

## Introduction to Comparative Government, PLSC 211, CRN 15437

Fall 2018

Eastern Michigan University

T/Th 2:00 - 3:15 p.m., 420 Pray Harrold

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Off. Hrs.: T/Th 8:00-10:30 a.m.

From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the “Arab spring” 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 of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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, globalization). This strategy of identifying political similarities and differences, then developing and testing explanations, can be used to analyze politics anywhere. **This course satisfies the Global Awareness requirement of EMU’s General Education curriculum.**

Course readings highlight comparative aspects of selected liberal capitalist industrialized democracies (the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, Japan); communist and post-communist states (China & Russia); and the so-called “Third World” or developing countries (India, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, and Iran).

**Part I** of the course takes a critical look at comparative politics itself: Is it true that “comparisons are odious,” or can some comparisons be illuminating? This part of the course will focus on the key concepts and methods used in comparing political systems. **Part II** of the course provides an overview of some patterns and concepts that are useful tools for comparative political analysis. We will examine selected country cases along specific dimensions of comparison, focusing on variables of political history, political institutions, political culture & ideology, and political economy. **Part III** compares different regime types and sub-types, focusing on such categories as capitalism, socialism, democracy and authoritarianism. **Part IV** examines global political trends in comparative perspective, including issues of democratization, development, and the phenomena of nationalism and globalization. In this section we will consider how different political systems process substantive issues of contention including development policies, social policies, and questions of group values.

## **Requirements, grading, and other policies:**

**1) Be prepared and participate** - Students are expected to come to each class prepared to participate in discussion of the assigned reading. That means you will need to plan your schedule to do the readings listed for each date *\*before\** that class.

You should also **follow current political developments around the world**. Good sources include the daily *New York Times*, <http://global.nytimes.com> or *Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com>. Periodicals with analysis of politics around the world include *The Economist*, *The Nation*, and *Current History*. Good radio news broadcasts include BBC News (online at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world> or broadcast on WUOM, 91.7 FM, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.); or National Public Radio (<http://news.npr.org> or WEMU, 89.1 FM, on the hour). Alternative, non-commercial news can be found at Democracy Now!, <http://www.democracynow.org>.

Some excellent **sources of information on politics in countries around the world** include:

BBC Country Profiles	<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm</a>
Political Resources on the Web	<a href="http://www.politicalresources.net">http://www.politicalresources.net</a>
Worldwide Governments on the WWW	<a href="http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html">http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html</a>
U.S. Dept. of State, Background Notes	<a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/</a>
OneWorld country/topic guides	<a href="http://uk.oneworld.net/guides">http://uk.oneworld.net/guides</a>
The Economist, topic/country briefings	<a href="http://www.economist.com/topics">http://www.economist.com/topics</a>
Pew Global Attitudes Project	<a href="http://www.pewglobal.org/">http://www.pewglobal.org/</a>

Other useful sites for coverage of **current events** include:

World News Network	<a href="http://wn.com/">http://wn.com/</a>
One World – Daily Headlines	<a href="http://oneworld.org/news">http://oneworld.org/news</a>
CNN World News	<a href="http://cnn.com/WORLD/index.html">http://cnn.com/WORLD/index.html</a>
Public Radio International/GlobalPost	<a href="https://www.pri.org/programs/globalpost">https://www.pri.org/programs/globalpost</a>

**2) Exams, papers, and grading** - There will be **two exams** during the semester (midterm and final), and **two short paper assignments**. Academic dishonesty, defined in the EMU Student Conduct Code, will be penalized. Exams will cover material from the readings **and** class. Students are expected to do the assigned reading **before** each class, and also read a daily newspaper or similar news source.

**Grades** will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Exam	= 20%	Thurs. Oct. 11
Short paper #1 (3-4 pp.)	= 15%	Thurs. Nov. 8
Short paper #2 (3-4 pp.)	= 15%	Thurs. Dec. 6
Final Exam	= 30%	Tues. Dec. 18
Class participation, including attendance, quizzes, presentations & class assignments	= 20%	
	100%	

**Country assignments** - At the beginning of the semester, **each of you will be assigned one of the 13 countries** that are the main cases used to illustrate concepts in your textbook:

Brazil  
China  
France  
Germany  
India  
Iran  
Japan  
Mexico  
Nigeria  
Russia  
South Africa  
United Kingdom  
United States

You will be expected to follow current political developments in your assigned country, and come to class prepared to discuss how the course themes and readings relate to that country. Your two short paper assignments will also involve relating course material to the comparative politics of your assigned country.

### **3) Other class requirements & policies:**

**a) Occasional class assignments** may include presentations, quizzes, or short written assignments (which may count as part of your class participation grade).

**b) Late work** will be reduced one letter grade per day, and missed exams or quizzes will receive a zero, unless there is a legitimate documented excuse.

#### **c) Communications:**

You are responsible for regularly **checking your emich email** account, where you may occasionally receive announcements and materials relevant to the class. (If you prefer to use another email address, you should set up your “my.emich” account to automatically forward to the other address.)

