

# RPOS102 Comparative and International Politics

## Online Summer 2017 Syllabus

Department of Political Science

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy

University at Albany

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### Course description

Why are some countries more democratic and wealthy than other countries? How do we define democracy and development? How does the politics work? Does government need to allocate more money to social welfare? How does global politics influence the national politics and vice versa? How are the international norms made and by whom? In this class, we are going to try to find the answers to these questions by exploring the classic and modern literature in Comparative Politics and International Relations. **Gen. Ed: International Perspectives.**

### Course Objectives

The goals of this course relate both to the specific content presented and to critical thinking and communication. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Explain why we compare and how we compare the different political systems
- Explain key issues of the Comparative Politics literature
- Compare major theories of International Relations
- Demonstrate ability to think critically and to analyze and contextualize current affairs using relevant theories and frameworks of both Comparative Politics and International Relations

### Reading Materials

Textbook:

1. Lim, Timothy C. *Doing comparative politics: An introduction to approaches and issues*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2006. (both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions are good)
2. Art, Robert J., Robert Jervis. *International politics: enduring concepts and contemporary issues*. Pearson, 2014. (both 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> editions are good)
3. Additional articles will be available on Blackboard in each week's Readings folder.

## **Course Activities & Method of Assessment**

### 1) Self-intro & map quiz: 5% (2.5 points each if completed)

This class is an online class but I want everyone feels that we're sitting in the virtual classroom together. So let us know about you. In the module "To Get Started", you will find a blog where you can write a brief self-introduction. I want to know about you and your motivation of taking this class. Feel free to say hello to your classmates by replying the introduction blogs. In the same module, there will be a map-quiz section too. You can find the detailed instruction on how to finish the map-quiz. This is not to test your knowledge (so no grade for it) but to prepare you regarding some basic geography of the world before we start off the class. Both self-intro and map quiz are due by **Monday June 26th 11pm**.

### 2) Six Warm-up quizzes: 15 % (10 multiple choice questions -automatically graded)

Every Monday morning the quiz questions will be uploaded and you'll have two days until Wednesday 11pm to complete the quiz. The aim of this weekly quiz is to see if you are on the track in terms of reading and the structure of the course. **Students are expected to independently complete these quizzes by Wednesday 11pm**, after which students will not be able to answer the quiz questions. All six warm-up quizzes will be automatically graded by the blackboard system but only the best **five** quiz grades of each student will be counted toward her or his overall quiz grade.

### 3) Participation in group discussion: 20%

There will be three online group discussions (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> week of the class) in total. Students must participate in ALL three of them; otherwise the overall discussion grade will be automatically downgraded by 30%. Every other week, each group will have to respond to one discussion question by using and referencing what they learn from the readings and other course materials.

The discussion questions will be available on Blackboard by Wednesday morning under the section of "Group Discussion." Each student must post one carefully-thought-out and cautiously edited message in the group discussions. **Each student must post this individual message by Friday 11:00pm**. The quality as well as the timing of the posts would play a role in your grade. After reading the messages that are posted by your group members, **you need to reply to their messages by Sunday 11:00pm**. Failure to do so will automatically lose a half point of that week's group discussion grade. In your reply, you can agree or disagree with the message writers but make sure to identify why you agree or disagree. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate both their understanding of the course materials AND their ability to engage in discussions with their peers. There will be in total three rounds of online discussions. All of them will receive feedback and a numerical grade from the instructor. Half of your discussion grade will be based on your individual messages and another half of your grade will be based on the response that you made to your group peers.

### 4) Weekly reflection journal: 20%

Students will write a 500-words journal every week (except the final week) on the readings. It must contain four parts like follows: a. summary of the readings; b. the part that you liked or disliked and why; c. any question that popped up in your mind while you read (if you have answer to that feel free to write it too.); and d. if you think that our reading is related to any current event of national/international politics, do make the link. The weekly reflection journal is due by every **Thursday 11pm**.

5) Current event paper: 20%

Students will write a short paper (1500-words) that analyze a current event using the theories of Comparative Politics. You will have an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of theories and also to apply the theories that we learn to the current events of global politics. Detailed guideline on paper writing can be found under the module 2. **First outline is due by Saturday July 8 11pm (5% grade), second outline is due by Saturday July 15 11pm (5% grade) and the paper is due by Saturday July 22 11pm (10% grade).**

6) Final exam: 25%

In this accumulative final exam, you will need to demonstrate your ability to define key concepts of the Comparative Politics and International Relations, to compare various perspectives, and to apply the theoretical arguments into the real-life examples. A Final Exam module will be available on Blackboard between **Wednesday August 2, 9am and Friday August 4, 11pm – once you start the final exam, you will need to finish it in 10 hours from the time you started.** Please make plans to access to the final exam question as well as other related learning material ahead of time.

