

POLS 2010: Introduction to Comparative Politics

*Syllabus Fall 2016*

*East Carolina University, Political Science Department*

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Meeting time: T/TH 9.30 – 10.45am  
Meeting room: Brewster D309  
Instructor: Dr. Magda Giurcanu  
Office: Brewster A 118  
Email: [giurcanum16@ecu.edu](mailto:giurcanum16@ecu.edu)  
Office Hours: MWF 12.00 - 13.00 & T/TH 11.00 - 12.00  
Office Phone: 252 328 5427  
Course website: On Blackboard

All students are automatically enrolled in Blackboard after registration and can access the course using their ECU id and password. All communication about this course will be conducted via the blackboard system.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the comparative study of politics and governing across the world by outlining key concepts and examples of how different political systems are governed, how participation occurs, and how public decisions are made. After a general introduction to major concepts and theories in comparative politics, a variety of countries will be examined in an attempt to understand the effectiveness and functioning of different political systems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

**Knowledge Based Objectives:**

Upon completion, students are expected to be able to:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of key concepts used in comparative political analyses and interpret how those key concepts are reflected in the operations of various non-US political systems
- Conduct a comparative analysis using the comparative political analysis
- Write a well-constructed comparative analysis
- Demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge of the history, political culture, institutions and policy issues of Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China as well as an introductory level of knowledge of Mexico, Nigeria and Iran.

**Writing Intensive Designation Objectives:**

POLS 2010 is a writing intensive (WI) course in the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at ECU: <http://www.ecu.edu/writingwac/>. This course will focus on the development of writing skills. Upon completion of the course students will:

- Use writing to investigate complex, relevant topics and address significant questions through engagement with and effective use of credible sources.

- Produce writing that reflects an awareness of context, purpose, and audience, particularly within the written genres (Including genres that integrate writing with visuals, audio or other multimodal components) of their major disciplines and/or career fields.
- Demonstrate that they understand writing as a process that can be made more effective through drafting revision.
- Proofread and edit their own writing, avoiding grammatical and mechanical errors.
- Assess and explain the major choices that they make in their writing.

### COURSE MATERIALS

There are two texts for this course. The first provides a conceptual overview of concepts and the second illustrates how those concepts are operationalized in various political systems. Both books have been ordered through ECU bookstore and are available used through multiple online vendors.

- ✓ O'Neil, Patrick H., (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton. 5<sup>th</sup> ed (further referred to as ECP)
- ✓ O'Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. (2015). *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (further referred to as CCP)
- ✓ Additional materials for the class (videos, short news articles, links to various useful websites) will be available via Blackboard.

### GRADING POLICIES

Grading Scale: The course grade and individual exams will use the following scale:

<b>Course Average</b>	<b>Grade</b>
93 and above =	A
90 to 92 =	A-
87 to 89 =	B+
83 to 86 =	B
80 to 82 =	B-
77 to 79 =	C+
73 to 76 =	C
70 to 72 =	C-
67 to 69 =	D+
63 to 66 =	D
60 to 62 =	D-
Below 60 =	F

Students will be able access their grades throughout the course via Blackboard. Grades for individual assignments will be posted as soon as they are graded. Students may secure their final course grades via the Pirate Port <https://pirateport.ecu.edu/portal/> using their exchange user-id and password. Questions about final examination grades should be directed to the instructor who determined the grade.

Course Grade: The course grade is based on the following components:

Assignment	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	15%
First Exam	15%
Second Exam	25%
Final Exam	20%
WI Project	25%

Further policies regarding grading:

- A. Classroom Attendance and Participation (15% of the course grade)—come to class prepared to actively contribute to the discussion.

Class attendance is required for this course. (5%) This includes lectures attendance and weekly discussion sections. Attendance will be monitored as necessary during lectures (roll) and through participation in in-class assignments. If you arrive excessively late to class or if you leave class early, you will receive only partial credit for attendance. Your class attendance grade will be based on the percentage of classes that you attend (e.g., a student who attends every class will earn a 100; a student who attends half of the classes will earn a 50, etc.).

Participation in class discussions is also required. (5%) Throughout the course students are encouraged to raise questions and relevant discussion topics in class, and students are expected to contribute to class discussions. To prepare for discussions, it is important that assigned readings be completed prior to the corresponding class period.

Note: I make a strong distinction between attendance and participation. Attending every class, without ever speaking up, does not constitute participation. To receive credit for participation, students are required to ask questions, raise issues, express opinions, etc. regarding the topics covered, as well as respond to the questions. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking in class must contact me by the end of the second week of class at the latest to arrange for alternative methods of participation.

