NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

PS 204
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (4)

COURSE CREDIT:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Major concepts of comparative politics applied to various political settings; the United States, Western Europe, Communist regimes, and developing countries.

Comparative politics examines the world's different political systems by contrasting and comparing aspects of them, and by seeking generalizations about them. This is a task far too large for any single introductory course, especially for a course that contains mostly non-majors. Any introduction to comparative politics can only scratch the surface of the vast amount of political phenomena studied by comparative political scientists. Nevertheless, students who successfully complete this course will be prepared for further study in political science, and will understand the world much better.

Baccalaureate Core Course Attributes:
Core, Pers, Soc Proc & Inst
Liberal Arts Social Core

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Professor: Kelly Erickson  erickske@oregonstate.edu

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:
The following textbooks are required for the course and are sold as a Bundle through the bookstore:

All other readings will be found on the course Canvas site or hyperlinked in the syllabus.

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the [OSU Bookstore website](http://www.oregonstate.edu). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the [Ecampus schedule of classes](http://www.ecampus.oregonstate.edu) for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this course you will have an understanding of:

- Various terms used in comparative political science such as political systems, regimes, governments, states, and ideologies;

- The major aspects of liberal democratic and non-democratic ideologies instituions;

- The major political economic features of democratic and nondemocratic regimes;

- The political history, key institutions, political cultures, political parties, interest groups, political issues, cleavages, and the major political conflicts of six contemporary political systems: The United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, India, and Iran.

- The relationship between a) political ideologies and political regimes, and b) political regimes and economic systems in the six political systems explored in the course.

- Politics as the struggle to balance freedom, equality and national prosperity.
COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

COURSE DELIVERY

Canvas

This course will be delivered via Canvas, a course management software environment. Within the course Canvas site you will access the syllabus, assignments, learning materials, discussion boards. You will also be submitting all your assignments and essays, and taking your exams on Canvas. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo

Prior to Beginning the Course

- Ensure you have access to Canvas and the files contained there.
- Thoroughly review the syllabus.
  - (if you ask me a question that is clearly answered on the syllabus, I will redirect you back to the syllabus)
- Familiarize yourself with the assignments.

Weekly Process

Each week of the course will consist of a regular cycle of activities:

1. Read the “Weekly Reading Guide.”
2. Read the assigned articles or chapters.
3. Write up and submit your weekly reading journal with responses to the questions assigned.
4. Read and listen to the lecture slides and watch any videos.
5. Reflect on what you have learned and participate in the discussion boards.
6. Take the weekly quiz.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.
STUDENT ASSISTANCE

**Contacting the instructor** — You should post questions on the course material on the discussion boards. For issues relating to your individual status in the class please e-mail me.

**Technical Assistance** — If you experience computer difficulties, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

**Tutoring** — OSU provides access to NetTutor to meet the needs of Ecampus students. NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

**Week 1**

Introduction - What is Comparative Politics?

Creating Power: The State

90 pages

Readings

*What is Comparative Politics?*

- O’Neil, Chapter 1 TEXT

*The State*

- O’Neil, Chapter 2 TEXT

**Week 2**

Creating Identity and Citizenship: Nation, Society, and Nationalism

Creating Wealth: Political Economy

94 pages

Readings

*Nation, Society, and Nationalism*

- O’Neil, Chapter 3. TEXT
- Michael Ignatieff, selections from *Blood and Belonging*, pp. 3-14. CANVAS

*Political Economy*

- O’Neil, Chapter 4. TEXT
Week 3  **Taming Power: Democracy**

*107 pages*

**Readings**

- O’Neil, Chapter 5
- O’Neil Chapter 8, pp. 230-244 only
- Fareed Zakaria, “A Brief History of Human Liberty,” from *The Future of Freedom*
- Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, “What Democracy Is ... and Is Not.”
- Adam Przeworski, “Conquered or Granted? A History of Suffrage Extensions.”
- Maurice Duverger, “The Number of Parties,” from *Political Parties*

Week 4  **Case Studies: Democracy**

*100 pages*

**Readings** (in the case book)

- The United Kingdom
- Germany

Week 5  **Unleashing Power: Authoritarianism, Totalitarianism, and Communism**

**Readings**

- O’Neil, Chapters 6 and 9
- Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, “Modern Nondemocratic Regimes,” from *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*.
- Larry Diamond, “The Rule of Law Versus the Big Man.”

