

A	Course Number & Title	POL 300: Comparative Politics			
B	Pre/Co-requisite(s)	POL 201			
C	Number of credits	3-0-3			
D	Faculty Name	Stephanie N. Shady			
E	Term/ Year	Fall 2022 (note: last-minute shift due to department needs; I am not currently teaching this course)			
F	Sections	CRN	Days	Time	Location
		300-01	TR	3:30-4:45 PM	
G	Instructor Information	Office	Email		
		HSB 2053	sshady@aus.edu		
		Office Hours:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesdays 12-4pm • You do NOT need to make an appointment to attend the office hours listed above. If you are unable to meet during these office hours, send me an email and we will work out an alternative time. • Office hours are a resource that I encourage you to make use of throughout the semester. This is not only time for you to ask questions or deepen your understanding of course material, but also an opportunity for you to discuss career paths and future opportunities as well as expand your professional network. 			
H	Course Description from Catalog	Introduces key themes, theories and debates in comparative politics. Provides an overview of the historical, political, economic and ideational dynamics that have shaped the states and societies of the developed and developing worlds.			
I	Course Learning Outcomes and Assessment Instruments	Learning Outcomes	Assessment Instruments		
		Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:			
		1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and analytical perspectives to the study of comparative politics.	Midterm and final exams		
		2. Explore the political, social, and economic experiences of a number of different types of states.	Midterm and final exams		
		3. Demonstrate capacity for individual research.	Paper		
		4. Communicate thoughtful, informed, and coherent arguments about comparative politics verbally.	Presentation		
J	Textbook and other Instructional Material and Resources	O'Neil, Patrick H., Karl J. Fields, and Don Share. 2020. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases</i> . 7 th AP Edition. W.W. Norton. https://store.kortext.com/essentials-of-comparative-politics-with-cases-1939907			
		IMPORTANT: You must purchase the AP edition with cases. The other edition does not include the case studies that we will be using in the course.			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading assignments are listed as “Essentials Chapter X” on the calendar below. Read the whole chapter unless specific pages are listed. • The course textbook can be purchased through the AUS eTextbook-shop. Please click on the link below for a guide on how to purchase books from eTextbook-shop. Student Guide: https://itfaq.aus.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/fag/586/student-guide-purchasing-and-accessing-etextbooks-etextbook-shopcompressed.pdf • All other required readings will be made available as PDFs on the course website. 																																																
<p>K Teaching and Learning Methodologies</p>	<p>This class uses multiple teaching and learning methodologies, including lectures, class discussion, and individual student research presented in written and oral formats.</p>																																																
<p>L Grading Scale, Grading Distribution, and Due Dates</p>	<p>Grading Scale</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="592 723 1337 891"> <tr> <td>92.00– 100</td> <td>4.0</td> <td>A</td> <td>77.00 – 79.99</td> <td>2.3</td> <td>C+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90.00 – 91.99</td> <td>3.7</td> <td>A-</td> <td>72.00 – 76.99</td> <td>2.0</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>87.00 – 89.99</td> <td>3.3</td> <td>B+</td> <td>70.00 – 71.99</td> <td>1.7</td> <td>C-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82.00 – 86.99</td> <td>3.0</td> <td>B</td> <td>60.00 – 69.99</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80.00 – 81.99</td> <td>2.7</td> <td>B-</td> <td>Less Than 59.99</td> <td>0</td> <td>F</td> </tr> </table> <p>Grading Distribution</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 987 1460 1395"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assessment</th> <th>Weight</th> <th>Due Date (Week #)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group presentation</td> <td>20%</td> <td>November 10 and 15 (Weeks 11 and 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper (plus topic proposal and rough draft)</td> <td>35%</td> <td>Topic proposal: September 22 (Week 4) Rough draft: October 27 (Week 9) Final paper: November 29 (Week 14)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm exam</td> <td>20%</td> <td>October 18 (Week 8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final exam</td> <td>25%</td> <td>December 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Your final grade will be based exclusively on these course components, and no extra credit assignments will be available. Once posted, all grades are final and will not be changed barring a mathematical or clerical error. Grades are not negotiable for any student, including graduating seniors. However, I do encourage you to speak with me in office hours about strategies for learning from your assignments and improving your performance throughout the semester. If you are struggling in the course, please ask for help early and often.</p>	92.00– 100	4.0	A	77.00 – 79.99	2.3	C+	90.00 – 91.99	3.7	A-	72.00 – 76.99	2.0	C	87.00 – 89.99	3.3	B+	70.00 – 71.99	1.7	C-	82.00 – 86.99	3.0	B	60.00 – 69.99	1.0	D	80.00 – 81.99	2.7	B-	Less Than 59.99	0	F	Assessment	Weight	Due Date (Week #)	Group presentation	20%	November 10 and 15 (Weeks 11 and 12)	Paper (plus topic proposal and rough draft)	35%	Topic proposal: September 22 (Week 4) Rough draft: October 27 (Week 9) Final paper: November 29 (Week 14)	Midterm exam	20%	October 18 (Week 8)	Final exam	25%	December 18	Total	100%	
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<p>M Explanation of Assessments</p>	<p>1. Group presentation (November 10 and 15). At the beginning of the semester, students will be assigned to groups of 2-3 to create a 15-minute comparative oral presentation. You should use slides as a visual aid. Students will each choose one (1) of the countries they are studying for the research paper and compare/contrast with their group members’ countries. Each presentation will focus on how the state manages ethnic diversity within its borders. Students should identify similarities/differences in the social and political conditions that affect how the states manage ethnic diversity. Some conditions may include the ethnic composition/heterogeneity, resource distribution, geographic dispersion, historical power dynamics, and political institutions and representation, among others. You do not have time to cover every possible condition, but rather should highlight the <i>most</i> important conditions according to your own analysis. If</p>																																																