To facilitate discussion during the case study weeks, students will have to assemble country portfolios, which will be submitted throughout the semester (5%). These portfolios will contain at least one piece of weekly international news from the New York Times or the Washington Post, which are available on the Internet: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com); [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), or other news sites. Terminals are available in the Kim Lab, Mendenhall, the Library and elsewhere throughout the campus. The states we are considering are: UK, France, China, Russia, India, Iran, Brazil, and Nigeria. Students will sign up for a country during WEEK 2 and will start posting news items in the Country Folders in WEEK 3 and end in WEEK 13. **The news weekly submissions are due each Thursday 9am. Late submissions are not accepted. To make sure we cover all states, I will randomly assign students to groups of countries (democracies, non-democracies, and developing states). You may choose a state from your group of states.**

B. In-class exams (60% of the course grade): Sept 15, Nov 3, and final Dec 7

There are two exams and a final exam associated with this course. The first exam counts for 15% of the final grade, the second counts for 25%, and the final values 20%. The exams will NOT be cumulative and will be only on the material covered since the start of semester (for first exam) or since the previous exams (for the second and third exams). The first two exams will be scheduled during class time and each will consist of 25 multiple choice questions. The final exam scheduled in the final examination period will include more elaborate questions, such as short answers, fill in the blanks, and matching.

Failure to be present for any of the scheduled exams will result in an automatic "0." On all exam dates, please come prepared with a bubble sheet, Blue Book, and a pencil. If you cannot attend an exam, you must contact me at least 30 minutes before I have administered the test. I will grant a make-up exam only for circumstances that I deem extraordinary or for circumstances that meet university guidelines. If you miss an exam because of an illness, you are still required to contact me before the exam. You must also present me with proper verification as noted above.

C. University Writing Portfolio Requirement (25% of the course grade)

This course is designated "writing intensive" (WI) because, in addition to providing you with important content to learn, it has been designed to help you improve as a writer. Several years ago, ECU's University Writing Program instituted the WI graduation requirement (6 hours of WI coursework beyond English 1100 and 1200/2201, at least 3 hours of which must be in the major) with the goal of preparing students to be effective writers. As a university, we want to see how well we are doing in meeting that goal.

To assist with this effort, you will submit one major writing project, along with a description of the assignment for that project and a writing self-analysis, near the end of this course. These materials will be uploaded to your "University Writing Portfolio," which you will access and create (if you have not already done so in a previous WI course) through the "iWebfolio Student Portfolio" link in Pirate Port (<https://pirateport.ecu.edu/portal/>).

Each year, representatives of ECU's University Writing Program will randomly select a set of University Writing Portfolios from recently graduated students to assess how effectively ECU's writing programs meet the needs of ECU students. The assessment work of the University Writing Program has no bearing on your grades: assessments will only be done after a student graduates. Moreover, results of University Writing Portfolio assessments will only be used to improve instruction for future students and will never be reported in any way that connects those results to individual students.

**However, you cannot pass the class if you do NOT upload this paper to your writing portfolio. In other words, failure to do so will result in an automatic failing grade in this class. The deadline for doing this is December 1.**

Instructions for creating your University Writing Portfolio and uploading your materials are available online ([www.ecu.edu/QEP](http://www.ecu.edu/QEP)) and in person at the University Writing Center ([www.ecu.edu/writing/uwc](http://www.ecu.edu/writing/uwc)), located in Joyner Library.

**Writing Intensive Paper Topics:**

There are two issues from which you may choose to do your WI papers. Each of these topics is current and information is readily available. The instructor will place some resources for each of these topics on BB, but the resources will not be solely sufficient for you to do your papers. We will also discuss them in class. The topics are:

- The relocation of North African and Middle Eastern refugees
- When/ how do countries successfully transition to democratic forms of government

The paper has to compare two states that we cover in class with respect to the two broad themes identified above. The instructor is willing to meet with each student individually to discuss their topic and system selections. Narrowing of your topic to a manageable focus is a critical feature in making your project successful!

Each student is expected to address the following questions:

- What aspect/s of the general topic are you seeking to compare and why?
- What differences/similarities are you seeking to explain and why?
- What structural, value based, and process features of your political systems are involved in this topic and how?
- Why have the political systems adopted different responses?
- What potential or actual policy outcomes do their varying responses make?
- What data were used to back up your comparison and what limitations are inherent in them?

