Welcome to Political Science 1200 – Introduction to Comparative Politics. If you have ever wondered what life is like for citizens living in different countries, or if you are just generally interested in politics, this is the course for you! We will explore a broad range of topics, beginning with the development of the modern state and the various kinds of political regimes and moving on to address the differences among democracies, politics under autocracies, revolutions and political change, political identities and conflict, and the evolving relationship between states and markets in an era of globalization. Along the way we will apply central concepts from political science and social analysis to a diverse collection of real world cases and current events.

Course Goals

The goals for a Social Sciences (Organizations and Polities) General Education course are that: “Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.” The associated learning outcomes are:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and polities.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.”

Additionally, this is a Diversity (Global Studies) GE with the goal that: “Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.” These learning outcomes are that:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.”

A note on the online format

We should be up-front about the common misconception that an online course is easier than a class that meets regularly. This is not the case. The online format has many advantages. You can do the course work at any time and at any place. If you are diligent you may be able to complete the readings, lectures, and assignments faster than in the classroom. However, the online course requires you to be your own boss. There is just as much material to cover, and there are more deadlines to meet. While I am available to help should you struggle with the course material, I cannot meet your deadlines or grant you exceptions that would be unfair to the rest of the class.
Instructor availability:

I encourage you to contact me at any time. If there is a problem of any sort, please get in touch sooner rather than later. **Please just address me as Paul** (that's on the syllabus quiz!). There are three options to contact me:

1. **Email**: Contact me at debell.2@osu.edu. Barring unusual circumstances, I will answer within 24 hours and generally much quicker than that.

2. **Meeting one-on-one**: I do not have set office hours because it is rare that I can set up a constant weekly time that works for many students. Instead, I encourage you to make an appointment with me if you would like to discuss any aspect of the course in person. My office is in Derby Hall on the second floor, room 2151. I am generally available Monday-Friday during normal business hours, so feel free to get in touch and set up a meeting!

3. **Instant message or video**: If you would like to get in touch over the internet you can find me at PoliSciPaul on Skype or Gchat. I’ll be on periodically, so you can always shoot me an im if you see me online or set up a video chat if that is more convenient for you than coming in to the office.

I will also hold additional office hours before the exams, probably in a café or the library.

**Required Readings**:

Most of the reading will come from the textbook, and all readings from outside of this textbook are available on Carmen. The required text is:


The ISBN above is for a print/ebook bundle. You can go to the publisher [here](http://www.cqpress.com/product/Introducing-Comparative-Politics-2nd-4.html) or SBX to purchase it for the full price. You can get just the paper copy for less at your preferred online retailer. The ebook does have some very useful features, and you can purchase it alone less than the bundled copy at [here](http://store.vitalsource.com/show/978-1-60871-983-9). Finally, the text comes with a **companion website** complete with overviews, flash cards, and practice quizzes that you may wish to take advantage of:


**Academic Honesty**:

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. No dishonest practices will be tolerated, and any suspected cases of dishonesty will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. The quizzes and exams are to be taken during the allotted time period without the aid of other students. Do not attempt to copy the test to take it or distribute it to anyone. I will compare IP addresses, grades, and timing for each assignment. Questions will also be drawn from a larger sample of questions, and their order as well as answer response orders will be randomized. Thus, each student will see a different quiz or exam.
A note on disabilities:
Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be accommodated, and these students should contact me as soon as possible to let me know how I can best facilitate their success in the course. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Ave., and can be reached at 292-3307 or ods@osu.edu. In addition, scripts of the lectures are available by request.

Requirements, assignments, and evaluation:

Syllabus Quiz:
The syllabus contains important information about the course, so it is imperative you read through it before the quarter begins. This is particularly important in the online course. After you carefully review the syllabus, take the syllabus quiz on Carmen. You have until **Sunday, January 13 at 11:59 PM** to complete this quiz. The answer to the question “Paul’s favorite TV show?” is “Arrested Development.”

