POSC 3513 – Comparative Politics  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Walle Engedayehu
Section # and CRN: P01 (12019)
Office Location: 102 Woolfolk
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (MWF)
3:30 – 5:00 p.m. (TR); and by Appointment
Mode of Instruction: Lecture

Course Location: WOOL 207
Class Days & Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30AM-10:50AM
Catalog Description: Examines the dynamics of Comparative Politics from the perspective of globalization characterized by the world's increasing interconnectedness, particularly in regards to politics, economics, communication and cultures. Provides a comprehensive analysis of nations encompassing histories, societies, politics and economics. Examines contemporary nations in the context of current trends, including modernization, democracy, the environment, human rights, terrorism, security and globalization. Explores symbolic countries in case studies


Course Goals or Overview: This course aims to survey the many facets of comparative political systems based on theoretical and practical concerns. Furthermore, the course is designed to familiarize students with the methods, concepts and theories underpinning the study of Comparative Politics. In addition to learning about current scholarly trends in the field, the course strives to impart knowledge rooted in high-level assessing skills, particularly the ability to decipher and critically analyze scholarly journal articles, as well as the works of leading academics in the field. Finally, because an understanding of contemporary events is essential to a student’s success in the study of politics and societies across national boundaries, students will deepen their understanding of global affairs by analyzing information on daily world events as they occur, while thrusting the fulfillment of their future academic and career goals.
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome #</th>
<th>Alignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>understand the concepts, methods and theories particular to Comparative Politics</td>
<td>SLO 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>critique and evaluate research findings in the sub-field</td>
<td>SLO 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>compare and contrast the various political systems found across national boundaries</td>
<td>SLO 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>demonstrate knowledge of the typologies of political institutions</td>
<td>SLO 1</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>become familiar with the essential role that various social and political actors play in the development process</td>
<td>SLO 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>produce a series of highly critical reviews on selected scholarly journal article</td>
<td>SLO 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>write a major paper that has the potential of being accepted as advanced-level product by the instructor</td>
<td>SLO 2</td>
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Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods:

1) Attend class sessions and participate in all class activities.
   The method of teaching in this class will be more or less similar to a seminar, with extensive intellectual discourse and discussion taking place during the course of delivery. Your participation includes both attendance and engagement in class discussion. Most of our class time will be spent discussing the themes and arguments presented in our readings. Everyone should have something to say in every class. Your comments need not dazzle every time. Often times, the most productive contributions to class discussions are questions. If you don’t understand something in the readings, say so. The authors we read are not perfect; one of our primary mandates in the course is to find flaws in these readings and discuss ways to improve them. Speak up and air your grievances. We will all be better for it and you will be rewarded come evaluation time. For each reading you should be prepared to discuss the following questions (if and when applicable):
   a. What is the research question? (i.e. what is the goal of the researcher?)
   b. Is this research question important? What is the puzzle being addressed? What is the motivation? (i.e. why was this paper written? Should we care about it?)
   c. What are the main concepts being discussed? Are they clear?
   d. What is the argument? What are its component parts? Who are the actors? Is it logically coherent? Is it novel?
   e. What are the observable implications of the argument?
   f. How is the argument tested? (i.e. what is the empirical strategy)
   g. How does the author measure key concepts? Are these measurements valid? Reliable?
   h. Does the evidence support the theory?
   i. What are the major hurdles to causal (or descriptive) inference (if applicable)?
   j. How does the author address these issues? Do they do an adequate job
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

**Exercises** – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

**Class Participation** – daily attendance and participation in class discussions

2) Complete assigned readings before the date indicated on the syllabus. In order to participate effectively in discussion, you will need to have done the required readings for that day. Much is expected in terms of reading, but I am sure you will be up to the task.

3) Two 2-4 page article reviews.

Over the course of the semester, you will write 3 reaction papers on a reading (or readings) based on assigned scholarly articles.