Steps during the semester:

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Portion of Paper Grade</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
1. Select a topic Select your political systems & prepare a topic focus and proposed outline of the paper	25%	Sept 22, 9am
2. Revise outline and develop a bibliography for your paper	25%	Oct 13, 9am
3. Develop a first draft and revise bibliography	25%	Nov 10, 9am
4. Submit your final draft to instructor	25%	Nov 29, 9am
5. Post your final draft to the QEP site (see below)	No grade awarded until final draft is submitted to QEP site	No later than December 1, 9am

All written assignments should be based on the APA style. A writing style guide based on the APA Manual has been attached to the blackboard site. Your papers are expected **to be 10 pages** (approx. 5000 words) in length, double spaced, use the 12-point font, and one inch margins. Your name and Banner number should be listed in the Header on each page. Each page should be numbered.

For additional information on citation and referencing please see the short guide for Acknowledging, Paraphrasing, and Quoting Sources”, available at the link below but also on blackboard. [http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Acknowledging\\_Sources.pdf](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Acknowledging_Sources.pdf)

**Final Steps to be followed:**

1. A final draft of a major writing project from the WI course must be submitted to the QEP site. (Be sure your **Banner ID #** is on this draft),
2. A description of the assignment for which the project was written should be included, and
3. A writing self-analysis document (a component of our QEP). The questions to be answered in this self-analysis document can be downloaded from the [QEP website](#) and are included within the University Writing Portfolio itself.

The self-analysis questions are:

1. What aspects of your writing in the project are effective and why do you think they are effective?
2. What do you think could be improved in your written project and how could it be improved?
3. Briefly describe the process you used to write the project. Do you think the process you used was effective? Why or why not?
4. Have you applied anything that you learned in previous WI courses, including English 1100 and 2201, to the writing you have done in this course? What have you applied and how have you applied it?

Here is the direct link to the **Student checklist for UWPort**: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/qep/upload/Student-Checklist-12-7-15WEB.htm>.

COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance:** I will excuse absences, including those on exam dates, for the following reasons: (1) participation in an authorized activity as an official representative of the university (this includes athletic events, university-sponsored performances, or academic conferences); (2) participation in other activities deemed by the Dean of Students to warrant an excused absence; (3) an extreme personal emergency; (4) the death of an immediate family member; (5) participation in a religious holiday; and (6) health reasons such as an incapacitating or contagious illness or unavoidable surgery.

If your absence meets any of the criteria mentioned above, I will need you to present me with some form of verification no later than one week after the absence if you wish to have your absence excused. Some acceptable forms of verification include the following: a note from Student Health Services; a note from a doctor or medical office; an obituary; or official documentation from the athletic department indicating your travel schedule.

**Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted on line (where appropriate), by the deadline, and handed in to the instructor, at the beginning of the class. Make up exams and late final

papers will not be accepted unless there are serious legitimate reasons. Provision of a signed medical note is required, and notice must be given PRIOR to the deadline.

**Academic Integrity:** The standard plagiarism and academic integrity rules apply, i.e. all the materials you submit in paper or online must be the results of your own individual work. Any signs of plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The university code of academic integrity will be strictly enforced in this course. According to the East Carolina University Honor Code, violations of academic integrity include the following:

- *Cheating.* Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- *Plagiarism.* Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's own original work.
- *Falsification.* Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.
- *Attempts.* Attempting any act that if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

For more information about university policies concerning academic Integrity, please visit the web at [http://issuu.com/ecustudentaffairs/docs/at\\_the\\_helm/111.htm](http://issuu.com/ecustudentaffairs/docs/at_the_helm/111.htm) . If you violate the Honor Code you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Board for disciplinary action. The penalties for violating the university code of academic integrity *range* from having assigned an F for that particular assignment to more stringent measures such as failure in the course and/or expulsion from the university.

**Courtesy:** Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions, sleeping in class) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class. Do not leave before class is dismissed. **Students who benefit from using their computers to take notes during class must sit in the front of the class.** Please be courteous to your classmates and respectful of your fellow students' views, comments, and questions.

**Disability Services Statement:** East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY)). <http://www.ecu.edu/accessibility/>

**Campus Emergencies and Severe Weather:** In case of campus wide emergencies, you may obtain information about changes in the University class schedule by calling 252 328-0062. **ECU Alert:** In addition, in case of adverse weather or other campus emergencies you may consult <http://www.ecu.edu/alert/> for information.

