

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Global Social Science

POLS 1130-001, POLS1501-001
T/R, Fretwell 113, 8:30am - 9:45am.

Spring 2024

Professor Fred Batista

(Pronouns: He/Him/His)

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Office Hours: after class or by appointment

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This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester. However, the policies, assignments and readings contained in this syllabus are subject to change with advance notice.

1 Course Description

This course will introduce you to the main concepts and theories from the comparative approach to political science. You will become familiar with other political systems around the globe - as well as thereby enriching and deepening your understanding of your own political system. All in all, you will learn about some of the major questions that comparativists ask and how they pursue answers to those questions. For example: Why are some countries democracies while others have persistently authoritarian forms of government? Why are some countries wealthier than others? Why does the U.S. have only two major parties while other countries have many more? Why are women and other minority groups more likely to hold seats in the parliaments in some countries more than others?

2 Reading Material

The following textbook is highly recommended, but not necessarily required:

- Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood. 2016. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, 4th edition. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (or second edition). We will use this book in the lecture. Older editions are

cheaper and available, but be warned that the page numbers and chapter designs have changed.

Other Readings:

In addition to readings from the textbooks, we will also discuss a variety of other readings from academic journals and books. Each of these readings will be available on Canvas. It is up to you to download and print the readings individually prior to each class. You are expected to do the assigned readings before the class period indicated on the syllabus.

3 Evaluation

Attendance	10%
10 Weekly Exercises on Canvas	50%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

3.1 Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

3.2 Exams

You will take one (1) midterm exam and one (1) final exam in this course. The midterm exam will cover material from lectures and readings assigned up to that point of the course. The cumulative final exam will cover material from all lectures and readings. Both exams will contain multiple choice questions and will count for 20 points of your final course grade.

3.3 Friday Exercises on Canvas

Starting in Week 2 there will be 10 Canvas activities posted on a weekly basis (expect for the midterm date and Fridays without classes). The activities will consist on different types of activities, from quizzes to written reflections. Each activity will be worth 5 points, which will add up to 50 points towards your final grade.

3.4 Attendance

You are expected to come to class, to be on time, and to participate constructively. The instructor will take attendance every class. You will start with 10 points and will lose points based on the number of classes missed. The detailed attendance policy is the following:

- Students missing 0-2 classes by the end of the semester will lose 0 points towards their final grade

- Students missing 3 classes by the end of the semester will lose 2 points towards their final grade
- Students missing 4 classes by the end of the semester will lose 4 points towards their final grade
- Students missing 5 classes by the end of the semester will lose 6 points towards their final grade
- Students missing 6 classes by the end of the semester will lose 8 points towards their final grade
- Students missing 7 or more classes by the end of the semester will lose 10 points towards their final grade

Missing class does not excuse you from whatever graded assignments might be due or material covered that day. In extreme circumstances I may suspend the penalty, but only at my discretion and with the following considerations: (1) the reasons and documentation for all missed classes, (2) the timeliness with which you alerted me of the need for your absence, and (3) your participation in class otherwise.

4 Administrative Policies

4.1 Course Website and Email

The course website can be accessed through Canvas. Please check this site regularly for readings, assignments, and other updates. Announcements may be sent out via email or posted directly on Canvas. You are responsible for all information disseminated via Canvas and/or email. If you send me an email on a weekday, I will respond to you that same day. If you send me an email on a weekend or holiday, I will respond to you the following business day.

4.2 Absences and Late Work

Missed exams will only be rescheduled if you have received prior approval of your absence and you have documentation explaining why you cannot be in class that day. Makeups for in-class assignments will only be granted if you provide documentation explaining why you could not be in class, or under extraordinary circumstances. I reserve the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

4.3 Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. In short, this means that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students violating the Academic Honesty Policy in this course will receive a minimum penalty of a grade of zero for the assignment or test in question and may receive an “F” in the course and referral to Judicial Services.

4.4 Students with Disabilities

UNC Charlotte is committed to ensuring equal academic opportunities and inclusion for students with disabilities based on the principles of independent living, accessible univer- sal design and

diversity. Students with disabilities who anticipate needing an academic accommodation in this course should provide me with the proper documentation from the Disability Services Center within the first week of class.

4.5 Diversity

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or disability. In keeping with this commitment, UNC Charlotte actively seeks to promote diversity in its educational environment through its recruitment, enrollment, and hiring practices.

4.6 Courtesy in Classroom

Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, cell phones should be turned off or silenced during class and put away. Do not talk on your cell phone or text message during class. You are permitted to use laptops during class, but I reserve the right to ask you to put your laptop away if you are using it for purposes unaffiliated with my course. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. Being late to class is a sign of disrespect towards the instructor and your fellow students. Please refrain from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class may lead to your being asked to leave the classroom and/or a reduction of your final grade.

4.7 COVID-19 Policies

It is the current policy of UNC Charlotte that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the 49er community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings in all indoor spaces on campus, including classrooms and labs, **regardless of vaccination status**. Failure to comply with this policy in the classroom or lab may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity for charges under the Code of Student Responsibility.