These papers should have three components:

a) The paper should briefly (one paragraph) sum up the main argument made by the author and the evidence provided.

b) It should contain an evaluation and critique of the author’s argument and evidence in light of the other readings for that week. Does the author’s argument make sense? Why or why not? Does his evidence (if any) comport with his/her argument? Why or why not? Do you know of other evidence that undermines (or supports) the author’s argument? Does one of the other readings for that day offer a perspective that is discordant with the perspective offered by the author? This section should constitute the lion’s share of the paper.

c) The paper should conclude with some questions for the class that flow from your evaluation/critique.

d) You will give a short 5-minute presentation on each of your article reviews to kick off our discussion of that reading. Your questions should help us in our discussion. Each week we will determine who will write reaction papers for the following week. I will ask for volunteers. The reaction papers are due in class on the day we discuss the reading.

5) Complete the first exam, the mid-term exam and the final exam.

6) Write a major research paper on a topic that both you and I agree on. You will put together a research proposal, consisting of a table of contents, on a topic that has to be approved first by me, and then report your progress during the course of the term until the finished product. Final submission of the paper will occur on the first day of the last week of class.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- **First Exam:** 25%
- **Research Paper:** 15%
- **Mid-Term Exam:** 25%
- **2 Article Reviews:** 10%
- **Final Exam:** 25%

**Late Assignment Policy:**

All assignments are due on the assigned date. Response papers are due on the day that a reading is covered in class. I do not accept late assignments. Exceptions are made only in the most severe and extraordinary circumstances.

**Grade Determination:**

- **A** = 90%--100%
- **B** = 80%--89%
- **C** = 70%--79%
Course Procedures

Submission of Assignments:
All assignments must be submitted only on the date indicated in this course outline.

Formatting Documents:
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich Text, or plain text format.

Exam Policy
Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). You are required to bring a blue book or scantron as necessary for all your exams. During exams, all cell phones are to be turned off. Exam format consists of some multiple-choice, and several short- and long-essay questions.

Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Weeks 1, 2, 3.

Part I: INTRODUCTION TO AND THE CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATION OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS
  • Comparative Politics: history of the discipline
  • Approaches to Comparative Politics, and key concepts and theories

Required Readings: Text, Chapter 1

Recommended Readings: Chilcote, Chapters 1,2,3
                           Samuels, Chapters 1,2

Weeks 4, 5, 6

PART II: THE NATURE OF THE STATE; NATIONS AND SOCIETY; POLITICAL ECONOMY

A.
  • Defining the State
  • The Origins of Political Organization
  • The role of the Modern State
  • Comparing State Power

B.
  • Ethnic Identity
  • National Identity
PART II: POLITICAL ECONOMY

C.
- The Components of Political Economy
- Political Economic Systems
- Political Economic Systems and the state
- The Rise and Fall of Liberalism

Required Readings: Text, Chapters 2,3,4
Recommended Readings: Samuels, Chapters 6,7,8,11,12

First Exam---------Date to be announced

Weeks 7,8,9, 10

PART III: DEMOCRATIC REGIMES; NONDEMOCRATIC REGIMES; POLITICAL VIOLENCE

A.
- Defining Democracy
- Origins of Democracy
- Contemporary democratization
- Institutions of the Democratic State
- Models of Democracy: Parliamentary, Presidential and Semi-Presidential Systems
- Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Systems: Benefits and Drawbacks
- Political Parties
- Electoral Systems
- Referendum and Initiative

B.
- Defining Nondemocratic Rule
- Totalitarianism and Nondemocratic Rule
- Origins and Sources of Nondemocratic Rule
- Nondemocratic Regimes and Political Control
- Models of Nondemocratic Rule

C.
- What is Political Violence?
- Comparing Explanations of Political Violence
- Forms of Political Violence
- Terrorism and Revolution: Means and Ends
- Political Violence and Religion
- Countering Political Violence

Required Readings: Text, Chapters 5,6,7
Recommended Readings: Samuels, Chapters 3,4,5,10
Second Exam (Mid-Term)--------- Date to be announced

Weeks 11, 12, 13

PART IV: DEVELOPED DEMOCRACIES; COMUNISM AND POSTCOMMUNISM; DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; GLOBALIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

A. 
- Defining Developed Democracy
- Freedom and Equality in Developed Democracies
- Contemporary Challenges for Developed Democracies
- Political Institutions: Sovereignty Transformed?
- Societal Institutions: New Identities in formation?
- Economic Institutions: A New Market?