#### **d) Electronics:**

**Please turn off cell phones during class. Sending or receiving text messages during class is rude and distracting, and you may be asked to leave the classroom. Looking at your cell phone during class will negatively affect your participation grade.** You may use laptops for taking notes, however other uses (such as games, email or Facebook) are inappropriate during class.

### **4) Other campus resources you should be aware of:**

\*University Writing Center, 115 Halle and 211 Pray Harrold,

<http://www.emich.edu/english/writing-center/>

Available to help you with your academic writing needs

\*Academic Projects Center, 116 Halle, <http://www.emich.edu/apc/>  
One-on-one writing, research, and technology assistance

\*Holman Success Center, G04 Halle Library, <http://www.emich.edu/hsc>  
Peer tutoring and other study skills support

\*Counseling and Psychological Services, 313 Snow Health Center, <http://www.emich.edu/caps/>  
Confidential help with personal difficulties and life coping skills

\*Department of Public Safety, 1200 Oakwood St., <http://www.emich.edu/publicsafety/>

## **5) University policies (The stuff their lawyers wrote):**

### **a) Special Needs Accommodations**

*"If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in 246 EMU Student Center. You may contact the DRC by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the DRC promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible. The Disability Resource Center, 246 EMU Student Center, or at [www.emich.edu/disabilities](http://www.emich.edu/disabilities) can provide you with detailed guidance."*

### **b) Student and Exchange VISitor Statement (SEVIS)**

*"The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) requires F and J students to report the following to the Office for International Students & Scholars, 240 EMU Student Center within ten (10) days of the event:*

- *Changes in your name, local address, major field of study, or source of funding;*
- *Changes in your degree-completion date;*
- *Changes in your degree-level (ex Bachelors to Masters)*
- *Intent to transfer to another school.*

*Prior permission from OISS is needed for the following:*

- *Dropping ALL courses as well as carrying or dropping BELOW minimum credit hours;*
- *Employment on or off-campus;*
- *Registering for more than one ONLINE course per term (F visa only)*
- *Endorsing I-20 or DS-2019 for re-entry into the USA.*

*Failure to report may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and even arrest and deportation. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Office for International Students & Scholars at 734.487.3116, not the course instructor."* <https://www.emich.edu/oiss/>

### **c) Academic dishonesty**

*"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, Community Standards*

*& Wellness for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Code of Community Responsibility 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: <https://www.emich.edu/policies/index.php?p=8.1>*

For more detailed information on what is **plagiarism and how to avoid it**, see: <http://guides.emich.edu/c.php?g=611337&p=4935583>

#### **d) Religious holidays**

University Policy 6.2.5: “*Current University policy recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. Students will provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations, they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, the student may appeal to the school director or head(s) of department(s) in which the course(s) is / are offered.*”

#### **e) Classroom Management Issues**

“*Students are expected to abide by the Code of Community Responsibility and assist in creating an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the rights of all members of the University Community. Incivility and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave class and referral to the Office of Student Conduct, Community Standards & Wellness for discipline. Examples of inappropriate classroom conduct include repeatedly arriving late to class, using a mobile/cellular phone while in the class session, or talking while others are speaking.*”

You may access the Code online at: <https://www.emich.edu/policies/index.php?p=8.1>

**6) Readings - Most required readings** are contained in the following book, available at the EMU Book Store that serves the campus:

**O’Neil**, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share, *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics: An Integrated Approach* (New York & London: W.W. Norton, 2018). ISBN: 978-0-393-63130-2

**\*Note** that there is a digital (e-book) version available that is cheaper than the paperback edition!

**Other required reading** will be in pdf files available (free) through the course Canvas (<https://canvas.emich.edu/>) page, or material distributed in class. You should read the Canvas page for each “Module” of the class at the beginning of the week.

**Updates:** The schedule, readings and other course material, and assignments are subject to change. Please check your emich.edu email regularly for updates.

## **PART I: COMPARATIVE QUESTIONS, CONCEPTS, AND METHODS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Th Sept. 6

## DOING COMPARATIVE POLITICS: WHAT, WHY, AND HOW

T Sept. 11 - O'Neil, Ch. 1 (Introduction)

Th Sept. 13 - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, & Sona Nadenichek Golder, "The Comparative Method: An Overview and Critique," *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2018), pp. 35-40.

## STATES, REGIMES, AND IDEOLOGIES

T Sept. 18 - O'Neil, Ch. 2 (States)

Th Sept. 20 - Andrew Heywood, "Political Ideologies: An Introduction," 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (N.Y.: Macmillan, 2017),  
<https://www.macmillanihe.com/companion/Heywood-Political-Ideologies-6e/resources/>

## NATIONS, NATIONALISM AND IDENTITY

T Sept. 25 - O'Neil, Ch. 3 (Nations and Societies)

Th Sept. 27 - Alfred Stepan, Juan J. Linz, and Yogendra Yadav, "The Rise of 'State-Nations,'" in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2013), pp. 250-64.

- Max Fisher, "Why Europe Could Melt Down Over a Simple Question of Borders," *The New York Times*, 6 July 2018,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/06/world/europe/europe-borders-nationalism-identity.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>.