If and when face-to-face classes are suspended, you will receive an email from me and a Blackboard Announcement that detail how we will communicate, where you can locate course information and what you can expect during this time period. I realize that some of you may be

affected by the event and not able to participate, however I will continue to provide instruction to those that are able to continue. If the university has not canceled classes, but you commute to campus from a considerable distance and believe driving conditions may be hazardous, I will consider excusing your absence.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### **WEEK 1: August 23-25: Introduction to the Course and Comparative Politics**

Issues covered:

- What is comparative politics
- The comparative method

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 1

CCP Chapter 1

#### **WEEK 2 August 30-Sept 1: Introduction to Comparative Politics (cont.) & The origin and Role of States**

**Students sign up for country folders on Tuesday.**

Issues covered:

- What is a state?
- The 'modern' state
- Comparing states

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 2

#### **WEEK 3 Sept 6-8: Nations, Nationality and Identity**

**COUNTRY FOLDERS START DUE EVERY Thursday 9am.**

Issues covered:

- Ethnic identity vs. national identity
- Citizenship and patriotism
- Political Attitudes and Ideology

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 3

#### **WEEK 4 Sept 13-15: Political Economy**

**First in-class exam on Thursday, Sept 15**

Issues covered:

- Systems of political economy
- Evaluation of political and economic systems

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 4

#### **WEEK 5 Sept 20-22: Democratic Regimes**

**Step 1 of the WI Project: Select a topic and propose an outline by Thursday Sept 22, 9am.**

Issues covered:

- Democracy and democratization

- Institutions and political systems (legislative, executive, judiciary, and electoral rules)
- The European Union

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 5 & Chapter 8

**WEEK 6 Sept 27-29 Case Studies of Democracies (1)**

Issues covered:

- Historical Development of the UK
- Political Conflict in the UK; Brexit

*Readings:*

CCP Chapter 2

**WEEK 7 Oct 4-6 Case Studies of Democracies (2)**

Issues covered:

- Historical Development of France
- Political Conflict in France; The Rise of the Far Right

*Readings:*

CCP Chapter 4

**WEEK 8 Oct 13 Non-Democratic Regimes (short week)**

**Step 2 of the WI Project: Revised outline and bibliography by Thursday Oct 13, 9am**

Issues covered:

- Types of non-democratic regimes
- Political Control in non-democratic regimes
- Retreat of Retrenchment of non-democratic regimes

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 6

**WEEK 9 Oct 18-20 COMMUNISM and POSTCOMMUNISM**

Issues covered:

- Communist legacies and transitions
- Communism in practice; political economy

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 9

**WEEK 10 Oct 25-27 Cases of Non-Democratic Regimes (1)**

Issues covered:

- Russia's Historical Development
- Features of the Political Regime
- Foreign Relations and the World

*Readings:*

CCP Chapter 7

**WEEK 11 Nov 1-3 Case of Non-Democratic Regimes (2)**

**Second in-class exam on Thursday, Nov 3**

Issues covered:

- China's historical development
- Experimentation under Mao; Confucianism; State Capitalism

*Readings:*

CCP Chapter 8

**WEEK 12 Nov 8-10 Developing Countries & Case Studies (1)**

**Step 3 of the WI Project: Develop a first draft and revise bibliography by Thursday, Nov 10**

Issues covered:

- Defining and understanding 'less developed' countries (origins and implications)
- Historical Development of the Indian State
- India's political regime; Pakistan and the Kashmir's dispute

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 10

CCP Chapter 10

**WEEK 13 Nov 15-17 Cases of Developing Countries (2)**

**LAST COUNTRY FOLDER SUBMISSION**

Issues covered:

- Iran's historical development; Pahlavi's Dynasty; the Iranian Revolution
- Historical development of Brazil; The military in Brazil; MERCOSUR
- Historical development of Nigeria; Conflict and civil war; Boko Haram

*Readings:*

CCP Chapter 10, Chapter 12 and Chapter 14

**WEEK 14 Nov 22 Discussion on the WI projects**

Issues covered:

- Progress on the WI projects; Bibliography, references, and citations

*Readings:*

- Related to APA style and plagiarism

**WEEK 15 Nov 29 Dec 1 Political Violence and Globalization**

**Step 4 Submit your final draft to the instructor of the WI by Nov 29, 9am**

**Step 5 Upload your final draft to the QEP site by Dec 1, 9am**

Issues covered:

- Origins of political violence; Types of political violence: revolutions, terrorism
- Understanding globalization

*Readings:*

ECP Chapter 7 and ECP Chapter 11

**FINAL TEST** scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, at 8.00 – 10.30 pm.