B. 
- Communism, Equality, and the Nature of Human Relations
- Revolution and the “Triumph” of Communism
- Putting Communism into Practice
- Communist Political Economy
- Societal Institutions under Communism
- The Collapse of Communism
- The Transformation of Political Institutions
- The transformation of Economic Institutions
- The Transformation Societal Institutions

C. 
- Freedom and Equality in the Developing World
- Imperialism and Colonialism
- Institutions of Imperialism
- The Challenges Post-Imperialism
- Puzzles and Prospects for Democracy and Development

D. 
- What is Globalization?
- Institutions and Globalization
- Political Globalization
- Economic Globalization
- Societal Globalization
- Taking Stock of Globalization

Required Readings: Text, Chapters 8,9,10,11

Recommended Readings: Samuels, Chapters 13

Weeks 14,15

Research Paper Due ------- Date will be announced in class

Assigned Article Presentations (to be scheduled)

FINAL EXAM---------As scheduled by the University
**Additional Instructor Policies**

**Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person's words, statistics, and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course);
2. Letter of Reprimand
3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal from Academic Program
6. Expulsion from the university.

Students must consult the University's Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the punishments. **For the purposes of this class, you will get a zero on the first assignment where academic dishonesty is detected and a zero for the entire course for the second offense.**

**Electronic Communication Policy:** Notes and other course materials are posted on Moodle/eCourses, which is available at http://ecourses.pvamu.edu. You are expected to use this website as a resource for the class. The University also maintains an email account for you. I may send you notices so I expect you to check your Prairie View A&M email account at least once a day. If you have problems accessing your account, call (936) 261-2525. Failure to access your Panther Email is not an excuse for missing important information.

**Make-up Policy:** You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid excuse. Valid excuses include documented illness, school or business trips, or family crises. Without proper documentation, there will be no makeup assignments. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of three (3) class days to schedule your make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** Please provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment from a university official, doctor, police officer, or coach. Student athletes must notify me BEFORE they attend an event to represent the school and MUST be proactive in getting their assignments completed. Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. **Any assigned extra credit cannot be made up.**

**Grade Groveling Policy:** Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students earn high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no “do-overs” allowed.

**Attendance Policy:** For this class, students are allowed five unexcused absences. Attendance will be taken starting the second week of class. The final course grade will be reduced by a full letter for six or more unexcused absences. Note: Attendance is expected. If an absence is excused, it is incumbent on the student to seek missing work. You have three class days to request a make-up.

**Late/Tardy Policy:** Attending class on time is important. Class will start at the scheduled time and will end at the scheduled time. If you come to class more than 9 minutes late (in the 10th minute or later), you will be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent.
Taskstream Policy
Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. At least one of your assignments is **REQUIRED** to be submitted as an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

Student Support and Success

**John B. Coleman Library**
The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University’s core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. [https://www.pvamu.edu/library/](https://www.pvamu.edu/library/) Phone: 936-261-1500

**The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)**
The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

**The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)**
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

**Writing Center**
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

**Student Counseling Services**
The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

**Testing**
The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286
Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services
As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs
Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement
The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services
Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures
Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the
Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

**Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)**
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Title IX Statement**
Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

**Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)**
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University’s attendance policy in each syllabus.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

The appeals process starts with the faculty. Contact your faculty member. You have the right to expect a response within 48 hours during a normal business week of Monday to Friday. If they cannot meet your needs, contact their department head in WOOL 102.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers Microphone and recording software
• Keyboard & mouse
• Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
• Sending and receiving email
• A working knowledge of the Internet
• Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
• Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
• Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):
Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:
Students should go to https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/ if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:
Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.