possible, try to identify at least one similarity and at least one difference between your cases' conditions and management of ethnic diversity. One of the purposes of this presentation is to get you started on some of the research that is relevant to your final paper; as such, you should provide a bibliography at the end of your slides that includes academic and other sources consulted for the presentation.

2. **Research paper (Due November 29 at 11:59 P.M.).** Students are expected to write one original research paper in this course. Papers should be between 2000 and 2500 words, written in a Word document using 1inch/2.54cm margins all around, double spacing, and a 12-point standard font. The word count applies *only* to the text of your paper; it does not include references or the cover page. Your cover page should include a meaningful title, your name and course section, and the date.

Prompt: Choose **TWO** countries, which may be cases covered in the course or any other countries you are interested in studying. **Analyze a major domestic or international political challenge that both countries face and COMPARE/CONTRAST** how these two countries respond to this issue. Discuss how the similarities/differences in the institutional, social, and/or political conditions of the countries influence responses to the political issue you have selected. Your topic should be contemporary (within the last 5 years) but may refer to history as it is relevant to the present (please do not provide extensive historical background; focus on the present and include references to history only as relevant). If we discuss a country and issue in class, you may write about it, but you must go beyond the course material. You should provide necessary factual information as well as your own critical analysis of the factors that shape similar/different responses to the issue in the countries you have chosen.

Your paper should:

- Have a clear thesis statement in the first paragraph.
- Identify key actors and institutions relevant to the issue you choose, including their roles and how they relate to each other.
- Demonstrate understanding of relevant course concepts and terms by applying them to your cases. You do NOT need to define the course terms explicitly; instead, demonstrate your ability to use them in an appropriate context.
- Focus on the most essential information. You do not have space to cover every single detail that you come across in your research. It is your job to assess what is most important for conveying an understanding of the issue you choose. We will talk about making these choices in class, and you are also welcome to discuss these decisions with me in office hours.
- Assume that your reader (i.e. Professor Shady) is knowledgeable about comparative politics but may not know the specific details of the countries you've chosen. For example, if you discuss a political party, you should identify its family or ideology. As another example, you do not need to explicitly define proportional representation, but you should demonstrate your understanding of this term (or any term used) by analyzing its role in your topic.

