

Political Science 120: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2020 (online)

Synchronous course hours: TuTh 9:40-10:55am

Instructor: Prof. Hubert Tworzecki, Tarbuton 316, (404) 727-2244
(htworze@emory.edu), office hours: WF 10:00-11:00am and 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom

Co-instructors: Pearce Edwards (pearce.alexander.edwards@emory.edu) and
Donald Grasse (donald.grasse@emory.edu).

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the comparative study of modern political systems. It outlines a number of the major theories of comparative political analysis and applies them to a selection of democratic, authoritarian and hybrid systems. It examines how these systems function internally and how they interact with their societies, economies and international environments, as well as how they change over time and how they undergo transitions from one type to another.

Course Format

In Fall 2020 the course will be offered in an online format consisting each week of one 75 minutes of live (“synchronous”) instruction, and 75 minutes of recorded lectures that students will be able to view on their own schedules (“asynchronously.”) Students will be assigned to one of four sections, each with its own synchronous meeting time:

- A. Tuesdays, 9:40-10:55am
- B. Tuesdays, 9:40-10:55am
- C. Thursdays 9:40-10:55am
- D. Thursdays, 9:40-10:55am

Textbook and Reading Assignments

Textbooks:

- J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods and Cases*. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press, 2019 (hereafter referred to as D&E). Available in paper and ebook formats
- Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Natasha Lindstaedt and Erica Frantz, *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*. 1st edition. Oxford University Press, 2020 (henceforth referred to as KTLF). Available in paper and ebook formats.

Reserve Items:

- Reading assignments marked "Reserve" will be available for downloading at: <http://ereserves.library.emory.edu>.

Canvas:

- Recorded lectures and their accompanying Powerpoint presentations, as well as any supplemental information and course-related announcements will be posted on <http://canvas.emory.edu>.

Technology

- Desktop or laptop computer (smartphone or tablet will not be sufficient)
- Microphone and webcam (separate or built-in)

- Reliable high-speed internet access
- MS Office365 applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Zoom client software

Course Requirements

Grading summary:

- 60% Weekly online quizzes in open-book/open-resource format (12 quizzes x 5 points each)
- 35% Participation in synchronous sessions and completion of in-class assignments
- 5% Engagement with asynchronous materials (i.e. viewing recorded lectures and slides)

Weekly quizzes:

There will be no midterm or final examinations. Instead, at the end of each week you will complete an online quiz featuring a combination multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. The short answer questions will typically ask you to define a term or concept encountered in the lectures or readings, or interpret a chart or table. You will be able to choose your own start time between 6pm on Friday and 11:50pm on Monday. Once started, you will have 60 minutes to complete it. You will be able to consult lecture notes or other resources while taking a quiz.

Participation in synchronous sessions:

Active and informed participation in the synchronous zoom sessions is expected of everyone. The sessions will feature a mix of discussion and collaborative work on various short in-class assignments. You are allowed one unexcused absence from a synchronous session without penalty. Each additional absence will incur a penalty of 1 point per 24 hours of lateness. Absences for personal or medical emergencies will be excused with appropriate note from physician or OUE counsellor. Engagement during these sessions gives you the opportunity to interact with the instructor and your peers, which is critical to understanding and applying the course material.

There will not be supplementary required readings in synchronous sections. The sections are designed to reinforce asynchronous lecture material and the associated course readings through activities and exercises. Furthermore, they will also offer the opportunity to clarify any part of the lecture content.

The course Canvas page will be the section's hub for all announcements, outline of weekly activities, and access to content relevant to the section activities. All students are expected to *regularly consult* the Canvas page.

Attendance and participation in weekly 75-minute synchronous sessions: These discussions will occur on Zoom, with a meeting link to be shared over Canvas. To receive full attendance and participation credit, students are expected to:

- **Join the Zoom meeting by the scheduled start time** of the section.
- **Maintain their video connection throughout the meeting.** If maintaining a video connection throughout the Zoom meeting is not possible, students are expected to contact the instructor to explain the extenuating circumstances preventing a video connection.
- **Participate in whole-group discussions.** During the Zoom meeting, the instructor will ask for student responses to polls and prompts, and/or for students to give short summary presentations of the results of activities and exercises.
- **Participate in breakout room discussions.** In many of the discussions, the instructor will divide students into several Zoom breakout rooms. Students are expected to maintain video/audio connection and actively participate throughout the breakout room discussion.

- **Minimize possible distractions.** Students should make every effort to reduce distractions that could interfere with discussion. One helpful way to do this is to mute one's microphone when not speaking in the whole-group discussion.

Engagement with asynchronous materials:

You will be expected to view recorded lectures and slide presentations. Canvas keeps track of student engagement with these materials (i.e. which files you view and for how long). These statistics will be used to calculate the engagement score.

Please note: Lectures and other classroom presentations presented through video conferencing and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students enrolled in the course. The release of such information (including but not limited to directly sharing, screen capturing, or recording content) is strictly prohibited, unless the instructor states otherwise. Doing so without the permission of the instructor will be considered an Honor Code violation, and may also be a violation of state or federal law, such as the Copyright Act. All University policies remain in effect for students participating in remote education.

Letter grades:

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A [93-100%], A- [90-92%], B+ [87-89%], B [83-86%], B- [80-82%], C+ [77-79%], C [73-76%], C- [70-72%], D+ [67-69%], D [63-66%], D- [60-62%], F [0-59%]

Students with accommodations:

Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor(s) with an accommodation notification letter from the [Department of Accessibility Services](#). Students are expected to give two weeks' notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with instructor(s) as soon as your accommodations have been finalized.

Honor Code:

The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

Courtesy in the Classroom:

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. For in-person classes this means no cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructors), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If students must have cell phones on to receive emergency calls about family members, they should keep their phones on "vibrate." In synchronous zoom sessions you should keep your microphone off (until recognized to speak by the instructors) to reduce extraneous noises and crosstalk, but please keep your webcam on throughout the entire session if at all possible.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

- Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.
- Related to the class and course material.

- Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.
- Are delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable behaviors include:

- Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- Interruptions of other students. Indicate your intention to speak and wait to be called on by the instructors.
- Use of raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and physical aggression.
- Ignoring the instructors' authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. When students are asked to discontinue a conversation that violates the guidelines that are outlined above, they are expected to stop.