

**Southern Illinois University Carbondale**  
Department of Political Science  
Fall 2018

**POLS 250-Section 950**  
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Instructor: Kimberly Turner  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30 pm  
Thursday 11:30-1 pm

**Course description:** Comparative politics is one of the major subfields in political science and focuses on examining phenomena such as civil conflict, elections, and institutional capabilities and responses. This course will provide students with an overview of the world's political and governmental systems, as well as methods typically employed in the subfield. Primary focus will be in exploring the variation in governmental institutions of governments around the world to modern phenomena. These differences in institutions may lead to differing policy outcomes as well derive from differing citizen-state relationships.

Upon successful completion of the course, it is expected that the student should be able to understand the differences in economic development, civil society, political culture, and political behavior. Students should also have a thorough foundation of difference in electoral systems, forms of government, synthesize major themes of comparative politics.

**Required textbook:** O'Neil, Fields and Share. 2018. *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics: An Integrated Approach*. Norton Publishing.

**Course Topics:**

1. States
2. Nations and Society
3. Political Economy
4. Political Violence
5. Democratic Regimes
6. Developed Democracies
7. Non Democratic Regimes
8. Communism and Post Communism
9. Developing Countries

**ATTENDANCE:** It is imperative, and **required**, that you log-on a **minimum** of twice per week. Just as attendance is required in a traditional classroom, attendance is key to the learning experience online as well. To facilitate collegiality and discussion, students are required to log/on and post twice a week during weeks where a blog assignment is due, **once before midnight on Tuesday of each week, and once after Wednesday 8am and before midnight Saturday of each week.** You may post more than this if you like

but not less as these are graded discussion lines. If you post twice in a week, fulfilling the minimal requirements of posting, but both take place in the former or later part of the week, you will **NOT** have fulfilled the requirement. Please see the section on Discussion section for more detailed information on the nature and requirements of your posts.

**Logging on and checking email:**

Students are required to log on twice per week into their email accounts as well as the D2L portal. As entrance into the portals are date and time stamped, the instructor will be able to track student attendance and ensure students are progressing appropriately. Frequent logging in is key as announcements regarding grades, due dates, IT issues, exam results problems will be updated frequently and it is the student's lone responsibility to ensure he/she is fully updated at all times. **On weeks where assessments are due, each student MUST log-in no later than 24 hours after the exam to see if there is any communication from the instructor regarding any submission issues!** This is required and students will not receive extended deadlines or additional opportunities to resubmit their quiz because they failed to check their email or the portals within the 24 hour time period. This is explained in more detail in the Assessments section.

The only email account allowed for this class is the SIU email account. The instructor will not receive nor respond to emails from private accounts to ensure clear channels of communication. It is each student's responsibility to follow these attendance/email policies properly. Any student who fails to follow these policies will not, under **any circumstances**, be given additional opportunities, extended deadlines, or any other grade recourse.

The university's absence policy regarding university-approved activities, religious holidays and other personal absences can be found at:  
<https://registrar.siu.edu/students/attendance.php>

**Please note communication with instructor are not instantaneous! As such, students should expect to hear back from the instructor with any questions and/or issues within 24 hours, however, please be patient and recognize and respect that instructors may be delayed in answering your questions and requests by 24 hours. A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine. Any issues that may emerge due to technical issues for both the student and platform will be given the appropriate consideration by the instructor. As this is an online class, both the student and instructor may encounter technical issues within the semester, and as I will have patience and understanding on my part regarding legitimate technical issues, the same consideration is expected on the part of the student. Please make sure to adjust your expectations accordingly.**

**Withdrawal Policy:** "Students who officially register for a session must officially withdraw from that registration in a timely manner to avoid being charged as well as receiving a failing grade for those classes. An official withdrawal must be initiated by the student, or on behalf of the student through the academic unit, and be processed by the

Registrar's office." For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from SIU visit: [http:// registrar.siu.edu/students/withdrawal.php](http://registrar.siu.edu/students/withdrawal.php)

**Sexual Harassment:** The College has a clear and firm policy prohibiting sexual harassment. Such conduct will not be tolerated in class, and victims are encouraged to report any unwelcome sexual advances to appropriate school authorities (see College Catalog and/or Student Handbook). Learning is best achieved in an environment of mutual respect and trust.

**Special Needs:** "SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Disability Support Services coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or [disabilityservices.siu.edu](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu). You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty.

**Academic Misconduct:** It is expected that students in this course will maintain the highest standards of intellectual honesty in carrying out their academic assignments. Anyone involved in dishonesty- i.e. plagiarizing or cheating on course work inside or outside the classroom-will minimally receive a failing grade on the assignment and, at the instructor's discretion, may possibly receive a failing grade in the course. Intellectual honesty and integrity are essential attributes of an educated person (see Student Handbook for further information on academic misconduct).

