

# Introduction to Comparative Government

Political Science/International Studies 1250 (01)  
University of Wyoming  
Fall 2017

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**Office Hours** Arts & Sciences Building 222C  
Monday 2:30 – 3:30 pm  
Tuesday 12:00 – 2:00 pm  
*Always by email*

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**A note on availability:** Please feel free to contact me through WyoCourses or at the email address above if you cannot make it to office hours. I will do my best to respond within two business days of receiving your email.

## Course Description

**Lecture Meeting Times** Monday and Wednesday 1:10 – 2:00 pm  
Classroom Building 314 (unless otherwise noted)

**Discussion Meeting Times** (Section 20) Friday 1:10 – 2:00 pm  
(Section 21) Friday 2:10 – 3:00 pm  
Classroom Building 147

How do foreign states deal with the numerous challenges to their stability? Do institutions affect a state's approach to solving different problems? How do these different approaches affect policy? What is the relationship between *nation* and *state*, and what roles do people of different societies expect the state to play in their lives?

This course introduces students to different styles of governance and compares countries from around the world with reference to their political ideologies. In this course, we will

- Explore the different theories political scientists use to explain and classify political behaviour in various regions of the world;
- Examine case studies representing a wide geographical diversity as well as political and economic development; and
- Critically discuss the impact that government has on our daily lives.

Our governmental system is based on the notion of an enlightened electorate. This course is a small step toward that end.

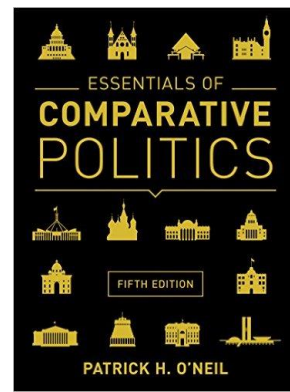
POLS/INST 1250 fulfills the Global Awareness (G) requirement of the 2003 University Studies Program and the A&S Core – Global (ASG) requirement of the 2015 University Studies Program. Global courses strive to broaden our perspectives through the exploration of viewpoints from other societies, cultures, religions, or geopolitical regions. With an eye on both historical and contemporary experience, Global courses are designed to challenge our assumptions about the ways of the world and to help us understand and embrace global cultural diversity.

**Texts**

O’Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-393-93897-5

O’Neil, Fields, and Share. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-393-93754-1

\*These texts can be purchased together in the *Essentials of Comparative Politics Bundle*, ISBN: 978-0-393-27636-7



**Additional Readings**, if assigned, will be provided through WyoCourses.

Students are expected to obtain these texts and to remain current with the assigned readings. Current events will be used as examples in course discussions – students should keep up-to-date on what is happening politically in the United States and abroad. Discussion will be essential to the course (and an important part of your grade). Feel free to raise questions concerning any readings or current events pertinent to the course topics.

**Grading**

<b>Course Grading</b>		
<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Attendance	2 pts/class	50
4 Quizzes	25 pts/quiz	100
Discussion	100 pts	100
Midterm	100 pts	100
Final	150 pts	150
	<b>Total Points Possible:</b>	<b>500</b>

The University of Wyoming, in Fall 2014, implemented a new grading system that allows instructors, *at their discretion*, to award plus and minus grades as well as the standard letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F. This policy is detailed in UW Regulation 6-722, available at <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/files/docs/uw-reg-6-722.pdf>. Due to other University and

College policies linked to students' grade point averages and to minimum performance required in particular classes, in this course, standard letter grade delineations will be used as follows:

Final Grading Scale		
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90 – 100%	450 – 500	A
80 – 89%	400 – 449	B
70 – 79%	350 – 399	C
60 – 69%	300 – 349	D
0 – 59%	0 – 299	F

### **Attendance**

**Value:** Attendance will be evaluated for 25 lecture sessions at 2 points per session.

**Details:** Students are required to attend class and take notes. Student insight is valued and participation is welcome; however, the size of the class and the brevity of sessions mean most discussion will take place in the Friday discussion sections (attendance is also required and is part of your discussion grade). If you cannot attend a class session for any reason, please let the professor know beforehand or as soon as possible. In accordance with University Regulation 6-713, authorized absences are cleared through the Dean of Students Office. Information on authorized absences is available at <http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/absences>. Students with an official authorized absence will be permitted to make up work without penalty.

### **Quizzes** (based on the readings from *Essentials* and *Cases*)

**Dates:** Quizzes are available online, opening on Saturday at 6:00 am and closing on Tuesday at 11:59 pm. There will be quizzes during weeks 2, 4, 6, and 11.

**Value:** 4 quizzes, each covering 2-4 chapters of material, are worth 25 points each.

### **Discussion**

**Details:** Discussion participation and assignments details will be provided separately.

### **Midterm**

**Date:** Wednesday **18 October** (in class)

**Value:** 100 points, or 20% of the final grade.

### **Final**

**Date:** Monday **18 December** 1:15 – 3:15 pm

**Value:** 150 points, or 30% of the final grade.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The University of Wyoming is built on a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers and students should report suspected academic dishonesty to the

instructor, department head, or college dean. Additional information can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/as/student-appeals/academic-dishonesty.html>.