## **PART II: DIMENSIONS OF COMPARISON - POLITICS AROUND THE WORLD**

### POLITICAL HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

T Oct. 2 - O'Neil, Ch. 4 (Political Economy)

Th Oct. 4 - O'Neil, pp. 202-31 (United Kingdom)

T Oct. 9 - O'Neil, pp. 510-39 (India)

Th Oct. 11 **\*\* MIDTERM EXAM \*\* (in class)**

### DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

T Oct. 16 - O'Neil, pp. 174-201 (Developed Democracies)

- O'Neil, pp. 232-59 (United States)

Th Oct. 18 - Amanda Erickson, "How You'll Know When the U.S. Isn't a Democracy Anymore," *The Washington Post*, 25 Feb. 2017,  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/02/25/how-youll-know-when-the-u-s-isnt-a-democracy->

[anymore/?postshare=9751488045472616&tid=ss\\_fb-bottom&utm\\_term=.9e919f028d39](https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2017/4/10/15239998/womens-representation-congress-america)

- Louise Davidson-Schmich, "How Does the U.S. Compare with Other Countries in Terms of Women's Representation?," *Vox*, 10 Apr. 2017, <https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2017/4/10/15239998/womens-representation-congress-america>

### **PART III: EXAMINING REGIME TYPES**

#### **VARIETIES OF AUTHORITARIANISM**

- T Oct. 23 - O'Neil, Ch. 8 (Nondemocratic Regimes)  
 - Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2013), pp. 303-13.
- Th Oct. 25 - O'Neil, pp. 540-67 (Iran)  
 -Max Fisher, "How Iran became an Undemocratic Democracy," *The New York Times*, 17 May 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/17/world/middleeast/iran-presidential-election-democracy.html?action=click&contentCollection=Middle%20East&region=Footer&module=WhatsNext&version=WhatsNext&contentID=WhatsNext&moduleDetail=undefined&pgtype=Multimedia&r=0>

#### **COMMUNISM AND POSTCOMMUNISM**

- T Oct. 30 - O'Neil, pp. 382-415 (Communism and Postcommunism)  
 - O'Neil, pp. 416-43 (Russia)
- Th Nov. 1 - O'Neil, pp. 444-79 (China)

#### **REGIME CHANGE, POLITICAL VIOLENCE, & REVOLUTION**

- T Nov. 6 - O'Neil, Ch. 5 (Political Violence)  
 - O'Neil, pp. 628-61 (South Africa)
- Th Nov. 8 - Jack Goldstone, "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2013), pp. 366-72.

**Short paper #1 due in class Thurs., Nov. 8**

**Topic: How has regime change (or continuity) affected your assigned country, in light of the specific comparative aspects of its politics?**

#### **DILEMMAS OF DEMOCRATIZATION**

- T Nov. 13 - O'Neil, pp. 568-99 (Mexico)  
 - Christy Thornton, "AMLO and the State of Mexico," *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 4 July 2018, <https://nacla.org/news/2018/07/04/amlo-and-state-mexico>.



- Th Nov. 15 - Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," in Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds., *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2013), pp. 203-12.  
 - The Editorial Board, "Erdogan Hasn't Killed Turkey's Democracy Yet," *The New York Times*, 25 June 2018,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/25/opinion/erdogan-turkey-election.html>.
- T Nov. 20 - Suzanne Sataline, "Democracies under Stress," *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2018), pp. 161-86.

### Thanksgiving recess

## **PART IV: FORCES OF CHANGE AND ISSUES IN CONTENTION**

### THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- T Nov. 27 - O'Neil, pp. 600-627 (Brazil)  
 - Ken Moritsugu and Roland Flamini, "India Rising," in *Issues in Comparative Politics* (Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012), pp. 243-68.
- Th Nov. 29 - Patrick Marshall, "Rethinking Foreign Aid," *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2018), pp. 315-39.

### GLOBALIZATION

- T Dec. 4 - O'Neil, Ch. 11 (Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics)  
 - Oxfam International, "An Economy for the 99%," Jan. 2017, pp. 1-12,  
[https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-summ-en.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-summ-en.pdf)
- Th Dec. 6 - Corine Hegland, "European Union's Future," *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2018), pp. 187-210.

### **Short paper #2 due in class Thurs., Dec. 6**

**Topic: How have trends of economic development and globalization affected your assigned country, in light of the specific comparative aspects of its politics?**

### VALUES AND GROUP RIGHTS

- T Dec. 11 - Sarah Glazer, "Social Welfare in Europe," in *Issues in Comparative Politics* (Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012), pp. 425-49.  
 - Drake Baer, "Why Scandinavians Care More than Americans about Inequality," *New York Magazine*, 12 Jan. 2017,  
[http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2017/01/why-scandinavia-is-more-equal-than-america.html?mid=facebook\\_scienceofus](http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2017/01/why-scandinavia-is-more-equal-than-america.html?mid=facebook_scienceofus)



- Fareed Zakaria, "Populism on the March: Why the West is in Trouble,"  
*Foreign Affairs*, 95(6), Nov.-Dec. 2016, pp. 9-15.

**\*\* FINAL EXAM: Tues. Dec. 18, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. \*\***