Preparatory Assignments for the Final Paper

- **Topic proposal:** Propose a political issue, two countries to compare/contrast, and at least two institutional, social, or political similarities/differences you will discuss in your analysis. Write a short paragraph with this information and provide a bibliography with at least three (3) sources to demonstrate that you have done preliminary research. **Due September 22 at 11:59 P.M.**
- **Rough draft (minimum 1000 words):** Write at least 1000 words towards your paper, starting at the introduction so that I can review your thesis statement. You must draft half the paper by this state, but you may write up to 2500 words (the full paper) for me to review. This is your opportunity to receive detailed written feedback on your work for improvement on the final draft. Take advantage of it.

	<p>After this date you can receive additional feedback by coming to office hours to discuss the paper. Due October 27 at 11:59 P.M.</p> <p>Using Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least ten (10) academic sources (peer-reviewed journal articles or academic books) other than the textbook. You may use other reputable sources in addition to these academic sources, such as journalism, think tank publications, or government/United Nations materials. Read all sources with a critical eye. • You may use sources in languages other than English; if you do, please translate the reference and any terms you use into English (you can leave Spanish, French, and Italian in the original language). You can put the translation or the original term (such as a party name) in a footnote so that it doesn't count towards the word limit. • Avoid using direct quotes from sources unless the precise language is absolutely necessary to convey a point you are making. I am interested in <i>your</i> writing and analysis, not that of your sources. • You should cite sources in paper and at the end in a reference list. In-text citations should include the author's last name and year in footnotes at the end of your sentences (this is so references don't count your word count). Every time you use an idea from a source, even if you are not using a direct quote, you should cite the source. You do not need to cite a source for using basic terms from the course materials. • I have no preference what citation style you use in your reference list. You should choose a style and be consistent. Some options are MLA, Chicago, APA, or Harvard. The important thing is that I can easily find and access a source you have listed. If in doubt, use APA: https://aus.libguides.com/apa. <p>Plagiarism: Using others' words or ideas without giving appropriate credit is plagiarism. This includes directly quoting an article, book, etc. without a citation as well as using a core idea without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action. If in doubt, cite. If you have any questions about giving appropriate credit to your sources, you are welcome to discuss them with me in office hours.</p> <p>3. Exams. You will take one mid-term exam (October 18) and one final exam (December 18) in class. Both will be closed-book and closed-notes. The mid-term will cover all material up to the exam date. The final exam is cumulative. Both exams will include short answer and essay responses. All material presented in class through lectures, class discussions, and readings may be assessed on the exams. You will not be tested on additional material from your paper or presentations, though you may choose to write about this material in your responses as an example as appropriate.</p>
<p>N Attendance</p>	<p>Students in this course are required to follow the AUS Attendance Policy as outlined in the <i>AUS Undergraduate Catalog</i>.</p> <p>You are adults who are responsible for your education, which means attending class. I am aware that extenuating circumstances such as illness or a death in the family may prevent you from attending class occasionally. In such circumstances, please communicate with me via email. If you are ill and contagious, with COVID-19 or otherwise, please do not come to class.</p> <p>Students who arrive to class after attendance is taken will be considered late. Please let the instructor know you arrived late at the end of class.</p>
<p>O Student Academic Integrity Code Statement</p>	<p>Students MUST read the Student Academic Integrity Code outlined in the <i>AUS Undergraduate Catalog</i> and abide by the standards for academic conduct, students' rights and responsibilities and procedures for handling allegations of academic dishonesty.</p>

SCHEDULE

Fall 2022 (TR)

*I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and readings as necessary. All changes will be communicated in advance via email.

