

Syllabus for Comparative Politics– Eureka Campus

Semester & Year	Spring 2018	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC 20 E2647	
Instructor's Name	Joe Brookshire	
Day/Time	M/W 11:40 – 1:05	
Location	HUM 115	
Number of Credits/Units		
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	
	<i>Office hours</i>	before / after class or by appointment
	<i>Phone number</i>	707 476 4100
	<i>Email address</i>	joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	The American Anomaly, 3 rd edition
	<i>Author</i>	Raymond A. Smith
	<i>ISBN</i>	978-0-415-81433-1

Course Description

A course examining the similarities and differences among political systems. Students will be introduced to diverse theoretical approaches and concepts in Comparative Politics in order to understand the political, economic, and social development of a variety of states.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Outline historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences of various states on different continents.
2. Analyze how historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences influence national policies and governmental systems.
3. Diagram the political processes in different states.
4. Describe and apply some basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.
5. Detail the variation of political institutions (e.g. electoral, judicial, administrative, and party systems) and the range of political behavior countries can choose between.

Special Accommodations

College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact [Disabled Students Programs and Services](#). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS at 707-476-4280.

Academic Support

Academic support is available at [Counseling and Advising](#) and includes academic advising and educational planning, [Academic Support Center](#) for tutoring and proctored tests, and [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services](#), for eligible students, with advising, assistance, tutoring, and more.

Academic Honesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the

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Redwoods website at: <http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services>, and scroll to AP 5500. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods website.

Disruptive Classroom Behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, he or she may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: <http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services> and scroll to AP 5500.

Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods website.

Emergency Procedures for the Eureka campus:

Please review the campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). The Eureka **campus emergency map** is available at:

(<http://www.redwoods.edu/aboutcr/Eureka-Map>; choose the evacuation map option). For more information on Public Safety, go to <http://www.redwoods.edu/publicsafety>. In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building.
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building:
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the Incident Commander or campus authorities. (CR's lower parking lot and Tompkins Hill Rd are within the Tsunami Zone.)

RAVE – College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system. In the event of an emergency on campus you can receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones at your home, office, and cell. Registration is necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Please go to <https://www.GetRave.com/login/Redwoods> and use the “Register” button on the top right portion of the registration page to create an account. During the registration process you can elect to add additional information, such as office phone, home phone, cell phone, and personal email. Please use your CR email address as your primary Registration Email. Your CR email address ends with “redwoods.edu.” Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions.

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

Spring 2018

POLSC 20 E2647

M/W 11:40 – 1:05 HUM 115

Comparative Politics

Joe Brookshire

joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu

office hours: before/after class and by appt.

3 Units

Welcome to Comparative Politics: POLSC 20. This course serves as an introduction to the study of domestic politics around the world. It covers the broad spectrum of theoretic approaches, societal components (such as nationalism, ethnicity, and ideology), overviews of different institutional structures (states, societies, democracies, and nondemocratic regimes) and a great deal of specific actual cases in which the patterns and methods of comparison apply. Examples of these cases would include federalism, separation of powers, legislative organization, executive powers, political participation, voting, and public opinion.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Outline historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences of various states on different continents.
2. Analyze how historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences influence national policies and governmental systems.
3. Diagram the political processes in different states.
4. Describe and apply some basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.
5. Detail the variation of political institutions (e.g. electoral, judicial, administrative, and party systems) and the range of political behavior countries can choose between.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations, and activities.

Texts: The American Anomaly, 3rd edition, by Raymond A. Smith ISBN **978-0-415-81433-1** Routledge Pub.

