
COMPARATIVE POLITICS in Fall 2020 (PO2015)

Course Code	PO2015	Professor(s)	Oleg Kobtzeff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L16
Class Schedule	F: 16:20-17:55 in C-102 T: 10:50-12:25 in C-102	Office Hours	Tuesdays 13:00-14:00 & Fridays 15:00-16:00
Credits	4	Email	okobtzeff@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	688(during off.,hrs)

Course Description

IN A PRESENT OR FUTURE SITUATION OF REMOTE LEARNING: FOLLOW THE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS IN RED THROUGHOUT THIS SYLLABUS

< — (LOOK FOR THIS LIGHTHOUSE ICON)

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE IN CLASS DUE TO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND/OR QUARANTINE YOU CAN FOLLOW LIVE or RECORDED VIDEOS OF ALL CLASSES. IF THIS COURSE IS FORCED TO MOVE ENTIRELY ON LINE DUE TO COVID

EMERGENCY MEASURES, teaching will be provided through 1) live broadcasts from the instructor's

home and the 2) recordings of those live sessions; 3) special documentaries produced for the course

Every class session is illustrated by a Power Point presentation of 50 to 100 slide, all available on

Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why should we analyze the different systems of government and political processes of a variety of states, cities and other types of communities? For Indiana University and Purdue University scholars Patricia Fox¹ and Stephen Hundley, it is globalization that forces future professionals to become familiar with a variety of cultures throughout the globe.

"the demand in business and industry to hire people who can work with people of other nations and cultures and if

need be can travel independently internationally to promote their business or industry. In addition, the world faces

global challenges that will take interdisciplinary groups to solve these challenges. These global challenges will need to

be solved through the gathering and sharing of knowledge across disciplines, institutions, and other entities institutions on a global scale." This class will focus on the political cultures of the globe. The political systems that we will focus upon (those of the United Kingdom, France, the

United States, Germany, and several other selected) will not only reveal how great world powers are governed but—because they are models—how they have influenced scores of other

states (among commonwealth states, former African and Asian colonies of France or the UK, Central European countries, etc.) in the way that their electoral systems, and their legislative, executive and judicial branches of government administer the different states of the globe in different or similar ways.

Because there is considerable demand from AUP students to address this issue, we will devote time for a study of systemic racism, ... but not only in the USA. Because this is a course on comparative and international politics, will approach this issue from different angles and study the different forms of racism and discrimination in a variety of countries. For example, the instructor will share with you a presentation on Black people in one of the most unusual settings for Africans or people of African descent: Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to analyse current affairs from three levels of analysis (structural, political and governmental).

They should be able to define key concepts of comparative politics and should be familiar with contemporary theories of the discipline.

They should be able to compare political institutions, norms and cultures across and within regions of the world, and should be in a position to reasonably evaluate them.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

OUTLINE of LECTURES:

SESSION 1

The Nation, the State and nation-states

READINGS:

- Anonymous, "Nation-state" (available on Blackboard)
- Students will research entries such as "nation", "state", "nation-state", "empire", "unitary state", "federal state" and "confederate state" by comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin'
- Students must also carefully study

SESSION 2

Authoritarian Regimes

READINGS:

- Students will research examples of states presenting characteristics of regimes discussed in this chapter by comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin' and other scholarly dictionaries (the article in Wikipedia is actually quite good). They will also research other dictionaries for the following entries: "fascism", "totalitarianism", "authoritarianism", "banana republic"
 - Also: Marlies Glasius, "What authoritarianism is ... and is not: a practice perspective", International Affairs: 94: 3 (2018) - available on Blackboard
- 30 September (Wednesday) Last day to DROP/ADD courses online

SESSION 3

Democracies & Democracy

READINGS:

- Students will also research examples of states presenting characteristics of regimes discussed in this chapter by comparing entries in Boix & Stokes and 'Goodin'
- + other dictionaries (look for entry "democracy")

SESSION 4

"Left" and "right", political parties

READINGS:

- Students will research the meaning of "left" and "right" in the dictionaries featured in the list above (under "required" and "recommended" Readings:)

SESSION 5

Electoral systems

READINGS:

- Students will research "Electoral Systems" in the listed dictionaries (hint: look for authors Shaun Bowler and Rein Taagepera)

