studied in class.

6. Know the locations of the countries and regions we cover. Geography is critically important for understanding a nation's historical development and importantly influences national security interests and many other areas of political life. If the name of a country is mentioned that you can't pinpoint on a map (a vague sense of where it is located is insufficient!), locate it on a map. Also note what its neighboring countries and regions are. Maps of the countries and regions of the world we will cover can be found in the textbook.

7. Follow up on topics you find particularly interesting by reading beyond the assigned texts. Look for hints of where to find additional materials by looking at footnotes and references in the readings or by asking your T.A. or me for suggested additional readings.
8. Take advantage of office hours. The TA’s and I are here to help if you're having trouble understanding concepts or if you are simply interested in further discussing topics covered in class (see #7 above).

Other Important Information

Academic Dishonesty
Regarding plagiarism, the NIU Undergraduate Catalog states: "Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university." The above statement encompasses a paper written in whole or in part by another; a paper copied word-for-word or with only minor changes from another source; a paper copied in part from one or more sources without proper identification and acknowledgment of the sources; a paper that is merely a paraphrase of one or more sources, using ideas and/or logic without credit even though the actual words may be changed; and a paper that quotes, summarizes or paraphrases, or cuts and pastes words, phrases, or images from an Internet source without identification and the address of the web site.

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities
If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. Please note that you will not be required to disclose your disability, only your accommodations. The sooner you let me know your needs, the sooner I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Department of Political Science Web Site
Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, research career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to http://polisci.niu.edu

Undergraduate Writing Awards
The Department of Political Science recognizes, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies, such as independent studies or honors theses. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and a check for $50.00. No more than two papers may be submitted by a student. There is no requirement as to the length of papers submitted for the award. Often the Department awards prizes for both an outstanding short paper and an outstanding long paper. The number and types of award is dependent upon the papers submitted for consideration in any given year. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Only papers written in the previous calendar year are considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated. Papers can be submitted by students or faculty and must be supplied in triplicate to the undergraduate secretary. All copies must have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s name. Papers are not to be stapled or bound. Instead, please use paper clips. Papers are generally due in March and notice of call for papers and submission deadlines will be published in the department e-announcements. You may also contact the department for information at 753-1015.

Classroom Decorum
Students are to arrive at class on time. Two tardy arrivals are equivalent to one class absence. Students are to remain for the entire session unless excused by the professor beforehand or confronted with a serious personal emergency. For instance, it is not acceptable to students to walk in and out of class to answer cell phones, take casual bathroom and smoking breaks, or attend to other personal matters. Cell phones, pagers, or any electronic devices that make noise must be turned off during class unless the instructor has been notified beforehand of a special circumstance (e.g., sick family member, pregnant wife, special childcare situation, etc.). No one should talk while someone else is talking; this includes comments meant for a classmate rather than the entire group. What may seem like a whisper or a harmless remark to one person can be a distraction to someone else, particularly in a small room. Overall, classroom dialogue and behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.
Appendix B: Term Paper Guideline

Elect one topic of your liking from the following list and write an essay in such a way to explore the causes, processes, and consequences of an event, policy and/or trend.

- Immigration and national identity crisis
- The rise of Far Right and populism
- Human/minority rights, equality and democracy
- Aging society and welfare state

In writing an essay, you will have to take into account the following:

1. Focus your discussion from political, economic and socio-cultural perspectives.
2. Pick and focus on specific country cases (from the selection of countries studied in class) as comparable examples to support your arguments and discussion.
3. You could draw upon and cite materials provided in the list of required readings and refer to lectures; but are strongly encouraged to do additional reading and research to strengthen your argument and essay. You should refer to the recommended readings as well as primary sources drawn from suggested materials (e.g., the Economist, New York Times, BBC News).
4. Please see the assessment rubric below (Appendix C) to know what you are expected to achieve.

Writing/submission Guideline:

- The paper should be no more than 5-6 pages in length. Papers which are shorter or longer than this page limit will not be accepted.
- Hand in a hard copy to the instructor in class before the deadline. A soft copy is acceptable only under an extraordinary circumstance with prior permission from the instructor.
- Post your essay in the Safe Assign section on Blackboard before submission.
• The paper must be typewritten (Time New Roman 12 font), double-spaced, and properly cited.

• Refer also to the reading guideline in the course syllabus.
Appendix C: Assessment Standards for Term Paper

A: The argument is clearly articulated and logically developed, using relevant evidence. The research is of high quality, cleverly ordered to support the argument with an original and creative synthesis of materials and displaying understanding of wider issues. The presentation is of high standard.

B: The argument is well proposed but the structure is not fully developed. The research is quite extensive but sources are not fully utilized which limits the ability to be creative and deal with a full range of issues. The presentation is solid but can be improved.

C: The argument is satisfactory, with some limitations, but the structure is not well thought out. The research used is just adequate, but insufficient to develop fully the argument or display much originality. The presentation is adequate but could be improved.

D: While the essay displays a basic understanding of the subject, the argument lacks coherence and logical development. The research is basic and the use of evidence does not sufficiently support the argument nor display originally or understanding of wider issues. The presentation is not of sufficient standard.

F: The presentation is well below acceptable standard. The essay is incoherent with glaring misunderstandings.