

PSCI 3350: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Spring 2023

Instructor:	Naela Elmore	Time:	MW 2:30-3:45 p.m.
Email:	naela.elmore@utdallas.edu	Place:	GR 2.302

Course Description: Comparative politics is the comparative examination of states, institutions, and regimes. This course will consider different theoretical approaches to comparative politics, and differences and similarities in types of political culture, political participation, political institutions, and citizen well-being and government effectiveness. Substantive topics include democracy and democratization, autocratic governments party systems, state development, economic growth, and civil conflict.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the different theories involved in state development
- Comprehend the methods of studying comparative politics
- Identify and explain the differences and similarities between regime types
- Develop knowledge of multiple state regime and institutional types

Office Hours: Schedule one-on-one meeting through [Calendly](#)

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Dagmar Heintze, *Email:* dagmar.heintze@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: MW 12:00 - 2:00 PM, GR 3.318

Required Textbook:

Principles of Comparative Politics, 3rd edition by Clark et al. ISBN: 9781506318127

Grading Policy:

1. **Attendance = 5% of final grade.** Attendance will be taken periodically throughout the semester. Your grade will be based off of signed attendance sheets. The instructor reserves the right to reward students with exceptional participation marks.
2. **Participation = 5% of final grade.** Participation will be graded through Discussion Board responses. Students will select **eight (8)** lectures and formulate discussion posts regarding their selection, during the semester. Posts are a maximum of 500 words and can be questions regarding the topic of the lecture, ideas for further research, or reflections. Each post is due before class, with 2:29 PM being the cut-off.
3. **Three Exams = each 30% of final grade.** There will be three (3) in-class exams throughout the semester. Dates for each exam can be found in the dates listed below.
 - **Final grades** will be calculated on the positive/negative scale, where: 97 and above will be an A+, 93-96 will be an A, 90-92 will be an A-, and so on, after rounding to the nearest whole number.

Important Dates:

Exam #1	February 13
Exam #2	March 8
Final Exam	May 8

Course Schedule:

(HR stands for Having Read. Meaning, you are expected to have read the assigned reading for that day, and should expect discussion on that specific assignment day of class)

SECTION 1: THE BASICS

Jan 18: Introduction to the course	
Jan 23: Comparative Politics & The Science of Politics	HR: Chapter 2
Jan 25: Comparative Research Methods	HR: Chapter 2
Jan 30: The State and the Nation	HR: Chapter 4
Feb 6: Democracies	HR: Chapter 5
Feb 8: Autocracies	HR: Chapter 10
Feb 13: Economic & Cultural Determinants	HR: Chapters 6 & 7
Feb 15: Exam 1	

SECTION 2: INSTITUTIONS

Feb 20: Constitutions	HR: Chapter 15
Feb 22: Electoral Systems	HR: Chapter 13
Feb 27: Executives	HR: Chapter 12
Mar 1: Legislatures and Courts	HR: Chapter 12 & 13
Mar 6: Political Parties	HR: Chapter 14
Mar 8: Exam 2	
MAR 13 – 19 : SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	

SECTION 3: SPECIAL TOPICS, COUNTRIES, AND EVENTS*Special Topics*

Mar 20: Cyber Conflict	HR: Gartzke, E. (2013)
Mar 22: Civil War	HR: Fearon and Laitin (2003)
Mar 27: Terrorism	HR: Ritchie et al., (2020)
Mar 29: Civil Liberties and Human Rights	HR: Carey et al., (2010)

Country Studies

Apr 3: Europe
Apr 5: Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
Apr 10: South America
Apr 12: Asia

Contemporary Events

Apr 17: Climate Change	HR: Keohane (2015)
Apr 19: Democratic Consolidation and Backsliding	HR: Waldner and Lust (2018) & Schedler (1998)
Apr 24: NO CLASS	
Apr 26: Internet Repression	HR: Simon (2010)
May 1: Social Movements and Protests	TBD
May 3: Review Day	
May 8: Final Exam	

Course Policy:

- The use of laptops in the classroom is allowed. However, if they become distracting, then I reserve the right to ban them for the duration of the semester.
- Do not use your phone during the lecture. If you require special accommodation, please come speak with me. Otherwise, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if it becomes distracting to me or others.
- Be respectful of others. This course will have divisive political discussions, and should be carried out with dignity and respect.
- If you believe that you were given an inaccurate grade on an exam, you have one week after the distribution of the grade to speak with me. At that point, you must explain to me why you believe the given grade is incorrect and why. If deemed warranted, I will re-evaluate your grade.
- If you miss an exam, you must provide written documentation for your absence within 24 hours of the exam. I retain the right to deny a make-up exam.
- If you email me, it must be done through your UTD email address.
- I do not distribute slides or lecture material to the class. It is your responsibility to attend the lectures and take notes. The only exception is if you missed class with a documented excuse or previous discussion.

Class Materials: The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Participation: Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Recordings: Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

NOTE: if the instructor records any part of the course, then the instructor will need to add the following syllabus statement:

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Comet Creed:

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: “As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources: The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures: The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.