SESSION 6

The United Kingdom – part 1

READINGS:

- The Comparative Government Project > United Kingdom
- > Main government websites describing constitutional system of government

SESSION 7

Session 9: The United Kingdom – part 2

READINGS:

- (same as Session 8)

SESSION 8

The UK model: countries of the Commonwealth compared (a brief overview with a focus on Africa). Students wishing to share their presentations (Exercise 5) may do so on this day (extra credit)

READINGS:

- Lansford: "Canada", Australia", "New Zealand", "South Africa", "Kenya"
- Troy Lennon, "Responsible government: Westminster system explained", The West Australian, Mon, 7 August 2017 9:27AM (online)

SESSION 9

Session 11: India

READINGS:

- Lansford: "India"
- The Comparative Government Project > India
o > Main government websites describing constitutional system of government

SESSION 10

Session 12 : The United States – this Session will be in the form of a discussion. Students who are US citizens will be expected to review in advance their knowledge of the system of government of the United States (see Readings: below) and share them with other students; we will compare the US system with the UK.

READINGS:

Lansford: "The United States"
The Comparative Government Project > United States
> Main government websites describing constitutional system of government

Tuesday November 3:

Last deadline for Exercise 1 – "You are the Prof" (try to submit earlier – grade goes down if late)

Tuesday November 10: Midterm :

Exercise 2: 1st quiz (study everything we have studied up to Session 10)

SESSION 11

France – part 1

READINGS:

- Lansford: "France"

SESSION 12

France – part 2

READINGS:

The Comparative Government Project > France

> Main government websites describing constitutional system of government

SESSION 13

Session 15: Germany – part 1

READINGS:

- Lansford: "Germany"

SESSION 14

Session 16: Session : Germany – part 2

READINGS:

The Comparative Government Project > Germany

> Main government websites describing constitutional system of government

SESSION 15

Session 17: China – part 1

READINGS:

- Lansford: China

SESSION 16

Session 18: China – part 2

READINGS:

- Francis Fukuyama: "What Kind of Regime Does China Have?"

SESSION 17

The European Union

READINGS:

- Europe in 12 lessons: Chapter 4: How does the EU work? Chapter 5: What does the EU do? (pp. 26-51) Available on Blackboard.

- Christopher Lord, "The European Parliament, Not a Very European Parliament?", *Politique Européenne*, 2003/1 (n° 9), pages 30-48. Available on Blackboard.

SESSION 18

Russia – part 1

READINGS:

- Lansford: China

SESSION 19

Russia – part 2

READINGS:

- Dossier on Russia on Blackboard

Last sessions

Presentations

Last deadlines :

Exercise 3: "you are the prof": Friday December 11

Final Exam Date: Dec 22, 2020: 8:00PM

1. Exercise 4: Quiz

2. Exercise 5: last presentations

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
COMPARATIVE POLITICS: DOMESTIC RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES	HAUSS, CHARLES	CENGAGE	9781285465500	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners. Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

Grading Policy

EXPECTED OUTCOMES and GRADING:

6 Exercises will assess how learning goals are being met.

Students will obtain points for each exercise. To obtain "A" as a final grade, students must accumulate a minimum of 37

points (maximum is 40; minimum for A = 37; minimum for A- = 35, for B+ = 33, for B = 30, for B- = 27, for C+ = 23, for C = 20, for C- = 17,

for D+ = 13, for D = 10, for D- = 7; below 7 = F)

Exercise 1: "You are the Prof"* = 5% (pass or fail) : maximum number of points obtainable: 2.

Deadline: Tuesday Nov. 3

For this exercise, students must form study groups of 3 or 4 with their classmates. Before the

assigned deadline,
each group must submit a list of 30 questions that they consider the most important to study when preparing for the forthcoming quiz.

Purpose of the exercise: demonstrate ability to

- rapidly put in place and conduct cooperative activity, teamwork and eventually leadership
- recognize the purpose of the issues raised in class
- prioritize the important information provided in class by eliminating secondary or trivial information

Students who are isolated and studying remotely should make efforts to contact fellow students remotely

through TEAMS, SKYPE or another comparable platform. The instructor will help arrange this.