Weekly overviews:
Each week I will post a study guide on the Carmen site. These study guides contain your marching orders for the week. They include recommendations on what parts of the readings to focus on (and what parts you can skim), key terms and concepts for you to draw from the readings and lectures, potential exam essay questions, details on the participation assignment, and extra credit opportunities. **These truly are the key to your success in this course as I make all the quizzes and exams from the information on them. Pay close attention to these! I recommend that you take your notes right on them to guide your studying and help you find the information during quizzes and exams.** If anything on the overview is unclear, get in touch with me before taking the exam so we can straighten it out!

Do the readings, listen to lectures, and take notes:
To start off the week, you should read the assigned chapters of the text as well as any supplemental readings on Carmen. You should also listen to the full lectures for that week, which are available on the Carmen website as well as on YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com/user/PoliSciPaul/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/PoliSciPaul/videos)). The lectures are typically brief but quite dense, so you may need to pause and replay them at times. Use the corresponding study guides to take notes and prepare for the quizzes and exams, and get in touch if anything from either the readings or lectures is unclear.

Take the weekly quizzes:
After you’ve completed taking notes on and studying the materials for the week, you should login to the Carmen site and take the quiz. The quizzes contain an average of 15 to 20 multiple choice questions. **Weekly quizzes are available only during the week that module is assigned.** Quizzes are available until 11:59 PM **Sunday evening.** You can use your notes to take the quizzes, but they are timed, and **you only have 1 minute per question.** That means you should read the book and watch the lectures carefully and have your own notes before taking the quiz as you will not have time to hunt for the answers while taking the quiz. Again, I recommend taking notes on the weekly overview to help you organize the information and find it quickly when needed.
You should NOT wait until the last minute to take the quiz. **I do not extend deadlines or make exceptions when something goes wrong with the computer at the last minute.** I also do not allow make-up quizzes for any reason other than death in the family or a serious medical condition requiring a doctor’s note. Therefore, plan for contingencies and do not wait until the last minute. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.**

**Participation and current events assignments:**
Each week we will have a short supplementary assignment on Carmen. Generally, this will involve watching a short video or listening to a podcast and then either writing a simple reaction or taking a brief, easy quiz. Sometimes you will be asked to supply your own examples of the course theories in the news. You will almost always have a choice in terms of topic, and **you may do one extra assignment per week for 10% extra on the quiz.** Like the weekly quizzes, they are due every week on Sunday at 11:59PM.

**Examinations:**
There will be one midterm and a cumulative final. **You must complete the midterm exam on Monday, March 4 between 12AM and 11:59PM.** To alleviate some of the stress around finals, you have the opportunity to schedule your own final exam time on any day Wednesday, April 24 and Monday, April 29. The default schedule for the final is April 29th, so if you do not otherwise let me know your preference for taking the final by April 22, you will take the exam on the 29th. If you have any scheduling conflicts for the midterm or final exam, you must let me know two weeks before the date of the exam so we can make different arrangements for you.

Both exams will consist of multiple choice questions and an argumentative essay. Closer to the exams I will distribute study guides helping you to prepare for them, as well as hold extra office hours to answer questions. **DO NOT wait until the last minute to complete the midterm and final exams because things can go wrong with the computer and, as with the quizzes, I will not make exceptions based on technical problems that occur at the last minute.**

**Extra credit opportunities:**
You will be able to earn an extra 10% credit on the weekly quiz by completing an additional participation assignment for that week (completing one participation assignment is always mandatory). You will also be able to get extra credit on the exams in exchange for participation in political science research.

**Course grade overview:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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Course plan

***note: this is all subject to change. Consult the weekly overviews!***

Unit 1: Introduction, comparative politics, and social science methods

**Key questions:** What is this course, and what are its goals? What does it mean to be “political”? What are political science and comparative politics? How will we go about answering comparative politics questions?

