Department of Political Science
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
University at Albany

RPOS 102
Comparative and International Politics
Fall 2017 Syllabus

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Class: MWF 12:35-1:30pm (AS, Arts and Sciences 014)
Office Hours: W 1:40-3:40pm and by appointment (Uptown Campus, HU016)

Course Description
Comparative and international politics embodies the notion of “know the world, know yourself.” This course introduces students to key scholarly discussions about how to compare politics in different countries and how to study global politics. There are no prerequisite requirements, except for an open mind and curiosity for domestic politics around the globe and world politics in general. By the end of the class, students should be familiar with the key concepts and debates in international affairs and recognize the value of learning about different polities around the world.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, you will be able to:
• Understand key concepts in international and comparative politics.
• Distinguish major theories in international and comparative politics.
• Critically evaluate arguments and comments about essential political issues in comparative politics and international relations.

Required Readings
• Additional articles. These articles will be available on Blackboard in each week’s Study Folder (see next section).

* Note: Both books are available at the university bookstore. Students can also find both textbooks on AbeBooks, and Amazon.com and Bookbyte. Please make sure you receive a hard copy of the first book (Drogus & Orvis) by September 7, 2017 (Thursday) and a hard copy of the second book (Lamy et al.) by October 12, 2017 (Thursday). These deadlines are for your benefit so that you will have enough time to read and then complete your assignments. If you are not sure whether you are getting the right book, please check with the instructor by email immediately.
Learning Activities and How You Will Be Evaluated
1. Class Participation and In-Class Group Work 15%
2. Map and Who’s Who Tests 10%
3. Group Project 10%
4. Quizzes 20%
5. In-Class Midterm 20% (October 20, Friday 12:35-1:30pm at AS014)
6. Final Exam 25% (December 18, Monday 8am-10am, Location TBA)

Class Etiquette
• This class welcomes all perspectives and political views ONLY when they are presented in a civic fashion with grounded evidence. Please be respectful of every participant in this class, including yourself, by behaving and speaking in a decent and responsible way.
• You are expected to utilize electronic devices in a responsible manner, which means you should only use them in ways that facilitate your learning and are able to limit unnecessary distractions for yourself and others. I strongly encourage you to read the study that finds how using electronic devices influences learning negatively: [http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/laptopFAQ.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/laptopFAQ.html) You can also find a summary of this study at: [http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860](http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860) and at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answersheet/wp/2013/08/20/how-distracting-are-laptops-in-class/?utm_term=.7408eb9c01af](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answersheet/wp/2013/08/20/how-distracting-are-laptops-in-class/?utm_term=.7408eb9c01af).

Selective Online Learning Sources
Africa News [http://www.africanews.com](http://www.africanews.com)
Foreign Affairs [https://www.foreignaffairs.com](https://www.foreignaffairs.com)
Nikkei Asian Review [https://asia.nikkei.com/?n_cid=NARAN037](https://asia.nikkei.com/?n_cid=NARAN037)
The Diplomat [http://thediplomat.com](http://thediplomat.com)

Assignment Policy
You must submit all assignments according to the required format. Emailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted, with the exception of the completed Final Project. Late submissions will NOT be accepted, except for religious observance (which needs to be cleared with me in the first two weeks of the semester) or documented medical or family emergency (with a doctor note or one from dean).

Special Needs
Students with special needs due to physical, learning, or other disabilities will be accommodated. To request such accommodation, first register with the Disability Resource Center (Campus Center 137 [http://www.albany.edu/disability/](http://www.albany.edu/disability/)). DRC will provide you with a letter to me, detailing the provisions requested. Please submit these letters to me during the first two weeks of the semester (in person) and also remind me before each relevant event (e.g. exam and assignment due dates).
**Weekly Readings**

**August 28: Syllabus and Course Overview**

**August 30: No Class (APSA Conference)**

**September 1: No Class (APSA Conference)**

**September 4: No Class (Labor Day)**

**September 6: Theories**

**September 8: Methods**

**September 11: States**

**September 13: Nationalism**
- Drogus & Orvis, ch.4, pp.147-158, 170-171.

**September 15: Symposium – Group Project**
- Choose topic and country; map out tasks and paramilitary division of labor

**September 18: Governing Institutions**
- Drogus & Orvis, ch.6, pp.245-252, 258-267, 269-273.

**September 20: Political Participation & Representation**

**September 22: Country Focus – Germany’s AfD v. France’s National Front**

**September 25: Regime Types**
- Drogus & Orvis, ch.8, pp.369-385, 394-408.

**September 27: Regime Change**
- Drogus & Orvis, ch.9, pp.434-452.
September 29: Country Focus – Tunisia, Egypt and China

October 2: Globalization & Sovereignty
• Drogus & Orvis, ch.10, pp.485-501.

October 4: Economic Development

October 6: Country Focus – China, Russian & Gulf States

October 9: Welfare
• Drogus & Orvis, ch.11, pp.539-561.

October 11: Health Care
• Drogus & Orvis, ch.11, pp.564-580.

October 13: Country Focus – US et al.

October 16: Environment
• Drogus & Orvis, ch.11, pp.581-596.

October 18: Midterm Review

October 20: Midterm

October 23: Historical Overview
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.2, pp.29-40, 46-61.

October 25: Realism
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.3, pp.72-83.

October 27: Liberalism

October 30: Constructivism
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.4, pp.122-127.
November 1: Other Critical Approaches
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.4, pp.107-115, 106.

November 3: Foreign Policy

November 6: Global Governance
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.6, pp.172-186.

November 8: Regional Governance
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.6, pp.199-205.

November 10: Group Project Presentations I

November 13: Global Civil Society

November 15: Human Rights
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.10, pp.310-321.

November 17: Group Project Presentations II

November 20: Terrorism

November 22: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

November 24: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

November 27: Security and Changing Character of War
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.8, pp.250-268.

November 29: Trade
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.12, pp.376-389.

December 1: Group Project Presentations III

December 4: International Political Economy
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.11, pp.349-366.
December 6: Poverty, Development and Hunger
• Lamy et al. 2013, ch.13, pp.408-420,

December 8: Immigration & Human Security

December 11: Identity Politics
• Drogus & Orvis, ch.12, pp.608-622.