# PLSC 207 Comparative Politics (Fall 2017)

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Classroom: Owen 104
Class Time: MW 08:00-9:15 AM

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the study of comparative politics. We focus on how citizens may be able to control public policies in different modern democracies and autocracies. We begin by briefly applying some of these ideas to the American political system. We then turn to comparing political systems of eleven countries with each other, the US and with other countries.

This course participates in the **Global Learning Initiative (GLI)** by its very nature. It also contributes to the mastery of the following **university-level competencies (ULCs)**:

**1. Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.**

Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. Winthrop graduates consider the full context and consequences of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical thinking process, including the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

**3. Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.**

Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.

**4. Winthrop University graduates communicate effectively**.

Winthrop graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

(1) understand and identify six types of *political structure* that enable government to formulate, implement and enforce policies including (a) political parties, (b) interest groups, (c) legislatures, (d) executives, (e) bureaucracies and (f) courts;

(2) understand and identify various functions of political systems including (a) *interest articulation* that allows individuals/groups to express needs/demands, (b) *interest*

*aggregation* that combines different demands into policy proposals, (c) *policymaking* that decides which policy proposals become authoritative rules, (d) *policy implementation* that enforces public policies, and (e) *policy adjudication* that settles disputes about policy application;

(3) understand and identify three functions of a political system including (a) *political socialization* - families, schools, media, churches, and political structures that develop, reinforce and transform the political culture, (b) *political recruitment* - selection of people for political activity and government offices, (c) *political communication* - flow of information through society and various structures that make up the political system;

(4) understand and identify political structures and functions of political systems for the following twelve countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, Mexico, Brazil, Iran, India and Nigeria, and

(5) compare and contrast different political structures and functions of the twelve countries.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell Dalton, and Kaare Strom. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 11th ed., 2015

The required text listed above has been ordered at the university bookstore. You are expected to read each required reading before the class period in which the reading is assigned and be able to intelligently discuss the readings on that day.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Also, consult sources such as The Economist (economist.com), The Wall Street Journal (wsj.com), The Washington Post (washingtonpost.com), Time (time.com), The New York Times (nytimes.com), and the BBC(bbc.com) to keep up with current international political events.

## COURSE REQUIREMENT

Your Grade Composition will be as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Class Participation /Discussion (10%) | 10% | |
| Exams (40%) | | |
| • Midterm | 20% | October 9 |
| • Final | 20% | December 12 |
| Country Case Study (50%) | | |
| • 2-page Country Fact Sheet and Proposal | 10 % | September 13 |
| • A complete dataset | 10 % | September 25 |
| • Annotated Bibliography | 10 % | October 18 |
| • Research Paper | 20 % | November 27 |

**Class Participation and Discussion (10%)** Attending class and being engaged in discussions is an important part of this course. It will help you to fulfill the course objectives. You are expected to

come to class prepared to discuss the day's reading. You are expected to attend all classes. Your class participation grade is based on attendance; attention to lectures; and your informed discussion and participation in class. *Class participation points will be based on both the quality and quantity of your contributions throughout the semester*. Also, participating as an active audience when other students present their case study is an important part of class participation. All the expectations for class participation (attendance, completing the reading materials, actively participate in discussion) apply to classes assigned for country case study presentations.

**Country Case Study (50%)** You will also be required to complete a four-part country study project, culminating in a research paper of 2,100 – 2,400 words based on a country case study that you will select this semester. You may choose any country other than the twelve countries covered in class. This case study is a research project designed to help you with your reading comprehension and critical thinking skills, as you apply the concepts we will be discussing in class to a country of your choosing and learn how to present evidence to support your argument. You may choose any topic relevant to the study of Comparative Politics you learn in class and apply the concepts and theories presented in class to the country of your choosing.

The country case study project will have four parts:

(1) A 2-page Country Fact Sheet and Proposal that includes a 1-page Country Fact Sheet and a 1-page proposal of the case study including the topic, research question, thesis statement, variables and hypotheses; due on September 13th. (10%)

(2) A complete dataset; due on September 25h. (10%)

(3) A 6-source annotated bibliography with 150-word annotations per source; due on October 18th.· (10%)

(4) A research paper of approximately 2,100 - 2,400 words, including the analysis and interpretation; due on November 27th. (20%)

Students will present their findings on November 27, November 29 or December 4. Which date of the three you will be presenting will be randomly selected. See the Appendix for detailed instructions for each component. The presentation and audience participation will be graded and counted towards the class participation grade. Presenting students must upload their papers on the course website in Blackboard at least 48 hours prior to their presentation. All students are expected to have read the papers to be presented before coming to class.

