

INTRODUCTIONS

Comparative Politics

Guillermo Toral

IE University

What are we covering today?

- Introductions: the course, the instructor, the participants

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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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- Fill in a short, anonymous survey at www.guillermotoral.com/cpsurvey

What to expect about this course?

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4. **Demonstrate social scientific literacy**, including basic quantitative literacy, and apply it to the study and discussion of politics.
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)

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

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 - 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.

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- **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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