

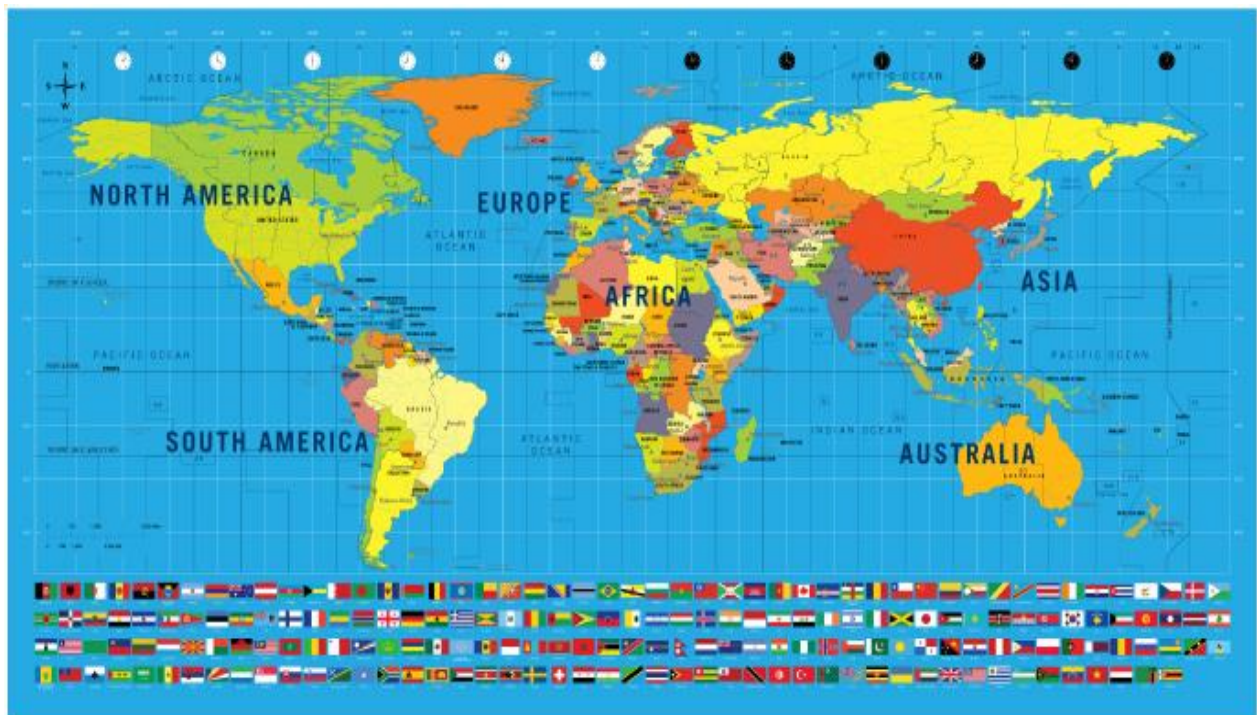
Hyacinth Miller
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INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
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About This Course

Comparative Politics is the study of domestic politics *inside* and across countries. In this discussion-based interactive course, we study the different forms of government employed by selected nations across the world. Together, we conduct a more intimate analysis of select countries by investigating the country's history, identifying the government structure, evaluating its socio-economic status, exploring regional, national and ethnic identities and culture and discussing the impact of the government's relationship with its citizenry.

We will explore the development of selected nation-states and contemporary challenges to their existence. This course also serves two functions: (1) to provide you with the necessary tools to help analyze and explain some aspects of current global events; and (2) to serve as a foundation for more specialized coursework in the Department of Political Science.



Course Learning Goals

- ✚ Identify and analyze the relevance of events and ideas that have shaped aspects of global history, society and culture in various regions of the world
- ✚ Identify non-North American nations on a map, the country's leadership and differentiate according to government type and structure
- ✚ Describe and evaluate the case-studied countries' socio-economic and political status
- ✚ Evaluate the interrelationships between the countries studied and its citizens and neighbors
- ✚ Improve research and critical thinking skills, as applied to Comparative Politics, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources
- ✚ Develop academic writing and presentation skills through the production of analytical essays and oral presentations
- ✚ Employ and demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively in a team environment

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts

Cases in Comparative Politics, Fifth Edition

Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields, Don Share

Isbn: 978-0393937541

W.W. Norton. 2015.