#	WEEK	TOPICS & ASSIGNED READING	NOTES/DUE DATES
1	Aug 30	Introduction (read the syllabus and come to class prepared to ask questions about it)	Getting to know our community and comparing our first political memories
	Sept 1	PART 1: CONCEPTS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS What is comparative politics? Essentials Chapter 1	
2	Sept 6	States and nations Essentials Chapter 2	
	Sept 8	National identity, nationalism, and citizenship Essentials Chapter 3 pages	
3	Sept 13	National identity, nationalism, and citizenship Bochsler, Daniel, Elliott Green, Erin Jenne, Harris Mylonas, and Andreas Wimmer. 2021. "Exchange on the quantitative measurement of ethnic and national identity." <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> 27: 22-40.	
	Sept 15	Political violence Essentials Chapter 5	
4	Sept 20	Democratic regimes Essentials Chapter 6	Paper topic proposal due September 22 by 11:59 P.M.
	Sept 22	Essentials Chapter 7 Lijphart, Arend. 1999. <i>Patterns of Democracy</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1 and 4.	
5	Sept 27	Non-democratic regimes	
	Sept 29	Essentials Chapter 8	

		<p>Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 13(2): 51-65.</p> <p>Cameron, Maxwell A. 2018. "Making Sense of Competitive Authoritarianism." <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i> 60(2): 1-22.</p>	
6	<p>Oct 4</p> <p>Oct 6</p>	<p>Comparative political economy: poverty, inequality, and development</p> <p>Essentials Chapter 4</p> <p>United Nations Habitat. 2020. <i>World Cities Report: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization</i>. Chapter 2.</p>	
7	<p>Oct 11</p> <p>Oct 13</p>	<p>Colonialism and post-colonialism</p> <p>Essentials Chapter 10</p> <p>Communism and post-communism</p> <p>Essentials Chapter 9</p>	
8	<p>Oct 18</p> <p>Oct 20</p>	<p>Midterm exam</p> <p>PART 2: APPLICATIONS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS – COMPARING POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN POLITICS ACROSS CASES</p> <p>Case: Russia</p> <p>Essentials Case 3 (pages 438-485)</p>	
9	<p>Oct 25</p> <p>Oct 27</p>	<p>Richters, Katja. 2012. <i>The Post-Soviet Russian Orthodox Church: Politics, Culture, and Greater Russia</i>. Chapters 3 and 8.</p> <p>Case: China</p> <p>Essentials Case 4 (pages 486-549)</p>	<p>Paper rough draft (minimum 1000 words) due October 27 by 11:59 P.M.</p>
10	<p>Nov 1</p>	<p>Fetzer, Joel S., and Christopher Soper. 2010. "Confucian values and elite support for liberal democracy in Taiwan; The periods of priestly religion." <i>Politics and Religion</i> 3(3): 495-517.</p> <p>Koesel, Karrie J. 2017. "Religion and the regime: Cooperation and conflict in contemporary Russia and China." <i>World Politics</i> 69(4): 676-712.</p>	

	Nov 3	Case: Mexico Essentials Case 6 (pages 638-697)	
11	Nov 8	Hale, Christopher. 2018. "Religious institutions and collective action: The Catholic church and political activism in indigenous Chiapas and Yucatán." <i>Politics and Religion</i> 11(1): 27-54.	
	Nov 10	Presentations: Groups 1-4	
12	Nov 15	Presentations: Groups 5-8	
	Nov 17	Case: Nigeria Essentials Case 7 (pages 698-755)	
13	Nov 22	Vinson, Laura Thaut, and Peter Rudloff. 2021. "Perceptions of local versus national factors in religious and tribal conflict: Evidence from a survey in Jos, Nigeria." <i>Politics and Religion</i> 14(4): 663-690.	
		Thurston, Alexander. 2020. "Sectarian triangles: Salafis, the Shi'a, and the politics of religious affiliations in northern Nigeria." <i>Politics and Religion</i> 14(3): 484-511.	
	Nov 24	Case: United Kingdom Essentials Case 2 (pages 302-363)	
14	Nov 29	Mitchell, Claire. 2006. <i>Religion, Identity, and Politics in Northern Ireland: Boundaries of Belonging and Belief</i> . Aldershot, Hants, England: Ashgate Publishing. Chapters 1 and 6.	Final paper due November 29 11:59 P.M.
	Dec 1	No class, Commemoration Day and UAE National Day holiday	
15	Dec 6	Last day of class: Conclusions and final exam review	
	FINAL EXAM	Sunday, December 18, 2:00-4:00 P.M.	