

**Department of Political Science
University of Guelph**

**POLS*2100
COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Winter 2019**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:20
RICH 2520**

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5**

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Overview

Why are some countries democracies and others are not? Why are some democratic countries becoming less democratic? Why do some countries have universal healthcare systems while others do not? Why are some countries more prone to violence than others? And why are there more women parliamentarians in some countries than in others? These are the type of questions we explore and try to answer in Comparative Politics. The course introduces students to this Political Science sub-field by learning the mechanics of the comparative method to answer some of the most fascinating political questions that have puzzled scholars for centuries. Among many other topics, we will look at differences among political regimes, the role of religion in politics, political violence and how women get involved in politics.

Requirements

Weekly Quizzes	30%
Term Paper (March 26)	35%
Final Exam (April 15)	35%

Required Readings

The required textbook for the course is David Samuels's "Comparative Politics" (2nd Edition) by Pearson, which comes with an online platform (Revel). You can use the platform to access the textbook material and are required to access it to take the weekly quizzes. The platform can be accessed online through a computer or a smartphone application. Students have the option of requesting a print version of the textbook when they purchase access to the platform at the bookstore, at no extra cost. The bookstore will provide you with a 'code' that you can redeem when you sign up for the platform, by clicking the link on CourseLink.

Weekly Quizzes

Students are required to take 11 weekly quizzes, of 10 questions each, on the Revel platform during the semester. The quizzes must be taken by 12:00 of every Tuesday, starting on January 15. Only the answers to 10 quizzes will be calculated into the final grade, providing students with several bonus questions.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to its requirements, terms and conditions

Schedule of Topics and Readings

January 8 & 10 – Introduction to the Course and to the Comparative Method

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 1

January 15 & 17 – The State

Readings: Samuels Chapter 2

Recommended Video "Genius of the Ancient World: Socrates" (BBC Series, Episode 2 of 3)

January 22 & 24 – Democratic Political Regimes

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 3

Jan 24: In-class viewing of film: "Poland at a Crossroads"

January 29 & 31 – Non-Democratic Political Regimes

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 4

At-home viewing of film “Ai WeiWei: Never Sorry”

February 5 & 7 – Regime Change

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 5

February 7: In-class viewing: “Tunisia Goes to the Polls”

February 12 & 14 – Political Identity

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 6

Feb 14: information session on the essay and essay writing.

February 19 & 21 – READING WEEK

February 26 & 28 – Religion and Politics

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 7

March 5 & 7 – Gender and Politics

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 8

March 7: Skype talk with Professor Jennifer Piscopo, Occidental College, California

March 8: last day to drop the course

March 12 & 14 – Collective Action

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 9

March 14: In-class viewing of “Digital Warriors: Women Changing the World”

March 19 & 21 – Political Violence

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 10

March 26 & 28 – Political Economy of Development

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 11

March 28: In-class viewing of “Sweden: Lessons for America”

April 2 & 4 – The Political Economy of Distribution

Reading: Samuels, Chapter 12

PLEASE READ BELOW

Courselink

You are required to consult the course’s Courselink page regularly as additional readings and announcements will be posted with frequency. A discussion forum will be setup and will be directed by the instructor and the TAs. Using the general discussion forum may help students to test out the ideas and obtain input from peers as well as the instructor. We will provide input if it is required and will try to answer questions. It is primarily designed to encourage students to engage in a discussion in an attempt to clarify material from the lectures and the readings that remain unclear or on which students would like to elaborate or explore further. Students must know that the Courselink discussions must adhere to the University’s formal policy of communication and engagement. According to University Policy, students have the responsibility to foster an environment characterized by mutual respect. As such, do know that propriety is expected in these university fora and action will be taken should the policy be violated.

Important Notes

- In this class, students may **only** use electronic mail for **procedural inquires**. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings and assignments must be asked in person. Nevertheless, students are strongly encouraged to approach the TA’s or the Professor during their office hours with any queries, rather than using e-mail.
- Note that essay deadline is final. Papers submitted after the deadline will receive **a grade of zero. Only under truly exceptional medical situations shall make-up examinations be administered and late essay submissions accepted. Medical documentation stating that the student is incapacitated and unable to work is required. The note must state the**

exact dates during which such incapacitation occurred and must be supplied to the instructor immediately after the incapacitation ends. After the end of the semester, make-up tests and final exams will only be administered after having been granted permission from the student's counseling office.

- Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that carries very severe penalties. **It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.** I urge you to take the time to review the academic rules regarding referencing and the borrowing of ideas and arguments (You can obtain information from the university's Learning Commons <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WritingServices/>). Students **WILL NOT** be given the benefit of the doubt when a case of plagiarism is detected and will automatically be referred to the College's Associate Dean so that the appropriate penalty is applied.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or designated person] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2015 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday Mar 8**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University’s policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar.

(http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c01/index.shtml) for a statement of Students’ Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml). You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons (<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university’s regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml) and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.