

[Course Information](#)

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| Semester & Year: Spring 2020          |
| Course ID & Section #: POLSC-20 E8079 |
| Instructor's name: Joe Brookshire     |
| Day/Time: M/W 11:40 – 1:05            |
| Location: Hum 115                     |
| Number of units: 3                    |

[Instructor Contact Information](#)

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| Office location: TBA                                       |
| Office hours: before class, after class, or by appointment |
| Phone number: 707 476-4100                                 |
| Email address: joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu                 |

[Required Materials](#)

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| Textbook Title: The American Anomaly |
| Edition: 4th Edition                 |
| Author: Raymond A. Smith             |
| ISBN: 978-1-138-49067-3              |
| Other requirements: none             |

[Catalog 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.

[Course Student Learning Outcomes \(from course outline of record\)](#)

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. Analyze the political processes and political institutions in different states and global governance.
4. Describe and elaborate on basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.

[Evaluation & Grading Policy](#)

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|------------|
| See page 3 |
|------------|

[Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation](#)

|      |
|------|
| none |
|------|

[Student feedback policy](#)

Instructor will make every effort to return all quizzes, assignments, evaluations, and exams on the subsequent scheduled day of class.

**Spring 2020**

POLSC 20 E8079

M/W 11:40 – 1:05 HUM 115

office hours: before/after class and by appt.

**Comparative Politics**

**3 Units**

Joe Brookshire

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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. Analyze the political processes and political institutions in different states and global governance.
4. Describe and elaborate on basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.

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

**Texts:** The American Anomaly, 4th edition, by Raymond A. Smith ISBN **978-1-138-49067-3** Routledge Pub.  
Handouts distributed in class:

**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 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. CP Overviews (CP) – 10%** Four brief research assignments are due by February 19. See handouts for details.
- 2. Quick Data Reports (QDR) – 10%** A total of four brief reports are due by February 26. See handouts for details.
- 3. Frequent Quizzes – 20%** 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.
- 4. Exams** Three comprehensive exams are given.  
**First Exam – 10%.** The first Exam will consist of an essay dealing with the basic elements of Comparative Politics analysis. Notice the date: **Wednesday, March 11.**  
**Second Exam – 10%** The Second Exam is an essay in which specific content of the course is to be applied in order to illustrate themes of Comparative Politics. **Wednesday, April 22.**  
**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 11 at 10:45** for our final.

**5. Outlines/Presentations – 30%** Students will give two presentations and submit corresponding outlines that illustrate particular aspects of comparative politics. Submit outlines 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 20 and February 17. 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

| <b>Mondays</b>                                      | <b>Wednesdays</b>  |
|---|--|
| Monday, Jan. 20 <i>No Class</i>                     | Jan. 22 Comparisons  |
| Monday, Jan. 27 Quiz Chapter 1    Constitutions     | Jan. 29 Quiz Chapter 2    Federalism CP-A due                      |
| Monday, Feb. 3 Federalism                           | Feb. 5 Quiz Chapter 3    Sep of Powers CP-B, QDR #1 due            |
| Monday, Feb. 10 Separation of Powers                | Feb. 12 Separation of Powers CP-C, QDR #2 due                      |
| Monday, Feb. 17 <i>No Class</i>                     | Feb. 19 Sep of Powers:    Head(s) of St/Gov CP-D, QDR #3 due       |
| Monday, Feb. 24 Separation of Powers                | Feb. 26 Sep of Powers :    UK / US Compared QDR #4 due             |
| Monday, Mar. 2 Quiz Chapter 4    Executives         | Mar. 4 Executive Powers, Legislatures                              |
| Monday, Mar. 9 Quiz Chapter 5    Legislatures       | Mar. 11 Legislatures <b>Exam: Comparative Politics overview</b>    |
| <b>Spring Break</b>                                 |  |
| Monday, Mar. 23 Legislatures                        | Mar. 25 Quiz Chapter 6    Judiciary                                |
| Monday, Mar. 30 Judiciary & Political Participation | Apr. 1 Judicial /Participation                                     |
| Monday, Apr. 6 Quiz Chapters 7 & 8    < <           | Apr. 8 < > Voting & Elections                                      |
| Monday, Apr. 13 Quiz Chapter 9    < <               | Apr. 15 < > Political Parties                                      |
| Monday, Apr. 20 Quiz Chapter 10    < <              | Apr. 22 < > Public Opinion, Political Values <b>Exam: CP cases</b> |
| Monday, Apr. 27 Quiz Chapter 11    < <              | Apr. 29 < > Domestic Policy  |
| Monday, May. 4 Quiz Chapter 12                      | May 6 Summary  |
| Monday May 11 <b>Final: 10:45!</b>                  |  |