(If for a valid reason

this proves to be impractical, the student will be allowed to work individually, with the help of the instructor).

Exercise 2: midterm Quiz = 20%: 16 short questions to answer : maximum number of points obtainable: 8 points (0.5

point/question) - Tuesday November 10

Purpose of the exercise: demonstrate

- grasping of course fundamentals, intellectual engagement, and well-executed research.
- appropriation of disciplinary corpus. Students who are isolated and studying remotely will take this exam orally, individually, by appointment with the instructor on Microsoft TEAMS. They will place their hand on their eyes while answering questions. Each student will need to provide a list with a maximum number of time slots during which they will be available for an online appointment between November 9 and November 16 Remote students will answer questions orally by placing their hand over their eyes.

Exercise 3: "You are the Prof"* = 5% (pass or fail) : maximum number of points obtainable: 2.

Deadline: Friday December 11

(Same as exercise 1)

Exercise 4: Final Quiz = 20%: 16 short questions to answer : maximum number of points obtainable: 8 points (0.5 point/question); Dec 22 2020 8:00PM (first 15 minutes of final exam session)

(Same as exercise 2)

Students studying remote must send by email a list as long as possible of time slots when they are available for an individual 30 minute appointment on line on Teams between December 9 and December 20 in order to pass an oral exam session on TEAMS for the quiz.

Exercise 5: Presentations = 40% = 16 points. (Given the number of students in this class, we may arrange presentations made online on another day for 1) remote students 2) for those who will volunteer to present earlier.

Choose two countries that DO NOT appear in the following online list: The N&C – Nature & Cultures "Comparative Government Project". Based on the model in which all the countries that you see on the list are presented, fill in all the categories that will allow you to present your two chosen countries (you must first submit a list of 6 that will be approved by the professor – preference will be given to students who are nationals of the country that they choose) .

You will present each country and compare their differences and resemblances.

this exercise in composition is expected to demonstrate

- a profound grasp of course fundamentals, intellectual engagement, and well-executed research in order to
- select and synthesize packages of data obtained throughout the entire semester through attendance of class session, reading and discussing materials with team members of chosen study groups
- a capacity to critically assess historic situations informed by a use of political theory, and to advance the student's own arguments cogently and persuasively
- reflect an already mature capacity to critically assess political theory, and to advance own arguments cogently and persuasively
- construct a structured Thesis characterized by fluency and clarity in the exposition of ideas and argument with a consistent 'melody' throughout

The subjects of the essays are provided in advance; two or three of them will be chosen at random at the beginning of the final exam session; each student will choose one subject and spend the entire exam session writing on that chosen subject. Special training will be provided

Participation: 10% = 4 points.

Students who are in Paris are obligated to attend in-person on-campus all LIVE classes as scheduled unless ill. This rule will remain in place unless authorities shut down the AUP campus (like last spring). This rule is imposed by the instructor of this particular course, and may not apply to other classes and instructors. HOWEVER, WHILE ON CAMPUS, ALL AUP students and personnel must follow rules of social distancing and other measures of safety (masks, etc.), unless sanitary measures force the course to go on line.

Students studying remote are expected to either

- 1) be present online during each live session (online presence will be verified by checking the list of participants on Microsoft-Teams sessions and random questions will be frequently asked).
- 2) Watch the recordings proposed on Teams and Blackboard and schedule an appointment with the instructor to discuss those recordings

Other

okobtzeff@aup.edu; cel phone (always better than emails): + 33 620930586 or Microsoft Teams (or WhatsApp, or Viber or Facebook-Messenger - don't worry I never post any political rants and I never, ever send memes through Messenger).

Do not hesitate to call any day until 9:00PM: easier and faster do get things done, get advice, an answer etc.

Again: DO NOT HESITATE to call! I am at your service and answering your calls is a pleasure! If you need more than 2 or 3 minutes, due to social distancing and the cramped quarters in my office, exceptionally during this semester I will limit meetings to online sessions. Set up an appointment through Microsoft Teams. **Please call +33-620930586** or request an appointment

by email by proposing three different possible schedules (in order of preference). I will answer you through Outlook -calendar and Microsoft Teams.

GL 16 - office
688 (accessible only during office hours)