Handouts distributed in class:

The Study of Comparative Politics, Frank L. Wilson

Institutions of Mexico, Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

Institutions of China, Andrew Mertha

Russia: Semipresidentialism in a New Democracy with Weak Institutions, CQ Press

France, Patrick H. O'Neil

Germany, The Governmental Setting, Stella Z. Theodoulou

Expectations:

1. On-time attendance is expected throughout the semester. Students missing one third of classes will be automatically dropped. Active note taking is necessary as class discussions connect themes to specific content.
2. Cheating, plagiarism, and improper academic behavior will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper will automatically fail that component of the course and may be subject to additional college-level sanctions.
3. Students are expected to take all exams, and all but two quizzes on the schedule dates. Several presentations are expected, each to be accompanied by an outline or synopsis to be submitted beforehand.
4. I ask all of us to honor the rights of free speech. Furthermore I ask each one of us to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading:

1. Quick Data Reports – 10% A total of four brief reports are due by February 15. See handout for details.

2. Frequent Quizzes – 30% Quizzes, given frequently, are based on the text, lectures, discussions, activities, videos, other readings - in short, everything that we cover in class. They are usually short essay, identification questions. They can be multiple choice, true/false, or a mix of these. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester. There are no make-ups. All quizzes are given at the beginning of class. They will take only a short amount of time. Late arrivals will miss the quiz.

3. Exams Three comprehensive exams are given.

First Exam – 10%. The first Exam will consist of an essay dealing with an element of Comparative Politics analysis that we have covered. Notice the date: **Wednesday, March 7.**

Second Exam – 10% The Second Exam is an essay in which specific content of the course is to be applied in order to illustrate broader themes of Comparative Politics. **Wednesday, April 11.**

Final – 10% The format is similar to the Second Exam. Make note of the time and date of the final. Make sure that you reserve **Monday, May 7 at 10:45** for our final.

4. Outlines/Presentations – 30% Students will give two presentations and submit corresponding outlines that illustrate particular aspects of comparative politics. Outlines are expected one day prior to each presentation. See handout for details of expectations and dates.

Scales: Comparative Politics uses the following grading scale:

92. - 100 = A	87 .- 89.4 = B+	77 - 79.4 = C+	
89.5 - 91.9 = A-	82 - 86.9 = B	72 - 76.9 = C	59.5 - 69.4 = D
	79.5. - 81.9 = B-	69.5 - 71.9 = C-	Below 59.5 = F

Extra Credit – Independent extra credit assignments are not available for this class. However, points earned in activities go toward raising your exam or final scores.

Schedule: Classes will be held every day as scheduled except for holidays January 15 and February 19. We'll try to follow the schedule below. However, if any adjustments during the semester need to be made, then please make note of any changes announced in class and/or posted on Canvas. Note: || indicates that day's topic

Mondays	Wednesdays
Monday, Jan. 15 <i>No Class</i>	Jan. 17 Comparisons
Monday, Jan. 22 Quiz Chapter 1 Constitutions	Jan. 24 Quiz Chapter 2 Federalism QDR #1 due
Monday, Jan. 29 Federalism	Jan. 31 Quiz Chapter 3 Separation of Powers QDR #2 due
Monday, Feb. 5 Separation of Powers	Feb. 7 Separation of Powers QDR #3 due
Monday, Feb. 12 Separation of Powers	Feb. 14 Separation of Powers, QDR #4 due
Monday, Feb. 19 <i>No Class</i>	Feb. 21 Quiz Chapter 4 Comparisons
Monday, Feb. 26 Executive Powers	Feb. 28 Executive Powers
Monday, Mar. 5 Quiz Chapter 5 Legislatures	Mar. 7 Legislatures First Exam
Spring Break	
Monday, Mar. 19 Legislatures	Mar. 21 Quiz Chapter 6 Judiciary & Political Participation
Monday, Mar. 26 Judiciary & Political Participation	Mar. 28 Judiciary & Political Participation
Monday, Apr. 2 Quiz Chapters 7 & 8 < <	Apr. 4 < > Voting & Elections
Monday, Apr. 9 Quiz Chapter 9 < <	Apr. 11 < > Political Parties Second Exam
Monday, Apr. 16 Quiz Chapter 10 < <	Apr. 18 < > Public Opinion, Political Values
Monday, Apr. 23 Quiz Chapter 11 < <	Apr. 25 < > Domestic Policy
Monday, Apr. 30 Quiz Chapter 12	May 2 Summary
Monday May 7 Final: 10:45 !	