**ALL written assignment must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the due date in order to be graded. The Class ID is 15922160 and the Enrollment Password is c0mparat1ve.**

**Exams (40%)** The midterm (20%) will take place on October 9th. The final exam (20%) will not directly cover the first half of the course, but concepts and theories in the first half of the course are needed to address the second half of the course. The final will be on December 12. The exams will include questions from the reading assignments, class discussions and lectures. Anything we discuss in class could be on the exams. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay.

**Make-up exams** will only be approved when you have a **documented** reason for missing the exam. ***You must notify me prior to the exam***. Unchangeable, documented circumstances are the only acceptable reasons for missing the exam. If you get a note from a doctor (or student health services) it must state that you were so ill at the time of the exam that you could not attend.

## GRADING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | 93-100 = A<br>90-92 = A- | *Designates work of superior quality*<br>Class participation is voluntary, frequent, relevant, and reflects that you have both read and thought about the material. Performance on exams is consistently strong; demonstrates complete mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is clear, well-organized, thought-provoking, and free of grammatical or mechanical errors. |
| B | 87-89 = B+<br>82-86 = B 80-81 = B- | *Designates work of high quality (B+)*<br>Class participation is voluntary, frequent, and reflects that you are keeping up with the assigned materials. Performance on exams is strong; demonstrates mastery of facts and concepts. Written work reflects a good understanding of the issues and concepts. Writing is clear with minimal errors.<br>*Designates work that meets the course requirements (B and B-)*<br>Class participation is voluntary but occasional, and reflects that you are keeping up with the assigned materials. Performance on exams demonstrates satisfactory mastery of facts and concepts with minor errors. Written work reflects a good understanding of the issues and concepts with minor errors. Writing is clear with minimal errors. |
| C | 77-79 = C+<br>72-76 = C 70-71 = C- | *Designates work that minimally meets the course requirements*<br>Class participation is occasional and/or rarely voluntary, with comments that reveal only a superficial grasp of issues and concepts. Performance on exams demonstrates an acceptable degree of mastery of facts and concepts. Written work may contain arguments that are confusing, with minimal evidence of organization. Writing is marred by errors. |
| D | 67-69 = D+<br>62-66 = D<br>60-61 = D- | *Reflects minimal clarity and comprehension*<br>Class participation is minimal, never voluntary, and reveals that you have either not read the assigned materials or did not understand the readings. Performance on exams demonstrates minimal mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is confusing, contradictory, repetitive, and/or not supported by either your own ideas or your sources. Writing is marred by errors. |
| F | 0-59 = F | *Unsatisfactory performance* along most (or all) measures. |

**The "N" Grade**

This semester, the deadline to withdraw from a course with an automatic grade of "N" is Friday, October 20th. Students may not withdraw from the course after this date without documented extenuating circumstances.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note. The need may arise to make changes to this schedule depending upon the development of the class. All changes will be communicated to the class. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of such changes.

| Date | Topic | Assignments Due |
|---|---|---|
| August 23 | **COURSE INTRODUCTION**<br><br>Discussion of Course Description and Requirements | |
| **PART 1. INTRODUCTION** | | |
| August 28 | **Topic 1. WHAT IS COMPARATIVE POLITICS**: **WHAT DO WE COMPARE? WHY COMPARE?**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 1; 19 | |
| August 30 | **Topic 2. COMPARING POLITICAL SYSTEMS**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 2; 19 | |
| September 4 | **Labor Day, No class** | |
| September 6 | **Topic 2. COMPARING POLITICAL SYSTEMS**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 2 (cont'd) | |
| **PART 2. SYSTEM, PROCESS, AND POLICY** | | |
| September 11 | **Topic 2. POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 3 | |
| September 13 | **Topic 2. POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 3 | Country Fact Sheet and Proposal |
| September 18 | **Topic 3. INTEREST ARTICULATION**<br><u>Required Reading:</u><br>PDK Chapter 4 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| September 20 | **Topic 3. INTEREST ARTICULATION 2**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 4 | |
| September 25 | **Topic 4. INTEREST AGGREGATION AND POLITICAL PARTIES 1**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 5 | Complete Dataset |
| September 27 | **Topic 4. INTEREST AGGREGATION AND POLITICAL PARTIES 2**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 5 | |
| October 2 | **Topic 5. GOVERNMENT AND POLICYMAKING**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 6 | |
| October 4 | **Topic 5. GOVERNMENT AND POLICYMAKING**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 6 | |
| *Interim Grade Due on October 5* | | |
| October 9 | **MIDTERM** | Midterm - Topics 1 through 5 |
| October 11 | **Topic 6. PUBLIC POLICY**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 7 | |
| October 16 | **Fall Break, no-class** | |
| October 18 | **Topic 6. PUBLIC POLICY (CONT'D)**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 7 | Annotated Bibliography |
| *Course Withdraw Deadline October 20* | | |
| **PART 3. APPLICATIONS AND COUNTRY STUDIES** | | |
| October 23 | **Topic 7. POLITICS IN THE UK**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 8 | Course evaluation in class |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 25 | **Topic 8. POLITICS IN FRANCE**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapters 9 | |
| October 30 | **Topic 9. POLITICS IN GERMANY**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapters 10 | |
| November 1 | **Topic 10. POLITICS IN RUSSIA**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 12 | |
| November 6 | **Topic 11. COMPARING POLITICS OF CHINA AND JAPAN**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 11 and 13 | |
| November 8 | **Topic 12. COMPARING POLITICS OF MEXICO AND BRAZIL**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapters 14 and 15 | |
| November 13 | **Topic 13. POLITICS IN IRAN**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 16 | |
| November 15 | **Topic 14. POLITICS IN INDIA**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 17 | |
| November 20 | **Topic 15. POLITICS IN NIGERIA**<br>Required Reading:<br>PDK Chapter 18 | |
| November 22 | **Thanksgiving Break – No Class** | |
| November 27 | **COUNTRY CASE STUDY STUDENT PRESENTATION 1**<br>Required Reading:<br>All presentation materials | Research Paper |
| November 29 | **COUNTRY CASE STUDY STUDENT PRESENTATION 2**<br>Required Reading:<br>All presentation materials | |
| December 4 | **COUNTRY CASE STUDY STUDENT PRESENTATION 3**<br>Required Reading:<br>All presentation materials | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| December 12 | **Final Exam; 8:00 – 9:15 AM** | Covers Topic 6 and Country Studies |

