

# INTRODUCTIONS

*Comparative Politics*

Guillermo Toral

IE University

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- What is comparative politics, and how does it matter?

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  - We will be discussing not just theories and ideas, but also their relationship to empirical evidence
  - We will be dissecting political and policy arguments, as well as empirical analyses

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- **Individually:**

- Fill in a short, anonymous survey at [www.guillermotoral.com/cpsurvey](http://www.guillermotoral.com/cpsurvey)

What to expect about this course?

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5. **Use critical reading, autonomous research, and academic writing skills** to build and present cogent and evidence-based arguments about politics.



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- **Midterm exam** (session 15, after a 2-week break)

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- **Final exam** (session 30, after a 2-week break)

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- **In-person exams:**

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- **In-person exams:**
  - Midterm exam

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- Midterm exam
- Final exam

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- **Research design (20%):**
  - Short write-up, but significant background research and thinking
  - Done in pairs – more details coming next week

# What is this course's AI policy?

Generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g., chatGPT) **may be used in this course for brainstorming and generating an outline, with appropriate acknowledgement.**

**GenAI may not be used for taking quizzes or exams, or for generating any text submitted as own's writing.** If a student is found to have used AI-generated content inappropriately, it will be considered **academic misconduct**, and the student might fail the respective assignment or the course.

Students in doubt about the use of GenAI tools in this course can get in touch with the instructor to discuss.

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  - There will be a few unannounced quizzes throughout the semester on the readings for that session

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- **Attendance and participation are not directly graded but strongly encouraged** – proven to contribute to grades indirectly



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- **I am committed to making this course a safe environment for all**, and I ask that you all treat each other with respect.

# A note on academic integrity

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  - Attribution of ideas and recognition of creativity
  - Fairness among students
- In this course, any case of **plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty would be taken very seriously**, in agreement with IE policy.
- **Consequences of academic dishonesty** can include a 0 in the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and going to third call

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- An **active field of research** and a large **community of scholars**, all leveraging a diversity of theoretical models and empirical methods, applied to data anywhere in the world or throughout history to **draw credible lessons about politics**

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  - Are these articles relevant to non-academic communities? Why or why not?

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