UW Regulation 6-802 defines academic dishonesty as “an action attempted or performed that misrepresents one’s involvement in an academic endeavor in any way, or assists another student in misrepresenting his or her involvement in an academic endeavor.” Among the possible acts that UW considers academically dishonest are:

1. Representing as one’s own work material copied or borrowed from any source, written or otherwise, public or private, without proper citation of the source.
2. Using a ghost writer, commercial or otherwise, for any type of assignment.
3. Doing a class assignment for someone else or allowing someone to copy your assignment.
4. Submitting substantially the same work as someone else unless authorized by the instructor.
5. Taking an examination for someone else or allowing someone to take an examination for you.
6. Copying from or assisting another student during an examination.
7. Stealing, or otherwise improperly obtaining, copies of an examination before or after its administration.
8. Submitting substantially the same work for more than one class without the explicit permission of all concerned instructors.

Regulations concerning plagiarism cover books, magazines, newspapers, movies, internet sources, and any other source of information. Proper citation of sources means identifying in the text of the paper the source of the information. Simply listing sources in a Bibliography or References section at the end of the paper is not adequate for citing sources. If you have any doubts or questions, I’m always happy to consult with you before you submit an assignment.

It is important to remember that you can be charged with academic dishonesty if you assist another student in cheating. For example, if you permit a classmate to copy from your exam, both you and the student who copied are guilty of academic dishonesty.

In this class, penalties for academic dishonesty may range from an F on the particular assignment to an F for the course. UW Regulation 6-802 authorizes several actions against a student found to be in violation of the policy:

1. A failing grade for the assignment.
2. A failing grade for the course in which the act of academic dishonesty was committed.
3. The student is suspended from the University for one year if they commit two acts of academic dishonesty at different times or for different courses.
4. Further sanctions, including loss of scholarships, may also be imposed.

Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly cite sources, or what is appropriate behaviour on an examination is not an acceptable defense against a charge of academic dishonesty. Students who are uncertain as to whether a particular act violates the University’s policy should consult with their instructor, the head of the department, their academic advisor, the Dean of Students Office, or another appropriate University official.

## Reasonable Accommodation

It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 of Knight Hall on the Laramie campus, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

## Words of Advice

If you find yourself having difficulty identifying the important points from the readings or lectures, please email me. Don't wait until the day a quiz is due or the end of the course to tell me that you are having trouble. By then it is too late. The time to adjust your study habits is early on, not for the last quiz.

There is a strong correlation between participating in discussion and receiving a high grade in the course, both directly and indirectly. Student are encouraged to take an active role in the discussion as much and as often as possible. Quizzes are designed to draw from the readings, and students are expected to be familiar with all class materials.

## Course Schedule

The course and syllabus are subject to change, including the calendar. Any change will be announced in class and updated on the syllabus available in WyoCourses.

Date	Assignment
Week 1: 30 August – 1 September	Introduction and Syllabus 1 September – <b>No Discussion</b>
Week 2: 4 – 8 September	4 September – <b>No Class (Labor Day)</b> 6 September – <i>Essentials</i> chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (States)  <b>Quiz 1</b> (online): <i>Essentials</i> chapters 1-2
Week 3: 11 – 15 September	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 3 (Nations and Society)
Week 4: 18 – 22 September	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 5 (Democratic Regimes) <i>Cases</i> chapter 9 (India)  <b>Quiz 2</b> (online): <i>Essentials</i> chapters 3 and 5, <i>Cases</i> chapter 9

Date	Assignment
Week 5: 25 – 29 September	<i>Cases</i> chapter 2 (United Kingdom) and 3 (United States)
Week 6: 2 – 6 October	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 9 (Communism and Post-communism) <i>Cases</i> chapter 7 (Russia)  <b>Quiz 3</b> (online): <i>Essentials</i> chapter 9, <i>Cases</i> chapters 2-3, 7
Week 7: 9 – 13 October	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 6 (Nondemocratic Regimes)
Week 8: 16 – 20 October	16 October – <i>Essentials</i> chapter 4 (Political Economy) 18 October – <b>Mid-Term Exam</b> 20 October – <b>No Discussion</b>
Week 9: 23 – 27 October	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 7 (Political Violence) <i>Cases</i> chapter 8 (Germany)
Week 10: 30 October – 3 November	<i>Cases</i> chapter 6 (Japan)
Week 11: 6 – 10 November	<i>Essentials</i> chapter 10 (Developing Countries)  <b>Quiz 4</b> (online): <i>Essentials</i> chapters 7 and 10, <i>Cases</i> chapters 6 and 8
Week 12: 13 – 17 November	<i>Cases</i> chapter 8 (China)
Week 13: 20 – 24 November	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>
Week 14: 27 November – 1 December	<i>Cases</i> chapter 13 (South Africa)
Week 15: 4 – 8 December	<i>Cases</i> chapter 10 (Iran)
Week 16: 11 December	Conclusion
18 December	<b>Final Exam</b> 1:15 – 3:15 pm