

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT
PLSC 211
Online (Summer 2015)

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Office Hours: Online

Section/CRN: PLSC 211 - 54251
Class Timing: Online
Location: <https://canvas.emich.edu/>

Course Overview

From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the rise of ethnic and religious nationalisms to the new challenges of a global marketplace, the world's politics are in transition. As people and events around the world become more interconnected, it is increasingly vital to understand the dramatic political changes going into the 21st century in order to gain global awareness and perspectives on the diverse world in which we live. This course offers an introduction to the study of politics and political issues in countries around the world, with particular focus on cases selected to reflect the diversity of societies and political systems. In comparing specific national responses to common problems, we will be learning not only about how governments work and how people change their form of government, but also about methods of comparative analysis (i.e., how to gain perspective through comparison); and about how the global context shapes and interacts with diverse peoples and governments. The course material is organized thematically; countries of diverse economic, social, and cultural types will be compared regarding a variety of topics (such as democracy, authoritarianism, capitalism, socialism, nationalism, development, and globalization).

This course is part of the General Education Program. As per the General Education Program, the class will meet the following objectives:-

- Explore specific global issues influencing diverse nations and/or cultures, along with their interrelations within the global community.
- Explore their own culture and cultural practices and how these relate to the cultures and cultural practices of others in the global community.
- Explore the social and historical dynamics that create and influence nations, governments, global alliances, and global conflicts.
- Explore the causes and consequences of social, cultural, and racial intolerance in the world.
- Analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources to make informed decisions regarding global issues.

Materials/Text

There is one required text available for purchase at campus bookstores or through any online vendor:

1. Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context (2nd Edition). Authors. Carol Ann Drogus and Stephen Orvis (**D&S**)
ISBN: 978-1-60871-668-5

An important component in understanding the theories in comparative politics is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore in this class we will regularly be discussing world events in our various online discussions, and as students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that you should daily read a major newspaper (New York Times, US News etc). Another resource that you can use are websites of major news networks. (www.cnn.com, www.bbc.co.uk/news, abcnews.go.com etc.)

Course Requirements

The class will involve a combination of online lectures, two writing assignments, weekly online discussions and tests as well as exams. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly participate in the online discussions, complete the writing assignments in timely manner, take the tests and exams during the time they are available and open, and regularly read news coverage of current events. The class will be offered through Canvas.

Grades, Assignments and Evaluation

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

- (300) – Cumulative Final Examination
- (300) – Midterm Exams
- (200) – Tests 1 and 2 and 3
- (100) – One writing assignment worth 100 points.
- (100) – Participation in online discussions

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D- = 55-59%	D- = 550-599
F = below 55%	F = 549 & below

Academic Honesty

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to Eastern Michigan University's policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: www.emich.edu/studentconduct/.

I would like to emphasize that you should **not assume** what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to email me. Furthermore you should **always check** with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment; until so assigned to by the instructor.

Students with Special Needs

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Students with Disabilities Office (SDO) in 240 EMU Student Center. You may contact SDO by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the SDO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus

All tests, exams and assignments will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

Syllabus

Week 1 (May 4 – May 8): Introduction to class and The State in International Politics

- Chapter 1: Introduction (D&S)
- Chapter 2: The Modern State (D&S)

Week 2 (May 11 – May 15): States and Identity

- Chapter 4: State and Identity (D&S)
- **Test 1 (Exam is online and can be taken at any time during this week)**

Week 3 (May 18 – May 26): States and its relationship with Markets

- Chapter 5: States and Market (D&S)
- **Midterm Exams (Exam is online and can be taken at any time during this week)**

Week 4 (May 25 – May 29): States and Political Institutions within the state

- Chapter 6: Political Institutions: Governing (D&S)
- Chapter 7: Political Institutions: Participation and Representation (D&S)
- Chapter 8: Authoritarian Institutions (D&S)

Week 5 (June 1st – June 5th): Regime Change

- Chapter 9: Regime Change: Coups, Revolutions and Democratization. (D&S)
- **Test 2 (Exam is online and can be taken at any time during this week)**

Week 6 (June 8 – June 12): Globalization

- Chapter 10: Globalization, Deindustrialization and Development. (D&S)
- **Writing Assignment Due**

Week 7 (June 15 – June 19): Politics and Public Policies

- Chapter 11: Public Policy When Markets Fail: Welfare, Health and the Environment. (D&S)
- Chapter 12: Policies and Politics of inclusion and Clashing Values. (D&S)
- Role of MNC's and TNC's in Global Political Economy – Readings to be assigned online

Final Exams (June 22 – June 16)

Exam is online and can be taken on any day/time during the above week.