

Syllabus

POLI 2053, version 1.2

Effective: October 25, 2017

POLI 2053—Introduction to Comparative Politics

Course Description: Survey of politics in democratic, post-communist, and developing societies; emphasis on major actors and institutions.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Read the following information carefully, ensuring you order the correct edition by referencing the ISBN's listed below. LSU Online Distance Learning is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is your responsibility *to* order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbooks

Patrick O'Neil. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. Fifth edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

ISBN-10: 0-393-93897-2

ISBN-13: 978-0-393-93897-5

Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. Fifth edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

ISBN-10: 0-393-93754-2

ISBN-13: 978-0-393-93754-1

There are electronic versions of the textbooks available at <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/ebookinfo/>. Search by the title or ISBN.

You will also be required to read one novel for your final book project. You will choose from a list that is posted on the Moodle course page, and you may use any edition.

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved.
2. Always order by the ISBN.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: Adobe Acrobat Reader

We recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: Web cam, microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Before you enroll, review the technical requirements on the ProctorU website and perform the equipment test to make sure you have the necessary resources available.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Explain of the basic mechanics of constitutional construction
2. Describe how various forms of government function
3. Discuss the interaction between world events and government types

This general education course is designed to introduce you to the subfield in political science of comparative politics. This field examines the domestic political institutions that make up the governments of the world. This course will introduce you to several useful tools and concepts that can be used to examine the governments of foreign countries. These tools will also be applied in several national case studies, allowing you to see those concepts in action throughout the world today. You should also gain an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance and an

understanding of the diversity of cultures across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks. As this is an introductory course, no prior political science instruction is necessary to succeed.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the lecture video, the reading assignment, a graded quiz, and the graded module assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Please watch the course lecture videos and do the assigned readings first. The lecture is the more important element of the course, but the readings provide deeper instruction and clarification of the topics at hand.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

The reading assignments, both from *Essentials of Comparative Politics* and *Cases in Comparative Politics*, provide a deeper dive into the material for this course. The lecture videos give you your foundation. Please watch the videos before you do the readings.

You will read an average of 30 pages per module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Definitions and What Is the State?
02	Leadership Selection
03	Democracies
04	Non-Democratic Regimes
05	Political Culture
06	Political Economy
Mid-Course Examination	
07	The United Kingdom
08	Germany
09	France
10	Russia
11	China
12	Iran
13	Singapore
14	Switzerland
15	Final Paper Assignment

Final Examination

Module Assignments

Each module will require you to watch a lecture video and read one or two chapters from either *Essentials of Comparative Politics* or *Cases in Comparative Politics*, as well as a possible

primary source document or two. You will then complete a quiz and finally your module assignment. This assignment is timed and consists of a few identification questions and a longer essay. The identification questions should be answered in one paragraph, fully identifying the who, what, when, where, how, and why this is important. The essay should be at least 500 words long, but no longer than 700 words.

Watch the lecture video and take notes. The major highlights will appear on the PowerPoint presentation in the video. Take care in reading the textbook before attempting the module assignment. You will only get one chance at the assignment.

For the final module, you will be using all that you have learned this semester to examine a fictional government: how it is set up, operates, and fits to its culture. Further details are posted in a separate document in the very first module. You must submit this paper and receive a grade for it in order to be able to take the final exam.

All paper submissions must be in .PDF format.

Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

Syllabus

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the ODL Academic Integrity policy on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

The graded work for this class falls into four categories:

1. **Exams.** There will be two exams in this course. The mid-course exam will be worth 20 percent of your final grade and covers Modules 01–06. The final will be worth 30 percent of your final grade and is cumulative. Approximately 30 percent of the exam will come from Modules 01–06, and 70 percent will come from Modules 07–14. The format will be multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay.
2. **Module Quizzes.** These short quizzes will check your progress on the module. They will make up 10 percent of your final grade.
3. **Module Assignments.** There will be one assignment for each module. These will cover material from the reading for the week and will make up 20 percent of your final grade. They consist of term identifications and essay questions.
4. **Plan of Government Paper.** The paper for this class will require you to read a work of fiction from a provided list and create a plan for the government featured in that book. This will allow you to demonstrate understanding of the concepts of constitutional engineering and the relationship between institutions and culture in a context that is not reliant on the constraints of the modern world. This paper will be worth 20 percent of the final grade.

You will have a maximum of *three hours* to complete the exam.

- Module assignments count 50 points each.
- Quizzes are 5 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + average of quizzes + exam scores + plan of government paper. Each component is weighted by predetermined percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	20%
Average of Module Quizzes	10%
Plan of Government Paper	20%
Mid-Course Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100% = A+

93%–96% = A

90%–92%	=	A-
87%–89%	=	B+
83%–86%	=	B
80%–82%	=	B-
77%–79%	=	C+
73%–76%	=	C
70%–72%	=	C-
67%–69%	=	D+
63%–66%	=	D
60%–62%	=	D-
0%–59%	=	F

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the paper assignment in Module 15 in order to unlock access to the final exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the grade book.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit LSU Continuing Education's homepage. Click on "Extended Campus," select "Online Distance Learning," and then click the link for "Guidelines and Policies."

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University Online Distance Learning ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the "Getting Started module." You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU ODL.

There is a separate charge for each proctored exam. You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Go to the ProctorU website to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need access to a web cam, a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers,

Syllabus

and reliable high speed internet.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options at <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>.

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