## UNIVERSITY LEVEL CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

**Attendance, Class Participation, and Taking Notes:** Regular class attendance is required. Excessive absences will lower your grade in two ways: (1) loss of note-taking from class lecture and discussion; (2) loss of class participation credit. Class participation will raise or lower your grade. If prolonged illness or other problems cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please let me know. In addition, every student is expected to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and is not acceptable.

**Class Listserv Participation**: Class cancellations, changes in schedule, relevant global cultural events, guest speakers, etc., will be announced via the class listserv, to which you will be automatically subscribed through your winthrop.edu e-mail address if you are registered for the class by the time the listserv population is generated. If you register later and need to subscribe to the class listserv, go to:

http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081&ekmensel=bfef63b6_489_491_7081_1. The class number is PLSC207001. Check your WU e-mail frequently. You may use the listserv for discussion or to share information with classmates, review for exams, or ask questions about course material. *Note that anything you post to the listserv will be seen by everyone in the class.*

**Technology:** You are welcome to use a computer to take notes in class. However, using the computer to check Facebook or engage in other non-course related activities is prohibited. This class follows the College of Arts and Sciences policy on use of technology in the classroom. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class meetings. If you need to leave your phone on during a particular class for emergency reasons, please place it on vibrate. *The use of any kind of electronic device, including a phone, iPod or Internet access, during an exam constitutes academic dishonesty.*

http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/AppropriateUseOfHandHeldWirelessTechnologyApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf

**Office of Disability Services (ODS):** Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

**Winthrop's Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu or www.winthrop.edu/success.

**Winthrop University's Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)** identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222B. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage www.winthrop.edu/onca and email onca@winthrop.edu for more information.

**Plagiarism** Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. Consult your Writing 101/HMXP Writing Manual for proper citation techniques.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The Winthrop University Political Science department abhors all forms of academic misconduct, and faculty members aggressively investigate all incidents of suspected cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, using turnitin.com. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is by far the most common form of academic misconduct in the department. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Using the words or ideas of others as one's own;
- Reproducing, in whole or in part, principal ideas from a fellow student's work;
- Granting a fellow student permission to copy one's paper, or to reproduce some or all of its principal ideas;
- Quoting or paraphrasing material from sources without any citation;
- Quoting or paraphrasing material without sufficient and/or proper citation;
- Omitting some or all sources used in a paper; and
- Submitting a paper written for one course -- whether in Political Science or another discipline -- to meet a course requirement in a second course, *without the express permission of all instructors involved.* This is the case even though many paper topics may be relevant to several different courses.

All incidents of suspected academic misconduct are investigated with equal vigor. When a faculty member suspects that a student engaged in academic misconduct, the faculty member will follow the appropriate procedures outlined in the *Student Handbook*. The faculty member will apply whatever sanctions s/he deems appropriate. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- Failing the assignment;
- Requiring a student to repeat an assignment for reduced credit;
- Requiring a student to repeat an assignment for no credit; or
- Failing the course.

Academic misconduct applies equally to required assignments and extra credit assignments.