**Grading:**

6 Quizzes	22%	120 pts
6 Blogs	47%	300 pts
Midterm Exam	15.5%	100 pts
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>15.5%</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
<b>Total points</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>620pts</b>

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D

**Lectures:**

Lectures are intended to expand upon and explain the readings in the course and common themes, methods, and discussions had within the comparative field. There will never be

more than five lectures scheduled per week. Lectures are a combination of video captures and powerpoints and as such students will need to be able to play videos via whichever internet platform you use and have access to Microsoft Powerpoint. Videos will be posted every Wednesday and Friday by noon and are intended to address areas the instructor believes need clarification or extra exploration from that provided in the textbook. As noted in the announcement on the D2L shell on 9/12, students will only be responsible for the lecture materials on the midterm and final exam. Lecture materials will cross over terms, concepts, and topics within the textbook but for quizzes, only the textbook materials will be utilized within the quizzes.

**DISCUSSIONS:** The Discussion section is your classroom. It is where the students and instructor are able to interact between one another and learn from each other's ideas. As such, it is a forum of academic freedom but there is E-Etiquette that must be maintained. Use of coarse, foul, aggressive, or inappropriate language is strictly prohibited. Harassment of, or a verbal attack on another student or the instructor, regarding their positions, politics, backgrounds, etc is strictly prohibited. This firmly falls under the Anti-Harassment policy maintained by the college even though the class is online.

Every other week, a discussion topic pertaining to that week's reading assignment is posted. Each student must **post an initial blog-length response by midnight of Tuesday to the discussion question.** To facilitate discussion and learning environment online, students will come back later in the week (after 8 am Wednesday of the *same* week and **no later than midnight Saturday of that week**) and respond to at least 2 other student's initial responses.

In order to ensure students are logging on at least twice a week, you may not comment to other students **BEFORE 8 am Wednesday**, to allow each student to get their initial response submitted for peer comments/responses.

Initial posts must be a minimum of 800-1000 words. These must be spell and grammar checked for readability (so please type in some word processing application and then copy and paste to the Discussion Board before posting). Peer comments should be a minimum of 350 words and also grammar and spell checked. Each initial post is worth 30 points, and each peer response is worth 10 points each, for a weekly total of 50 points per discussion board. As blogs require substantive research, students are expected to spend time conducting external research on the topic (**outside of the textbook information!**) and utilizing appropriate sources and citations. As such, there will not be any additional assignments allocated to those weeks to ensure students have sufficient time to properly research and answer the blog questions.

**Assessments:** All quizzes are found under the weekly folders in D2L. Students will take all quizzes online. There are a total of 6 quizzes, each worth 20 points, for a total of 120 points. Online quizzes are assumed to be open book, open notes. These are timed quizzes, and students should prepare for these assessments as if you were taking the quiz in a classroom without notes. Each quiz will be comprised of multiple choice questions. Students will have **50** minutes to complete the test, and may take the test only **once**. After

50 minutes, the quiz will time out. Timed out quizzes close resulting in a zero grade. As such, it is imperative that students have a secure and reliable internet connection, and must complete the test within one sitting.

Within 24 hours after an assessment is due, each student must log in as well as check their email for communication from the instructor. While tests will not be graded yet, it is imperative you check to see if there is any communication regarding any problem with your exam submitting properly. If there is a problem with the instructor being able to access your exam, an email communication will be sent to you within 24 hours, asking that you resubmit the exam again for testing. If there is a problem and an exam needs to be resubmitted, the deadline for re-submitting is typically within a 24-36 hour time frame, so it is very important students follow up within the 24 hour period laid out in the syllabus. **STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO CHECK THEIR EMAIL AND THE PORTALS WITHIN THE 24 HOUR DEADLINE, AND SO MISS THE DEADLINE FOR RE-SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL TIME NOR HAVE A CHANCE TO RESUBMIT THEIR TEST. THEY WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO FOR THE QUIZ EVEN THOUGH YOU TOOK IT WITHIN THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE...THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

Exams: Students will complete a midterm and final exam. Midterms will include all materials provided until week 9, including textbook and lecture materials. The final exam will cover all materials of the second half of the semester, including textbook and lecture materials. All exams are conducted online, unless students make alternative arrangements with the instructor. Exams will be made available the first day of the week they are assigned. Deadlines are listed in the course schedule and students should take care to complete and submit exams before the deadline. Deadline extensions are generally not possible.

**Incomplete Grades:** An incomplete grade (I) is generally not an option in this course. Only on rare occasions will the instructor consider awarding an incomplete grade for cases of serious illness with doctor verification, or other extreme emergencies.