**Week 1 (1/7 – 1/13): Introduction**
Readings:
- Course syllabus

**Week 2 (1/14 – 1/20): Introduction, comparative politics, and social science methods**
Readings:
- Text chapter 1: Introduction to comparative politics

Unit 2: The modern state and political regimes

**Key questions:** What are states? Where did they come from? When do states succeed and fail? What is a strong state, and what is a weak state? What explains state capacity, and what does state capacity explain? What is a political regime? Does regime type matter?

**Week 3 (1/21 – 1/27): The meaning, roles, and origins of the modern state**
Readings:
- Text chapter 2: The modern state

**Week 4 (1/28 – 2/3): Comparing regime types**
Readings:
- Text chapter 3: States and citizens

Unit 3: Politics in democracies

**Key questions:** What is a democracy? Is it always the best political system? How do democracies differ? How do these differences affect politics and society? What makes a country more or less democratic? What are accountability and representation, and how can we measure these concepts?

**Week 5 (2/4 – 2/10): Defining democracy and its main types**
Readings:
- Text chapter 6: Governing institutions in democracies

**Week 6 (2/11 – 2/17): Representation and accountability in democracies**

Readings
- Text chapter 7: Institutions of participation and representation in democracies

**Unit 4: Authoritarian regimes and transitions away from them**

**Key questions:** How do authoritarian regimes differ? What are consequences of these differences? How do they legitimate themselves? What causes revolution? What affects whether revolution becomes democracy or autocracy? What is going on in the Arab world? Will these countries turn into democracies or new kinds of authoritarian governments?

**Week 7 (2/18 – 2/24): Authoritarianism**

Readings:
- Text chapter 8: Authoritarian institutions
- Excerpts from Samuel Huntington’s *Political Order in Changing Societies*

**Week 8 (2/25 – 3/3): Political Transitions**

Readings:
- Text chapter 9: Regime change

***Midterm Exam: Take Monday, March 4***

**Unit 5: Identities and Political Conflict**

**Key questions:** How do divisions in society become divisions in politics? Do partisans of different parties think differently, and how? What affects voter decision making and behavior? What do we fight over in democratic politics? Why can't we all just get along?

**Week 9 (3/4 – 3/11): What is political identity?**

*Note: because of the probability that you have a number of midterms to deal with this week, you may have until the end of spring break to take the quiz. It is due by 3/17 at 11:59PM.*

Readings:
- Text chapter 4: States and identity

***Spring Break!!***
Week 10 (3/18 – 3/24): Rights and identities in political conflict
Note: because the normal quiz time for this week would fall on Easter Sunday, you may take the exam the day after Easter if you would prefer. The quiz deadline for this week is 4/1 at 11:59PM.
Readings:
• Text chapter 12 on policies and politics of inclusion and clashing values

Unit 6: Markets and States: The political economy

Key questions: How does the economy affect politics? How do politics affect the economy? What are capitalism, communism, and socialism? What are the political causes and consequences of inequality? What is the welfare state? Do we need it?

Week 11 (3/25 – 4/1):
The basics of the political economy
Readings:
• Text chapter 5: States and markets

Week 11 (4/1 – 4/7): Politics of market failure and redistribution
Readings:
• Text chapter 11: Public policies when markets fail: welfare, health, and the environment
• Supplemental reading TBA

Unit 7: New challenges to the state – globalization

Key questions: What is globalization? What are its promises, and what are its challenges? How do international politics affect politics within states? Do international organizations matter for domestic politics, and vice versa? What is going on in the Eurozone? Is the EU a brave new world of political organization or was it doomed from the start?

Week 13 (4/8 – 4/14):
Readings:
• Text chapter 10 on globalization, economic sovereignty, and development

• This American Life and Planet Money podcasts (see weekly overview for details)

***Final Exam: Schedule (by 4/22) to take it between 4/24 and 4/29***