Essentials of Comparative Politics, Fifth Edition

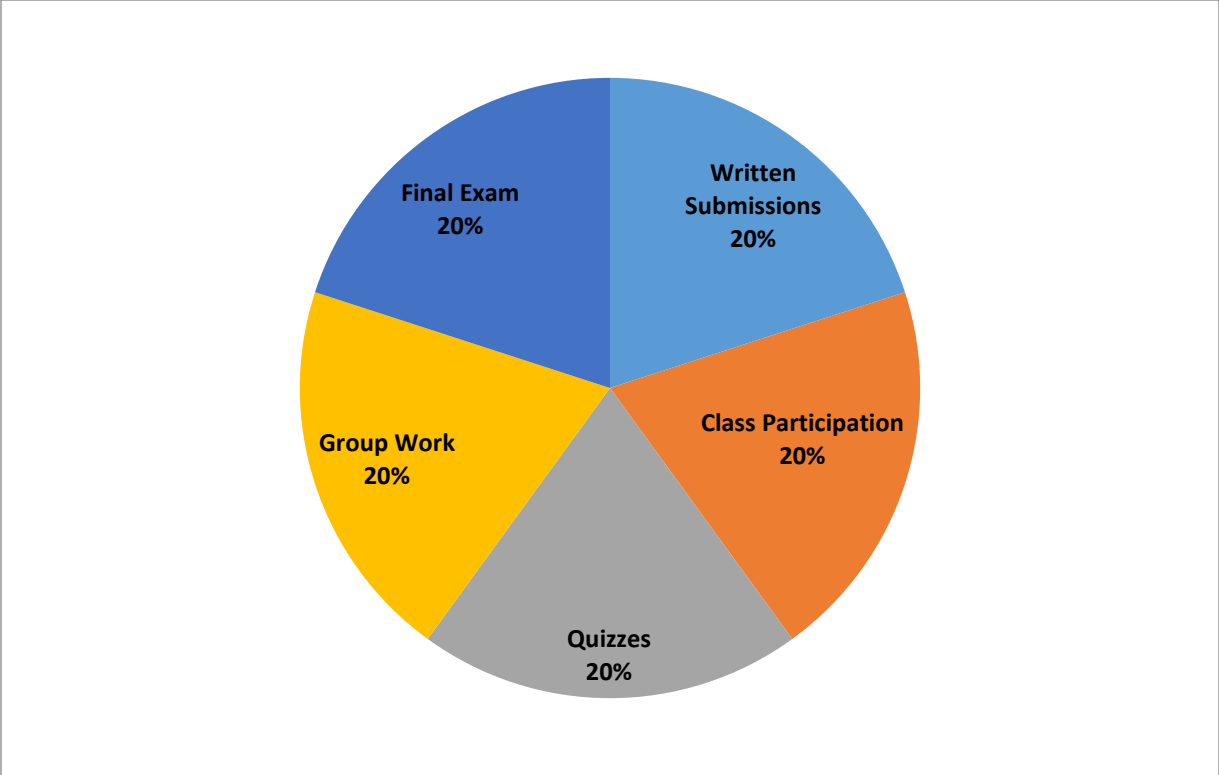
Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields, Don Share

Isbn: 978-0393938975

W.W. Norton. 2015.

Course Grading Breakdown

1. Written Submissions.....	20%
2. Class Participation.....	20%
3. Quizzes.....	20%
4. Group Work.....	20%
5. Final.....	20%



Course Grading Scale

90...100+	A
87...89.9	B+
80...86.9	B
77...79.9	C+
70...76.9	C
65...69.9	D
0...64.9	F

Academic Integrity

Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. When you submit an exam or assignment, you need to abide by the honor pledge of "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. Copying another's work will get you an F in the course and a meeting with the Dean for disciplinary action. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I

Rutgers' academic integrity policy is here <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements.

Please contact me via email at hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu. I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When sending me an email, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Miller, Dear Ms. Miller or Dear Professor. I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH "Hey", "Yo." I will delete messages with no greeting, because I will assume it is SPAM.

Always include the subject and course name in the subject line because I teach more than one class per semester.

Attendance and Participation Policy

I designed this course to be an interactive learning experience. Discussion of readings comprises a significant portion of every student's final course grade. You must complete the required reading BEFORE class to enable informed participation. I calculate participation grades based on both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation.

Because of the nature of the class design, you should attend every class session. We meet for only 45 hours this semester – that is the equivalent of one, full-time workweek. Lack of participation and attendance will equal lower final course grades. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for completing any in class assignment for that day and for obtaining any important class related information from that day.

If you are going to miss a class, within 24 hours of your absence, **the University requires you to use the University absence-reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>** to indicate the date/reason for your absence. Be sure to advise me of a religious-related absence.

Please keep in mind that using the reporting system does not mean that your absence is automatically “excused.” In addition, sending an email stating that you cannot attend the class does not constitute an excused absence. I expect you to inform me about an absence before or immediately after the absence takes place. I require valid documentation to consider excusing an absence.

Unexcused Absence = Final Grade – 2 points

Three Late Arrivals = 1 Absence

Four unexcused absences = F

Improper/Abusive use of technology = 1 Absence and I will dismiss you from the class if the behavior continues.

Late Submission Policy

Late assignments will lose FIVE points per day until submitted.

Time Commitment

This course includes considerable time spent doing readings, assignments and other work toward course mastery. To be successful in this course, guidelines estimate that you will need to spend at least three to six hours on coursework per week. Researchers have calculated this based on the college standard requirement of approximately three hours of work each week per credit hour of the course. Depending on our individual backgrounds and schedules, some Units may require more time, some less.

Schedule regular study/assignment times in your calendar. Studies show that the more hours you put in, the better the work output. Students who can only put in two to three hours per week are not as likely to get top grades as those students who can study at least six or more hours per week.

Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

In order to drop or withdraw from this course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. **You must do so formally through the Registrar’s office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms. If not, I must assign you an F grade at the end of the semester. You can review this information using this link <https://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/registrar-spring-academic-calendar-0>

Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard and Kaltura

Technical Problems

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, email the assignment to me at hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu, BEFORE the deadline.

Direct ALL technical questions to the Student Help Desk at help@newark.rutgers.edu. You can also call them at 973-353-5083, or drop-in to their office in Hill Hall 109. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/hd>

In an online environment, there is always a possibility of technical issues (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute to do/submit an assignment, the chances of these glitches affecting your success increase. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem.

Required equipment

Computer, Internet access, webcam with microphone OR headphones with microphone; software that can save a file in the format of Microsoft Word.

Course Content

We will study select countries from five geographical areas:

1. Europe
2. Asia
3. Latin America
4. 'Middle East'
5. Africa

Please view and refer to the expanded Course Schedule in Blackboard for specifics on each unit