Week 6  **Case Studies: Non-Democracy, Communism, and Post-Communism**

**Readings** (in the case book)

*97 pages*

- Russia
- China
Week 7  
Emerging Power: Developing and Industrializing Countries

Readings
- O’Neil, Chapter 10. TEXT
- William Easterly, “To Help the Poor.” Reader
- Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, “Why Has Africa Grown Slowly.” Reader
- Paul Krugman, “The Myth of the Asian Miracle.” Reader
- Wayne Arnold, “Vietnam Holds its Own within China’s Vast Economic Shadow.” Reader
- Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson, “Disease and Development: The Effects of Life Expectancy on Economic Growth.” Reader
- Tim Hanstad, “The Coming African Miracle.”
- Steven Block, “Politics and Productivity Growth in Africa,”
http://www.fletcherforum.org/2014/06/17/block/

Week 8  
Case Studies: Emerging States

Readings (in the case book)
- India
- Iran

Week 9  
Challenging Power: Political Violence

Readings
- O’Neil, Chapter 7. TEXT

Revolutions
CANVAS
CANVAS
http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-arabs-1848-10256

Terrorism
- Martha Crenshaw, “The Causes of Terrorism” Reader

**Week 10**

**The Future of the State: Crisis or Consolidation?**

**Readings**

**Globalization**
- O’Neil, Chapter 11. **TEXT**

**The European Union**
- O’Neil, Chapter 8, pp. 234-254. **TEXT**
- Timothy Garton Ash, “The Crisis of Europe: How the Union Came Together and Why it’s Falling Apart,” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2012). **CANVAS**
- Potential additional articles depending upon news events.

**The Future of Democracy**

**Evaluation of Student Performance**

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<th>Assignment/Weight</th>
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<td><strong>Weekly Quizzes</strong></td>
<td>After completing all other weekly requirements, you will take a short quiz on Canvas each week. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you possess a sufficient level of factual knowledge necessary to conduct analysis. You cannot conduct decent analysis in your writing until you possess sufficient understanding of the terms, concepts, and cases of the class. The quizzes may consist of identifications, multiple-choice, and fill in the blank questions. The quizzes will be taken online and timed, so please be prepared to block out 20 minutes to take the quiz. Once you start the quiz you will NOT be able to pause and return to it.</td>
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| 5% each, 50% total | **Due Dates:** Every Week  
No later than Sunday at 11:59pm Pacific Time, preferably earlier |
| **Participation/Discussion Boards** | To make the course more interactive and to allow you to get to know your class members, you will engage in discussions of course material and ideas in the discussion boards on the Canvas course site. You will be expected to initiate at least one major |
thread and respond to at least three other postings each week. Your primary post will be based upon questions I will provide. Your three additional posts will comment on other student’s primary posts and should be at least 200 words (this is not Twitter!) I expect that your posts will be thoughtful and engage important ideas. The purpose of the posts is not so much to express your opinion as it is to exercise and develop your ability to analyze. See the course guide to Participation on Canvas for more details.

**Due date:** Every week.
**Primary post by Friday at 11:59pm Pacific, and responses by Sunday at 11:59pm Pacific**

**Current Event Briefing**
10%

You will prepare a briefing on a current event/topic/crisis in one of the countries we are studying this term. The briefing will include a historical overview, a description of the event, a discussion of three editorials on the event that you will have looked-up, and a brief prediction about how events will unfold in the future.

**Due date:** The week AFTER we cover the country you are analyzing
No later than Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time.

**Final Exam Essay:**
20%

Your final exam will consist of essays that will ask you to draw upon insights from the course to answer compelling questions. You will write on two topics from a list of possible questions. Each topic will have a 1200 word maximum (approximately 4 pages).

**Due Date:** Last day of Finals Week no later than 5pm Pacific Time

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**Grade Scale:**

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**Course site login information**

Information on how to login to your course site can be found [HERE](#).

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our [Getting Started with DAS](#) page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for...
accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

**Academic Integrity and Student Conduct (OSU policy)**

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

- [Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses](#)
- [Policy On Disruptive Behavior](#)

**Plagiarism**

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

- [Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
- [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#)

**Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention**

Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially
unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

COURSE DEMO
GETTING STARTED

Tutoring
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

Writing Center
Online Writing Lab

Student Evaluation of Teaching
The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

Refund Policy information
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.