*The syllabus may be modified by the instructor at any time.*

*All students are advised to refer to their syllabus regularly throughout the semester*

## Revised Schedule

<b>Week 5</b> 9/17-9/21	Lecture: New shell Lecture: Comparative Method Lecture: CH. 2 The state and France Read: France	<i>Pages 260-290</i>
<b>Week 6</b> 9/24-9/28	Lecture: Comparative Federal systems Lecture: Ch. 3 Nation and Society Lecture: Ideologies Read: S. Africa	Pgs. 629-660 <i>Assignment Due: Blog #2</i>
<b>Week 7</b> 10/1-10/5	Lecture: Comparative Advantage and the Basics of Political economy Lecture: How does it work? FDI and other investments Lecture: How do we measure? Read: Political Economy	CH. 4 <i>Assignment Due: Quiz #3</i>
<b>Week 8</b> 10/8-10/12	Lecture: Institutions and Power/France Lecture: Institutions and Power/S. Africa Lecture: Institutions and Power/China Read: China	Pgs 442-478 <i>Assignment Due: Blog #3</i>
<b>Week 9</b> 10/15-10/19	<b>Midterm Exam Week</b> Comparative Political economic institutions and structures: Lectures: France Lectures: S. Africa Lectures: China	<i>Midterm Exam is Due by 11:59 10/18</i>
<b>Week 10</b> 10/22-10/26	Lecture: Authoritarian regimes Lecture: Totalitarian regimes Lecture: Anocracies and Illiberal Regimes Read: Non Democratic Regimes	Ch. 8 <i>Assignment Due: Quiz #4</i>
<b>Week 11</b> 10/29-11/2	Lecture: Power Lecture: How do we measure? Lecture: Putin and the return of the Russian Empire Read: Russia	Pgs 416-442 <i>Assignment Due: Blog #4</i>

<p><b>Week 12</b> 11/5-11/9</p>	<p>Lecture: Marxism, Leninism, Maoism Lecture: Economic weakness of Communism and Post Communism forms Lecture: Democratic Socialism and the Great Recession Read: Communism and Post Communism</p>	<p>Ch. 9 <i>Assignment Due: Quiz #5</i></p>
<p><b>Week 13</b> 11/12-11/16</p>	<p>Lecture: Regional Powers Iran and Iraq Lecture: Proxy Wars: Iran in the Iraqi and Syrian conflicts Lecture: International cooperation: Iran and the nuclear deal Read: Iran</p>	<p>Pgs 541-566 <i>Assignment Due: Blog #5</i></p>
<p><b>Week 14</b> 11/19-11/23</p>	<p><i>Thanksgiving Break 11/17-11/25</i> Lecture: China in Africa Lecture: Russian in Syria Lecture: Russia and Chinese FP to N. Korea</p>	<p><i>Happy Gobble Gobble DAY!</i></p>
<p><b>Week 15</b> 11/26-11/30</p>	<p>Lecture: War Lecture: Terrorism Lecture: Revolution Lecture: Contentious Politics I Lecture: Contentious Politics II Read: Political Violence</p>	<p>Ch. 5 <i>Assignment Due: Quiz #6</i></p>
<p><b>Week 16</b> 12/3-12/7</p>	<p>Lecture: Contentious Politics III Lecture: Theories of Dependency Lecture: The New NICS Lecture: The Rentiers Lecture: Weak and Failed States Read: Developing Countries</p>	<p>CH. 10 <i>Assignment Due: Blog #6</i></p>
<p><b>Week 17</b> 12/10-12/14</p>	<p><b>Final Exam Week</b></p>	

## Old Original Schedule

Date	Title	Chapter
<b>Week 1</b> 8/20-8/24	Introduction	Introduction Survey
<b>Week 2</b> 8/27-8/31	States  <i>Instructor out of town 8/28-9/3 for conference</i>	<i>Ch. 2</i> <b>Quiz #1</b> <i>No Office Hours this week due to instructor travel</i>
<b>Week 3</b> 9/3-9/7	France  <b>Labor Day Monday 9/3</b>	<i>Pages 260-290</i> <b>Blog #1</b>  <i>No office hours on 9/4 Office hours resume on 9/6</i>
<b>Week 4</b> 9/10-9/14	Nation and Society	Ch. 3 <b>Quiz #2</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 9/17-9/21	S. Africa	Pgs. 629-660 <b>Blog #2</b>
<b>Week 6</b> 9/24-9/28	Political Economy	CH. 4 <b>Quiz #3</b>
<b>Week 7</b> 10/1-10/5	China	Pgs 442-478 <b>Blog #3</b>
<b>Week 8</b> 10/8-10/12	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Midterm Exam is Due by 11:59 10/11</b>
<b>Week 9</b> 10/15-10/19	Non Democratic Regimes	Ch. 8 <b>Quiz #4</b>
<b>Week 10</b> 10/22-10/26	Communism and Post Communism	Ch. 9 <b>Quiz #5</b>
<b>Week 11</b> 10/29-11/2	Russia	Pgs 416-442 <b>Blog #4</b>
<b>Week 12</b> 11/5-11/9	Political Violence	Ch. 5 <b>Quiz #6</b>
<b>Week 13</b> 11/12-11/16	Iran	Pgs 541-566 <b>Blog #5</b>
<b>Week 14</b> 11/19-11/23	<b>Thanksgiving Break 11/17-11/25</b>	<b>Happy Gobble Gobble DAY!</b>
<b>Week 15</b> 11/26-11/30	Developing Countries	CH. 10 <b>Quiz #7</b>
<b>Week 16</b> 12/3-12/7	Iran	Pgs 540-566 <b>Blog #6</b>
<b>Week 17</b> 12/10-12/14	<b>Final Exam Week</b>	