
COMPARATIVE POLITICS in Spring 2021 (PO2015)

Course Code	PO2015	Professor(s)	Steven Ekovich
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L11
Class Schedule	F: 15:20-16:40 in C-103 T: 10:35-11:55 in C-103	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	sekovich@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	583

Course Description

Comparative politics deals with interactions within political systems, their structures, functions and history. Beyond this it describes and explains the differences and similarities between political systems and their constituent features, their institutions, actors, and processes. This includes questions of power between groups, the institutional organization of political systems, and authoritative decisions that affect the whole of a community in all of its dimensions: political, economic, social and cultural. This may involve comparing and contrasting specific national political systems as well as searching for similar general phenomena across them.

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 REMOVE THIS SECTION IF THE COURSE DOES NOT FULFILL ANY GLACC REQUIREMENT]

GLACC

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following

categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
- Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
- Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
- Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
- Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
- Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
- Expression Française (coded FR)
- AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

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:

Topics to be covered include:

The origins and evolution of the modern state.

The nature of executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

The relationships of the branches of government to each other.

Electoral systems

Voting behavior

Political party systems

Political cultures

Political socialization

Political movements

Interest groups and civil society

Civil-military relations.

Levels of government: Local, state and national governments.

Public administration.

Democracies and non-democracies.

Media, communication and politics

Regional, transnational political systems

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Populism	Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser	Oxford - EBOOK	9780190234874	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

The final course grade will be based on:

Class presentation	15%
Quizzes and short assignments	30%
Class attendance & participation	10%
Term paper	15%
Final exam	30%

Class Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation of about 15 minutes based on a topic, concept or theory.

Quizzes and short writing assignments

There will be regular in-class quizzes and out-of-class very short writing assignments.

Term Paper

An analytical and research paper of 2500 words

Class Participation

Class participation includes class attendance and the quality of participation in class discussions.

Other

To improve the understanding of political systems.

To acquire a better understanding of the political decision-making process and the factors which shape policy.

To trace the evolution of political systems in their historical contexts.

To improve skills of political analysis.

To improve written communication skills. Lucid, well-structured written work.

To develop research skills.

Clear analytical thinking as demonstrated by contributions to in-class discussions and argumentation developed in written work and presentations.

Succinct, well-organized oral expression

Creativity in developing own/original views

To make the most of the course you are required to read as much as possible beyond the assigned text. It would be a good idea to follow news in one way or another.

A good source for this is the site: realclearpolitics.com. Since class discussions are a vital element of the course, students are expected to come prepared.

Final Exam

An in-class essay exam based on reading, lectures, discussions, presentations and quizzes.