**Grading Scale**

Start of letter grade range	Letter grade	Start of letter grade range	Letter grade
0	F	77	C+
60	D-	80	B-
63	D	83	B
67	D+	87	B+
70	C-	90	A-
73	C	93	A

*Courses are A-E graded (there are S/U - Pass/Fail options). The conversion of a numerical grade to a letter grade is at the sole discretion of the instructor.*

**Overview of Course Schedule**

Module	Sub-themes	Start date	End date	Assignment	Due Date
To get Started	-	-	June 26	Self- introduction	Mon, June 26, 11pm
				Map quiz	
Module 1. Why, how, and what to compare?	Why and how to compare?	June 26	July 2	Warm-up quiz 1	Wed, June 28, 11pm
				Weekly reflection journal 1	Thu, June 29, 11pm
	Approaches in Comparative Politics			Upload individual response to group discussion	Fri, June 30, 11pm
	Reply to group members' individual messages			Sun, July 2, 11pm	
Module 2. Democracy and Political System	Democracy	July 3	July 9	Warm-up quiz 2	Wed, July 5, 11pm
	Regime Type			Weekly reflection journal 2	Thu, July 6, 11pm
	Political Cleavages and Political Parties			Current event paper, first outline	Sat, July 8, 11pm
Module 3. Major themes of CP	Development	July 10	July 16	Warm-up quiz 3	Wed, July 12, 11pm
	Political Violence			Weekly reflection journal 3	Thu, July 13, 11pm
				Upload individual message to group discussion	Fri, July 14, 11pm
				Reply to group members' individual messages	Sun, July 16, 11pm
	Beyond the nation-state			Current event paper, Second outline	Sat, July 15, 11pm
Module 4. Assumptions and theories of IR	What is anarchy?	July 17	July 23	Warm-up quiz 4	Wed, July 19, 11pm
	Major theories of IR			Weekly reflection journal 4	Thu, July 20, 11pm
				Current event paper, final draft	Sat, July 22, 11pm
Module 5. Major themes of IR – Security and IPE	Global security	July 24	July 30	Warm-up quiz 5	Wed, July 26, 11pm
				Weekly reflection journal 5	Thu, July 27, 11pm

	International Political Economy			Upload individual message to group discussion	Fri, July 28, 11pm
				Reply to group members' individual messages	Sun, July 30, 11pm
Module 6. Major themes of IR – Global Governance and New Issues	Climate Change	July 31	August 4	Warm-up quiz 6	Wed, Aug 2, 11pm
	International Norm				
	UN			Final Exam	Fri, Aug 4, 11pm

## **Policy on Accommodating Disabilities**

### **Policy Statement**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (BA-120, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.

### **How to find out more**

The University provides a great deal of information on the services it offers to disabled students which can be found on the [Disability Resource Center](#) page.

### **Contact information**

Carolyn Malloch, Director of Disabled Student Services

[cmalloch@albany.edu](mailto:cmalloch@albany.edu)

BA-120

Phone: (518) 442-5490

Fax: (518) 442-5589

TTY: (518) 442-3366

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

It is essential that students understand, appreciate and model the highest standards of academic integrity. The University's policy regarding what constitutes plagiarism and the penalty is available at <http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm>. There is also a useful tutorial available at the University library website that can clarify the issue and provide strategies and best practices to avoid it

<http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html>. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Undergraduate Education and will result in failure of this course. If you are not sure the limits of borrowing someone else's idea or acceptable team collaboration, please ask me.

### **Netiquette**

Please observe proper "netiquette" -- courteous and appropriate forms of communication and interaction over the Internet (within your online course). This means no personal attacks, obscene language, or intolerant expression. All viewpoints should be respected.

For more information about Netiquette feel free to visit the following

site: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

NOTE: The instructor of this course reserves the right to remove any questionable or offensive material from public areas of this course.

### **Getting Technical Help**

See our blackboard page for the detailed information: "Course Information" module.