*All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Department Chair, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the student's academic advisor. The University may impose its own sanctions in addition to sanctions imposed by the faculty member or the department. The University may impose sanctions even after a student has graduated, and may include revoking a student's diploma.*

In addition, students who engage in more than one incident of academic misconduct may be declared ineligible for departmental awards, ineligible for employment in the department or its affiliated programs, and ineligible to volunteer as a peer advisor.

*Adopted August 14, 2007.*

# APPENDIX

## I. Country Fact Sheet and Research Proposal: Due September 13th

### 1. Country Fact Sheet (On Page 1)

You must use the most recent UNDP Human Development Report, published annually and available online. Type into the Google Search Engine: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT. Then, look for and Click on the link for HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS or GET DATA or GET STATISTICS. You should be able to SEARCH BY COUNTRY.

Information to include on Page 1 clearly labeled in sentence/paragraph form:

- Country Name
- Type of Government
- Year(s) of Constitution(s)
- Key Moments in Political History
    - Indigenous, Colonial, Independence Periods if applicable
- Economy: Per Capita GDP (PPP$), Basic imports and exports, agricultural, industrial, service sector labor
- Culture: Language/Ethnicity/Religion

### 2. Proposal (On Page 2)

- **Topic (1 sentence)**

  Once you have chosen your country case study, you will decide on a topic on which to write a research/concept paper. You should look through the topics raised throughout the semester to determine what country and what concept you may be interested in exploring more closely. To learn more about selecting your topic, read chapters that discuss the topic you are most interested in.

- **Research question (1 sentence)**
- **Thesis statement (1 sentence)**
- **Variables**:

  Include the list of variable names that you will include in your analysis between five to seven variables among which at least one variable must be a dependent variable.

  You can choose your variables from the following three sources of database

  **1. UNDP Human Development Report**

  **2. World Bank's Database of Political Institutions 2015 (DPI2015)**

  (1) Go to:

  (2) http://www.iadb.org/en/research-and-data/publication-details,3169.html?pub_id=IDB-DB-121

  (3) Click on "Download Dataset in English"

  **3. Center for Systemic Peace's Polity IV database**

  (1) Go to:

(1) http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscrdata.html

(2) Find the User's Manual and the dataset (either in excel or SPSS format) for "Polity IV Annual Time-Series, 1800-2016"

- **Time Period (1 sentence)**: Specify the period during which your analysis will be based and briefly comment on why you choose the specific period of time. Pay attention to the availability of information for the time period in the database for your selected country.
- **Hypotheses (1 to 2 sentences):** Briefly state the relationships between the variables you expect to find to support your thesis statement.

## II. Dataset (Due September 25th)

In an excel sheet or any other data format of your choice, complete your dataset using the following template:

| year | Variable 1 | Variable 2 | Variable 3 | Variable 4 | Variable 5 | Variable 6 | Variable 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1960 | | | | | | | |
| 1961 | | | | | | | |
| 1962 | | | | | | | |
| … | | | | | | | |
| 2014 | | | | | | | |
| 2015 | | | | | | | |
| 2016 | | | | | | | |

The variables and period included in the dataset should match the information in your proposal. You may submit your dataset in the following format (.doc, .docx, xls, xlsx, dta, or .RData).

## III. Annotated bibliography (Due October 18th)

An annotated bibliography is a listing of sources that you have read for your research paper which briefly summarizes the relevant content from those sources for the purposes of the research being done. You may use approximately 150 words summarizing each source. If your reading has caused you to change your paper topic, the topic and research question should be clearly articulated at this point in the assignment. You must use at least six different scholarly sources of research, including books, journal articles, and other international or country reports. Internet sources such as Wikipedia and Dictionary.com cannot be your references in a scholarly research paper. You can read this for background information but you should not cite this in a scholarly research paper.

You may use either MLA, APA, or Chicago style, but be consistent throughout your bibliography. A template can be found at the Purdue University Online Writing Lab: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/

## IV. Research Paper (Due November 27th)

The paper should be 2,100 – 2,400 words (excluding the references) and include a minimum of 6 outside sources other than the data used in the paper. Students will use either MLA, APA or Chicago style.

- Title page
  - Title
  - Student's affiliation
  - Abstract
  - Keywords
- Introduction
  - Research question, including justification of importance of the research question
  - Thesis/Main argument
  - Brief justification of case selection (your country)
  - Brief preview of findings (optional)
- Literature review
  - Clear description of main schools of thought relevant to your research question, including the current debate (if there is any)
  - Clear description of how your paper is connected to the existing literature
- Hypothesis
  - Briefly discuss the relationships between the variable you expect to observe from your data, if your data supports your thesis statement.
- Data and Method
  - Description of your data, including data sources and variables, how you plan to present your data
- Findings
  - Present your findings and provide your interpretation of the evidence that supports your thesis statement.
- Conclusion