

POLI 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2018

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 PM-2: 20 PM

Location: 1505 Seamans Center

Dr. Yu Wang

Office: 340 Schaeffer Hall

Office Hours: Friday 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM and By Appointment

Phone: 319-335-2338

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Section Instructors and Office Hours

Si-ae Kim: si-ae-kim@uiowa.edu

TUE 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM and WED 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Yooneui Kim: yooneui-kim@uiowa.edu

MON 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM and WED 2:30 PM - 3:30PM

Cassandra Tai: yuehong-tai@uiowa.edu

THU 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM and Fri 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Class Overview and Goals

This class is an introduction to Comparative Politics, which is defined as the study of domestic politics and policy throughout the world. As a way of cutting into this vast field of study, we organize the class with themes and topics. In specific, weekly topics are grouped into three themes. They are concepts and methods, government structures and institutions, and actors and processes.

At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Understand the basic concepts, theories, methods, and findings central to the study of Comparative Politics

2. Gain a more informed perspective on the comparative variations in politics and policy
3. Broaden and diversify their understanding of different political systems and cultures
4. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills

Grading Policy

The following grades will be assigned at the end of the class:

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

The grades will be calculated on the following basis:

- Section Attendance and Participation 25% (10% Attendance+15% Participation)

Attendance at lectures is strongly recommended. In the past, attendance at lecture has been an excellent predictor of performance on exams. It is important to note that every student in the class is required to enroll in, attend, and participate in a weekly section led by our section instructors. Absence from section meeting is excused if there is a doctor's note stating the student's inability to attend the class.

- Research Proposal 15%

A research proposal (no more than 1000 words) is required for this class. In this proposal, the student must identify a research question of Comparative Politics, show its significance, review the existing literature, and develop a testable hypothesis in relevance. The proposal due on **December 5, 2018**.

- In-class Midterm Exam 20%

The midterm exam will be held during our lecture meeting on **October 10, 2018**.

- Centralized Final Exam 40%

The date and time of the final exam will be announced by the Registrar early in the semester. The final exam will cover all reading and lecture materials of the course.

A make-up exam will be given only under the exceptional circumstance of severe illness as discussed in the section of attendance and participation. The time, location and format of a makeup midterm are at the complete direction of the instructor.

Textbook and Course Materials

There is a required textbook for this class

Rod Hague, Martin Harrop, and John McCormick. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction* (8th Edition). ISBN: 978-1137601230. (HHM hereafter)

Other course materials are accessible on ICON.

Weekly Topics and Readings

Theme 1 - Concepts and Methods

Week 1 (2018-08-20/2018-08-22): Class Overview and Modern State

HHM Chapter 2.

Week 2 (2018-08-27/2018-08-29): Comparative Methods

HHM Chapter 6.

Week 3 (2018-09-03 Labor Day No Class/2018-09-05): Democracy

HHM Chapter 3.

Week 4 (2018-09-10/2018-09-12): Authoritarian Regimes

HHM Chapter 4.

Theme 2 - Government Structures and Institutions

Week 5 (2018-09-17/2018-09-19): Constitutions and Courts

HHM Chapter 7.

Week 6 (2018-09-24/2018-09-26): Legislature

HHM Chapter 8.

Week 7 (2018-10-01/2018-10-03): Executive and Bureaucracy

HHM Chapter 9 and Chapter 10.

Week 8 (2018-10-08/**2018-10-10**): Local Government and **Midterm Exam**

HHM Chapter 11.

Theme 3: Actors and Processes

Week 9 (2018-10-15/2018-10-17): Voters

HHM Chapter 17.

Week 10 (2018-10-22/2018-10-24): Political Parties

HHM Chapter 15.

Week 11 (2018-10-29/2018-10-31): Interest Groups

HHM Chapter 18.

Week 12 (2018-11-05/2018-11-07): Political Participation

HHM Chapter 13 and Chapter 16.

Week 13 (2018-11-12/2018-11-14): Public Policy

HHM Chapter 19.

Week 14 (2018-11-19/2018-11-21): The Week of Thanksgiving

No Class.

Week 15 (2018-11-26/2018-11-28): Political Culture and Communication

HHM Chapter 12 and Chapter 14.

Week 16 (2018-12-03/2018-12-05): Theoretical Approaches and Review

Research proposal due on December 5.

HHM Chapter 5.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Information and Policies for Undergraduates

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).

Electronic Communication

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

Accommodations for Disabilities

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (<diversity.uiowa.edu>).

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions communicated to the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies>).

Making a Complaint

Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair (Wenfang Tang, 335-2358). Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy (<https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>).