### **Weekly Reading Schedule**

- **Read marked pages.**
- **Pages are marked based on the second edition of Lim book and thirteenth edition of Art&Jervis but the corresponding section titles will also be marked. If you have different edition and not sure what pages you need to read, do not hesitate to send an email to instructor.**
- **There might be some additional readings. In that case bibliographical info of the reading will be notified and the reading will be uploaded via blackboard one week before at the latest.**
- **(BB) means that the reading is uploaded on the BlackBoard**

#### **W1. Why, how, and what to compare?**

1. **(BB)** OECD (2014) "OECD Health Statistics 2014 How does the United States compare?" (<https://www.oecd.org/unitedstates/Briefing-Note-UNITED-STATES-2014.pdf>)
2. Lim. ch.1 What is Comparative Politics
3. Lim. ch. 2 Comparing to Learn, Learning to Compare: A Primer on Comparative Methods
4. **(BB)** Skim Chapter 1 of King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing social inquiry: Scientific inference in qualitative research*. Princeton university press, 1994.
5. Lim ch. 3 Thinking Theoretically in Comparative Politics (Skip 67-71, focus on the part thereafter (From p.72, Defining Theory))

#### **W2. Democracy and Political System**

1. Lim ch. 6 What Makes a Democracy
2. (BB) Dahl, Robert Alan. *Polyarchy: Participation and opposition*. Yale University Press, 1973. (ONLY pp.1-10)
3. (BB) Kitschelt, Herbert. "Formation of party cleavages in post-communist democracies: Theoretical propositions." *Party politics* 1.4 (1995): 447-472.

### W3. Major themes of CP

1. Lim. ch. 5 Why Is East Asia Rich?
2. (BB) Jinguo, Wang, Russell Smyth, and Tan Dai Hwee. "The role of Confucian values in East Asian development: before and after the financial crisis." *Journal of International and Area Studies* (2000): 115-135. (focus on the pp. 123-128 and skim the rest)
3. Lim. ch. 7 What Makes a Terrorist?
4. (BB) NPR's interview with Peter Bergen, "Who Are America's 'Homegrown Terrorists'?" in February 2, 2016
5. Lim. ch. 8 What Makes a Social Movement? (only pp.253-273, no need to read Cultural explanation part if you have third edition)
6. Lim. ch. 9 Globalization and the Study of Comparative Politics
7. (BB) Wolf, Martin. "Will the nation-state survive globalization?." *Foreign Affairs* (2001): 178-190.

### W4. Assumptions and theories of IR

1. Walt, Stephen M. "International relations: one world, many theories." *Foreign policy* (1998): 29-46.
2. Art & Jervis. Ch. 2 The Nature of Anarchy
3. Art & Jervis. Ch. 3 The Mitigation of Anarchy (Ch. 4 The Mitigation of Anarchy in 13<sup>th</sup> edition)
4. Carlos A. Martínez-Vela's summary of Wallerstein

### W5. Major themes of IR - Security and IPE

1. Art & Jervis. 13<sup>th</sup> edition, Ch. 7 The Nuclear Future  
**\* If you have 12<sup>th</sup> edition, read the uploaded chapter below, not chapter 6 on your book.**  
- (bb) Losing Control in Crises (Robert Jervis)  
- (bb) Our Not So Peaceful Nuclear Future (Henry D. Sokolski)  
- (bb) A World without Nuclear Weapons? (Thomas C. Schelling)
2. Art & Jervis. Ch. 13 Transnational Actors and New Forces (Ch. 13 Transnational Actors and New Forces)
  - Transnational Activist Networks (Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink)
  - Cyber Conflict and National Security (Herbert Lin)
3. Art & Jervis. Ch. 7 Perspectives on Political Economy (Ch. 8 Perspectives on Political Economy)
  - The Nature of Political Economy (Robert Gilpin)

- Why Doesn't Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade? (Dani Rodrik)

#### **W6. Major themes of IR – Global Governance and New Issues**

1. Art & Jervis. 12<sup>th</sup> edition, Ch. 14 The Global Commons and Global Governance  
**\*If you have 13<sup>th</sup> edition, read the uploaded chapter below, not chapter 14 on your book.**  
**- (bb) The Climate Threat We Can Beat (David G. Victor, Charles F. Kennel, and Veerabhandran Ramanatahn)**  
**- (bb) The United Nations and International Security (Adam Roberts)**
2. (bb) Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. "International norm dynamics and political change." *International organization* 52.04 (1998): 887-917.