

*John Carroll University/Department of Political Science*

# **PO 102.51 - Comparative Politics**

(this course carries an “S” designation and may also be used to fulfill the Div. III Core requirement)

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Summer II 2015 – this is an online course

Office Hours: by appointment only  
(216-397-4183)

**This syllabus will also be available on Canvas**

**GOALS:** Assuming that you complete all of the assignments and read all of the material, by the end of this course you will:

1. Know most of the basic concepts of comparative politics
2. Understand the purpose of comparison and why it is such a powerful analytical tool
3. Have broadened your cultural awareness
4. Know more about the political systems of several major countries
5. Have improved your research skills
6. Have improved your ability to write on political science issues

**TEXT:** available at the bookstore or online:

Patrick O’Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., W.W. Norton, 2015.

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES:**

1. You are responsible for knowing the content of this syllabus
2. All problems that prevent you from completing assigned work on time must be discussed prior to the due date. All late assignments carry an automatic penalty.
3. This being an online course and as such, you will be required to have a reliable, high-speed internet connection (cable/DSL or better). The course material, quizzes and exams will only be available online

**EVALUATION:** your final course grade will be computed on the following basis:

- Midterm exam/essay: 30%
- Final exam/essay: 30%
- 4 weekly quizzes: 10% each

**GRADING:** All grades you receive this semester are based on a 0-100 scale. They will be weighed according to the above key (see: Evaluation) and will be converted to a letter grade at the end of the semester as follows:

93 and above = A	89 - 88 = B+	79 - 78 = C+	69 - 67 = D+
92 - 90 = A-	87 - 83 = B	77 - 73 = C	66 - 63 = D
	82 - 80 = B-	72 - 70 = C-below	63 = F

## **STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES:**

In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please contact services for students with disabilities at (216) 397-4263 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. Please keep in mind that accommodations are never retroactive so students are encouraged to register early in the semester.

## **POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism, defined as representing the work of others as your own, is the most serious academic offense there is. It ranges from the improper use of quotations marks, to copying the work of others in whole or in part, to hiring someone else to do one's work. Please note that intent is **not** necessarily required to be guilty of plagiarism. The penalty for it ranges from the loss of points to an F for the course, to (in extreme cases) expulsion from the university.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

The course consists of six modules, available on Canvas, and each module is made up of a voice over slideshow presentation as well as a set of readings. There are 5 quizzes (lowest grade dropped) and 2 exams, where each is conditionally released after completion of the previous item. The conditional release works as follows: Modules 1/Quiz 1 are open from June 15. Module 2/Quiz 2 will be released upon the completion of Quiz 1, and so on until Module 6, after which there will only be the Final Exam. The Midterm Exam will be available after Module 3. This course is, thus, maximally flexible in that it allows you to learn at whatever pace works best for you, as long as it happens entirely within the allotted 4 ½ week period.

### Module 1:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: States

### Module 2:

Chapter 3: Nations and Society

Chapter 4: Political Economy

### Module 3:

Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes

Chapter 6: Nondemocratic Regimes

Midterm Exam

### Module 4:

Chapter 7: Political Violence

Chapter 8: Advanced Democracies

### Module 5:

Chapter 9: Communism and Postcommunism

Chapter 10: Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries

### Module 6:

Chapter 11: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics

Final Exam