
COMPARATIVE POLITICS in Fall 2018 (PO2015)

Course Code	PO2015	Professor(s)	Oleg Kobtzeff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	GL 16
Class Schedule	TF: 15:20-16:40 in G-L22	Office Hours	Walk in: Tuesdays & Fridays: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Or, by appointment only Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays before 10:30 AM or Wednesdays early afternoon)
Credits	4	Email	okobtzeff@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	688 officehours only

Course Description

Why should we analyze the different systems of government and political processes of a variety of states, cities and other types of communities? For Indiana University and Purdue University scholars Patricia Fox¹ and Stephen Hundley, it is globalization that forces future professionals to become familiar with a variety of cultures throughout the globe.

“the demand in business and industry to hire people who can work with people of other nations and cultures and if need be can travel independently internationally to promote their business or industry. In addition, the world faces global challenges that will take interdisciplinary groups to solve these challenges. These global challenges will need to be solved through the gathering and sharing of knowledge across disciplines, institutions, and other entities institutions on a global scale.”

This class will focus on the *political* cultures of the globe. The political systems that we will focus upon (those of the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Germany, and several other selected) will not only reveal how great world powers are governed but—because they are models—how they have influenced scores of other states (among which are Commonwealth states, former African and Asian colonies of France or of the UK, Central European countries, etc.) in the way that their electoral systems, and their legislative, executive and judicial branches of government administer the different states of the globe in different or similar ways.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to analyse current affairs from three levels of analysis (structural, political and governmental).

They should be able to define key concepts of comparative politics and should be familiar with contemporary theories of the discipline.

They should be able to compare political institutions, norms and cultures across and within regions of the world, and should be in a position to reasonably evaluate them.

General Education

Course Outline

Tue 09/11

TOPICS

READINGS

Lecture 1: The Nation, the State and nation-states

- Hauss: pp. 27-35
- Anonymous, "Nation-state" (available on Blackboard)
- Students will research entries such a "nation", "state", "nation-state", "empire", "unitary state", "federal state" and "confederate state" by comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin'

Fri 09/14

TOPICS

READINGS

Lecture 2: Authoritarian Regimes

Students will research examples of states presenting characteristics of regimes discussed in this chapter by comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin'

and other scholarly dictionaries. They will also research other dictionaries for the following entries: "fascism", "totalitarianism", "authoritarianism", "banana republic"

Tue 09/18

TOPICS

READINGS

Lecture 3: Democracies & Democracy

- Hauss: pp. 27-35
- Students will also research examples of states presenting characteristics of regimes discussed in this chapter by

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- comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin'
 - + other dictionaries (look for entry "democracy")

Fri 09/21

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 4: "Left" and "right", political parties - part 1
- Haus: pp. 36-44
 - Students will research the meaning of "left" and "right" in the dictionaries featured in the list above (under "required" and "recommended" readings)

Tue 09/25

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 5: "Left" and "right", political parties - part 2
(continue readings and research assigned for Lecture 4)

Fri 09/28

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 6: electoral systems – part 1
Students will research "Electoral Systems" in the listed dictionaries (hint: look for author Shaun Bowler)

Tue 10/2

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 7 (6 continued) : electoral systems – part 2
Students will research "Electoral Systems" in the listed dictionaries (hint: look for author Rein Taagepera)

Fri 10/5

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 8: The United Kingdom – part 1
Haus: chapter on United Kingdom (pp. 73-106)

Tue 10/9

TOPICS
READINGS

- Lecture 9: The United Kingdom – part 2
Continue Haus: chapter on United Kingdom

Fri 10/12

TOPICS

- Lecture 10:
- The United Kingdom – part 3
 - The UK model: countries of the Commonwealth compared (a brief overview)

READINGS

- Lansford: "Canada", "Australia", "New Zealand", "South Africa", "Kenya"
- Haus: chapter on Nigeria (pp. 389-422)

Tue 10/16

TOPICS

- deadline : Exercise 1: "you are the prof"**
Lecture 11: The United States – part 1

READINGS

Hauss: chapter on United States (pp. 51-72)

Fri 10/19

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 12 : The United States – part 2
Continue Hauss: chapter on United States

Tue 10/23

TOPICS
READINGS

Midterm : Exercise 2: 1st quiz
Lecture 13: France – part 1
Hauss: chapter on France (pp. 107-140)

Fri 10 /26

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 14: France – part 2
Continue Hauss: chapter on France

Tue 10/30

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 15: Germany – part 1
Hauss: chapter on Germany (pp. 141-172)

October 31 – November 4: Fall break: no classes

Tue 11/6

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 16: Lecture : Germany – part 2
Continue Hauss: chapter on Germany

Fri 11/9

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 17: the smaller countries of Europe compared (a brief overview)
Lansford: “Belgium”, “Finland”, “Switzerland”

Tue 11/13

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 18: the smaller countries of Europe compared (a brief overview) – part 2
Lansford: “Italy”, “Spain”, “Greece”

Fri 11/16

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 19: the European Union
Hauss: chapter on the European Union (pp. 173-198)

Tue 11/20

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 20: the European Union – part 2
Continue Hauss: chapter on the European Union

Fri 11/23

TOPICS
READINGS

Lecture 21: China
Hauss: chapter on “Current and Former Communist Régimes” (pp. 199-220)

Tue 11/27

TOPICS

Lecture 22: China – part 2

READINGS

Hauss: chapter on China (pp. 257-290)

Fri 11/30

TOPICS

Lecture 23: Russia

READINGS

Hauss: chapter on Russia (pp. 221-256)

Tue 12/4

TOPICS

Lecture 24: Russia – part 2

READINGS

Continue Hauss: chapter on Russia

Fri 12/7

TOPICS

Lecture: India

READINGS

Hauss: chapter on India (pp. 323-356)

Tue 12/11

TOPICS

deadline : Exercise 3: “you are the prof”

READINGS

Lecture: India – part 2

Continue Hauss: chapter on India

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, Ninth Edition,	Charles Hauss	Cengage	9781285465500	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

- Exercise 1: take-home assignment - preparation for midterm quiz : 5% (pass or fail, late submissions will be graded "fail"). Students must compose themselves a list of 20 questions that would seem the most relevant for a professor to ask during a quiz. This exercise was considered as very useful and educational by students last semester and will be explained in detail in class.
- Exercise 2: Midterm: quiz : 25%
- Exercise 3: take-home assignment - preparation for End of semester quiz: 5%. (same as exercise 1)
- Exercise 4: End of semester quiz: 20% (list of short questions to be answered in 10 minutes during Final exam session)
- Exercise 5 :Final: in-class written 5 page essay (no books no notes) : 40%
- Participation :10% **No computers are to be used in class** - the instructor doesn't care if you waste your class session surfing on Facebook, however 1. computers prevent you from taking notes correctly; 2. the instructor will share what Microsoft and Apple engineers in charge of training seminars think of this subject: you will be surprised.

Other
