

**GOV 3173**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Fall 2019  
MW 9:30-10:50am  
Room: MCL 505

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**Course Description:**

This course explores the domestic politics and institutions of foreign countries. The study of comparative politics is a crucial part of the political science field, allowing for political systems to be considered both in terms of their unique circumstances as well as in the context of a broader cross-national patterns. The method of comparative study (i.e. *comparison*) arms students with a new set of analytical tools that can be used across disciplines. This course is divided into five parts. Part I introduces the comparative method and the state as a unit of analysis. Parts II through V then proceed through four thematic areas of comparative study—democracy, authoritarianism, political economy, and conflict—mixing theoretical groundwork with case material from countries including the United Kingdom, China, Russia, Germany, Brazil, South Africa, Iran, and Nigeria, among others.

**Objectives for Students:**

1. To become familiar with the variety of political institutions in states across the globe.
2. To learn to apply the comparative analytical framework to productively evaluate historical and current events.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Participation. (Note: Attendance is a required part of participation. Students may miss up to two classes without penalty.) (15%)
2. Three 2-page discussion papers. See discussion paper guidelines for details. (10% each, 30% total)
3. Five concept quizzes. (7% each, 35% total)
4. Final exam. (20%)

**Texts to Purchase:**

1. O'Neil, P. H. (2015). *Essentials of Comparative Politics, 5th ed.* New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
2. O'Neil, P. H., Fields, K., & Share, D. (2015). *Cases in Comparative Politics, 5th ed.* New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

**M, W:** Readings marked with an “M” must be completed by the start of class on Monday, while readings marked with a “W” need only be completed by the start of class on Wednesday.

★ Readings marked with a star are available on Canvas.

*Note: Make sure to look at the page numbers!*

### **Course Policies**

#### **Email:**

I am happy to answer questions by email and will try to reply within 48 hours. However, if you have multiple or in-depth questions, I strongly encourage you to bring them to me during my office hours instead. If you cannot make my scheduled office hours, please request an appointment by email and we'll find an alternate time to meet.

#### **Disability Support:**

If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the office of Disability Support Services (CFO 106, 940-898-3835, [dss@twu.edu](mailto:dss@twu.edu)) in order to obtain the required official notification of your accommodation needs. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss approved accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

#### **Title IX:**

Students who may need academic accommodations due to pregnancy (including termination of pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation) are encouraged to contact Dr. Stephanie Brown, Associate Vice President for Student Enrichment, Health and Support ([sbrown60@twu.edu](mailto:sbrown60@twu.edu)) and me to discuss your academic needs.

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Honesty in completing assignments is essential to the mission of the University and to the development of the personal integrity of students. In submitting graded assignments, students affirm that they have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance, and that they have abided by all other provisions of the Code of Conduct in the TWU Student Handbook. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication or other kinds of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate sanctions that may include failing an assignment, failing the class, or being suspended or expelled. Suspected cases in this course may be reported to Student Life. The specific disciplinary process for academic dishonesty is found in the TWU Student Handbook. The TWU library link, "Avoiding Plagiarism," will aid students in completing their assignments with integrity.

In an effort to ensure the integrity of the academic process, Texas Woman's University vigorously affirms the importance of academic honesty as defined by the Student Handbook. Therefore, in an effort to detect and prevent plagiarism, faculty members at Texas Woman's University may now use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. It then reports a percentage of similarity and provides links to those specific sources. The tool itself does not determine whether or not a paper has been plagiarized. Instead, that judgment must be made by the individual faculty member.

## **Part I: Comparing States & Institutions**

Week 1 – Introduction (Mon, August 26 & Wed, August 28)

- ★ **W:** *Cases* – “Why Study This Case?” and “Major Demographic and Geographic Features” sections for the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria (pp. 35-39, 211-215, 331-336, 381-386, 503-508, 619-624, 671-678, 727-732)

Week 2 – Political Institutions (Wed, September 4)

- ★ **W:** *Essentials* – Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 2-22)
- ★ **W:** *Cases* – Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 3-16)

Week 3 – Understanding the State (Mon, September 9 & Wed, September 11)

- ★ **M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 2: States (pp. 30-61)
- ★ **W:** Tilly, C. (1985) “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime” (pp. 169-186)

### **First concept quiz on Wednesday, September 11**

## **Part II: Democracy**

Week 4 – The Democratic State (Mon, September 16 & Wed, September 18)

- M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes (pp. 136-151)
- W:** *Cases* – Chapter 2: United Kingdom (pp. 39-45), Chapter 12: Brazil (pp. 624-634)

Week 5 – Democratic Systems (Mon, September 23 & Wed, September 25)

- M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes (pp. 152-173)
- W:** *Cases* – Chapter 5: Germany (pp. 228-250), Chapter 13: South Africa (pp. 687-703)

Week 6 – Developed Democracies (Mon, September 30 & Wed, October 2)

- M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 8: Developed Democracies (pp. 238-269)
- W:** “Institutions and bodies” page and the pages for the “European Parliament,” “European Council,” “Council of the European Union,” “European Commission,” and “Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU),” found at this link: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies_en)

### **Second concept quiz on Wednesday, October 2**

## **Part III: Authoritarianism & Transition**

Week 7 – Nondemocracy & Authoritarianism (Mon, October 7 & Wed, October 9)

- M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 6: Nondemocratic Regimes (pp. 174-205)
- W:** *Cases* – Chapter 10: Iran (pp. 508-537)

Week 8 – Communism & Change (Mon, October 14 & Wed, October 16)

- M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 9: Communism and Postcommunism (pp. 270-307)
- W:** *Cases* – Chapter 7: Russia (pp. 336-362) **OR** Chapter 8: China (pp. 386-419)

Week 9 – Colonialism & Change (Mon, October 21 & Wed, October 23)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 10: Developing Countries (pp. 308-341)  
**W:** *Cases* – Chapter 14: Nigeria (pp. 732-764)

### **Third concept quiz on Wednesday, October 23**

#### **Part IV: Political Economy & Globalization**

Week 10 – Comparative Political Economy (Mon, October 28 & Wed, October 30)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 4: Political Economy (pp. 98-119)  
★ **W:** Marx, K. & Engels, F. (1848). “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp. 14-27)

Week 11 – Development & the State (Mon, November 4 & Wed, November 6)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 4: Political Economy (pp. 120-135)  
**W:** *Cases* – “Political Economy” section for the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria (pp. 76-80, 191-196, 365-369, 425-431, 542-545, 653-660, 708-715, 767-770)

Week 12 - Globalization (Mon, November 11 & Wed, November 13)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 11: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics (pp. 342-371)  
★ **W:** Lund, S. & Tyson, L. (2018) “Globalization Is Not in Retreat” (pp. 130-140)

### **Fourth concept quiz on Wednesday, November 13**

#### **Part V: Identity, Conflict & Violence**

Week 13 – Political Identity (Mon, November 18 & Wed, November 20)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 3: Nations and Society (pp. 62-97)  
**W:** *Cases* – Chapter 13: South Africa (pp. 678-687 and 703-708)

Week 14 – Political Violence (Mon, November 25)  
**M:** *Essentials* – Chapter 7: Political Violence (pp. 206-237)

Week 15 – Identity & Conflict (Mon, December 2 & Wed, December 4)  
**M:** First half of film “Shot Through the Heart” on Monday, December 2

### **Fifth concept quiz on Monday, December 2**

**W:** Second half of film “Shot Through the Heart” on Wednesday, December 4  
**W:** Final exam review on Wednesday, December 4

### **Final Exam**