4.8 Title IX Reporting Policy

UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with civil protective orders, and more. Please be aware that all UNC Charlotte employees,

including faculty members, are expected to relay any information or reports of sexual misconduct they receive to the Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I am expected to report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Although I am expected to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator: (1) University Counseling Center (counselingcenter.uncc.edu, 7-0311); or (2) Student Health Center (studenthealth.uncc.edu, 7-7400). Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the “Students” tab.

4.9 FERPA Notification

In establishing University Policy 402, Student Education Records, UNC Charlotte adheres to a policy of compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as FERPA, a federal law that affords students the following rights with respect to their education records. For details, see the FERPA Annual Notification posted on the Office of Legal Affairs website. All questions concerning this FERPA Annual Notification may be directed to the attention of the Office of the Registrar.

4.10 Food Insecurity Statement

Food insecurity is defined by the USDA as “a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life.” Food insecure categories include: reduced caloric intake, reduced food quality, lack of variety in diet, disrupted eating patterns, and hunger. Research shows that college students experience food insecurity at higher rates than the American household rate, and that food insecurity can negatively impact academic performance and persistence. In recognition of this problem, UNC Charlotte offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on- campus food pantry. The Jamil Niner Student Pantry (JNSP) is located on the east edge of campus at 1224 John Kirk Road. It has regular hours which may change from semester to semester; please see the website at <https://ninerpantry.uncc.edu/> for schedule and details on its services, as well as resources about hunger and food insecurity among college students.

5 Course Schedule

This schedule is a guide for the course and is subject to change at my discretion with appropriate notice. Please read the appropriate readings before the course period for which they are listed below.

Week 0

Thursday, January 11: INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW

Reading: Please read the syllabus.

Week 1

Tuesday, January 16: THE COMPARATIVE APPROACH

Reading: Textbook Chapter 1

Thursday, January 18, 2023: THE COMPARATIVE APPROACH

Reading: Textbook Chapter 1

No Canvas Activity this week.

Week 2

Tuesday, January 23: THEORIES, HYPOTHESIS, AND EVIDENCE

Reading: Textbook Chapter 2

Thursday, January 25: THEORIES, HYPOTHESIS, AND EVIDENCE

Reading: Textbook Chapter 2

Due on Friday (January 26): Canvas Activity 1

Week 3

Tuesday, January 30: THE STATE

Reading: Textbook Chapter 3

Thursday, February 1: POLITICAL ECONOMY

Reading: Textbook Chapter 4

Due on Friday (February 2): Canvas Activity 2

Week 4

Tuesday, February 6: DEVELOPMENT

Reading: Textbook Chapter 5

Thursday, February 8: DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Reading: Textbook Chapter 6

Due on Friday (February 9): Canvas Activity 3

Week 5

Tuesday, February 13: DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Reading: Textbook Chapter 6

Thursday, February 15: AUTOCRACIES

Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Due on Friday (February 16): Canvas Activity 4

Week 6

Tuesday, February 20: AUTOCRACIES

Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Wednesday, February 22: **MIDTERM EXAM**

No Reading

No Canvas Activity this week.

Week 7

Tuesday, February 27: CONSTITUTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN)

Reading: Textbook Chapter 8

Thursday, February 29: LEGISLATURES AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Reading: Textbook Chapter 9

Due on Friday (March 1): Canvas Activity 5

Week 8

Tuesday, March 5: NO CLASS (SPRING RECESS)

Thursday, March 7: NO CLASS (SPRING RECESS)

Week 9

Tuesday, March 12: LEGISLATURES AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Reading: Textbook Chapter 9

Thursday, March 14: LEGISLATURES AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Reading: Textbook Chapter 9

Due on Friday (March 15): Canvas Activity 6

Week 10

Tuesday, March 19: EXECUTIVES

Reading: Textbook Chapter 10

Thursday, March 21: EXECUTIVES

Reading: Textbook Chapter 10

Due on Friday (March 21): Canvas Activity 7

Week 11

Tuesday, March 26: IMPEACHMENTS

Reading: Linz, Pérez-Liñan, Silver

Thursday, March 28: PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Reading: Textbook Chapter 11

No Canvas Activity this week.

Week 12

Tuesday, April 2: PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Reading: Textbook Chapter 11

Thursday, April 4: NO CLASS (INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE)

No Reading

No Canvas Activity this week.

Week 13

Tuesday, April 9: IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Reading: Textbook Chapter 15

Thursday, April 11: IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Reading: Textbook Chapter 15
No Canvas Activity this week.

Week 14

Tuesday, April 16: DOCUMENTARY: SICK AROUND THE WORLD

No Reading

Thursday, April 18: COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE POLICY

Reading: Immergut paper

Due on Friday (April 19): Canvas Activity 8-9-10

Week 15

Tuesday, April 23: NO CLASS (STUDY FOR FINAL)

No Readings

Thursday, April 25: **FINAL EXAM**

No Readings