

Monterey Peninsula College
POLS 2 / Intro to Comparative Government & Politics
Fall 15', 3 units, TTh 12:30pm-1:45pm SS202

Instructor: Kerri Ryer
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield. More specifically, comparative analysis of different kinds of political systems, including their history, political institutions, processes and policies, the environments in which they occur, and their consequences. Using several theoretical lenses, this course will confront substantive questions about the political structures that exist today, including but not limited to: Why do some states struggle to provide order while others do not? How does a state become democratic and what are the different institutional forms democratic government can take? What institutional forms are most responsive to the people living under their rule? Using case studies to illustrate the diversity of theory in practice, this course focuses on the following: India, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Russia, France, China, Iran, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria.

Recommended Prep: Eligibility for ENGL 1A

Partially satisfies:

IGTEC Area D: Social Sciences requirement. Refer to current transfer guide.

See www.Assist.org for the most accurate and up-to-date transfer information

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply the theoretical foundations in comparative politics to contemporary nation states.
2. Describe and evaluate the political and economic structures in contemporary nation states.
3. Describe how contemporary institutions and policies in a nation may be the product of both a unique historical path and constraint imposed by international organizations.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES: (MPC AREA D/ SOCIAL SCIENCE)

1. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated an ability to critically examine and comprehend human nature and behavior, social traditions and institutions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the role of the state.
2. Compare political systems, both in theory and with actual country examples.
3. Explain the impact of the regional, economic, historical, and cultural factors on political institutions and behavior.
4. Analyze political systems by using the comparative method.
5. Distinguish among regime types and their central features.

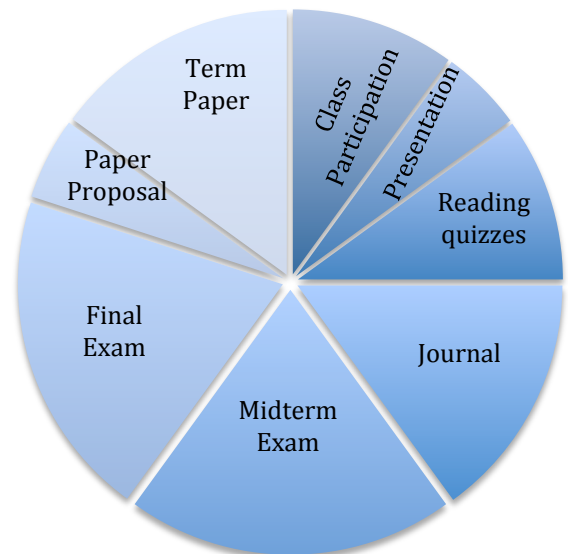
TEACHING & LEARNING COMMUNITY: This course will be delivered in-person and online at MPCOnline. It will incorporate a variety of learning activities and engagement opportunities. Participants will read the text and additional materials, record academic notes, and participate in a series of discussions. Students are required to keep up with the course schedule and complete all assignments by their assigned due dates. Students will be required to actively engage in the teaching and learning process through group and peer teaching exercises. In our learning community, everyone's contributions are valued and respected. We are all in this together and I look forward to learning with you throughout the semester. The members of a course represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspective. I am committed to working with you to provide an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. We will work together to build this learning community by asking all class members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- Keep confidential discussions that occur within class that are of a personal nature.
- Consider other ways that we may create an inclusive learning environment within this course and the Monterey Peninsula College community.

TEACHING AND EVALUATION: Your performance will be evaluated by your participation in class discussion, collaborative projects, journals, a midterm exam, weekly reading quizzes, final exam and a final research proposal and paper. Unexcused absences will significantly lower your grade. No late work will be accepted. Only documented medical exceptions will be excused, though reasonable accommodations will be made in extenuating circumstances. Instructor reserves the right to drop anyone with more than two unexcused absences, but is not responsible for dropping absent or disengaged students. Your final grade will be based upon the following rubric:

Class participation	10%
Presentation	5%
Reading quizzes	10%
Journal	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Paper proposal	5%
Term paper	15%
Total	100%

*You may improve your final grade up to 5% with the extra credit assignment.



Final grades will be assigned using the following evaluative grades and symbols:

A—Excellent

B—Good

C—Satisfactory

D—Passing-Less than satisfactory

F—Failing

To further clarify, fulfilling the minimum requirements will result in a C for the course. As and Bs are reserved for students who produce exemplary work.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Patrick O'Neil 5th ed. ISBN: 978-0393937541
2. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Patrick O'Neil 4th ed. ISBN: 978-0393912807

*(1+2 are bundled in the bookstore to save you \$\$)

3. The instructor will also provide other assigned readings and media online.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

Students taking this course must have basic computer skills for operating Microsoft Word and email, including sending attachments and files. Students also need access to the Internet and must have adequate hardware and software capabilities. Access to computers is available in the library. Students are required to complete weekly reading quizzes and submit paper assignments through MPCOnline. In addition, grades will be for etudes help go here:

<http://mpconline.mpc.edu>. MPCOnline tutorials:

<http://mpconline.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/158828>

HONOR CODE & CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

All students are required to adhere to the college code of conduct and academic honesty policies. I will vigorously pursue any suspected cases of plagiarism, cheating or other violations of the MPC Code of Academic Conduct, whether completed or merely attempted. Even a first offense of academic dishonesty will result in a score of zero on that exam, and an Academic Dishonesty Report form will be filed with the Campus Disciplinarian.

MPC's student rights and responsibilities can be found here:

<http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/college-success/student-rights-and-responsibilities>

MPC's regulations on plagiarism and cheating can be found here:

<http://www.mpc.edu/home/showdocument?id=6219>

MPC's attendance policy can be found here:

<http://www.mpc.edu/home/showdocument?id=6221>

DISABILITY:

I am happy to make academic adjustments for students with documented disabilities. Students who require alternative formats for course materials or adaptive equipment need to visit the Access Resource Center that offers academic counseling, specialized instruction and classroom accommodations to students with a verified disability. You can find the center's location and information here:

<http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/access-resource-center-arc>.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Childcare: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/support-resources/child-development-center-cdc>

CARE: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/care-support-for-single-parents>

Veterans' services: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/veterans-assistance-office>

TRiO: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/trio-programs>

EOP: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/extended-opportunity-programs-services-eops>

Crisis lines: <http://www.mpc.edu/home/showdocument?id=6645>

Planning a good start to college: <http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/college-success/getting-off-to-a-good-start-in-college>

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

I will drop anyone who does not show up to the first week of the course. After that, it is the student's responsibility to drop the course if they wish to withdraw. Do not expect that I will initiate the withdrawal procedures for you after the first week of classes, I will not. Please see the important dates below.

IMPORTANT SPRING SESSION DATES AND DEADLINES:

Sep. 5 Last date to add a course with an add code

Sep. 5 Last date to drop courses and be eligible for refund of fees

Sep. 7 Last date to drop course without receiving a "W"

Sep. 8 Census Day

Sep. 12 Last date to drop & be eligible for refund of nonresident tuition

Sep. 19 Last date to request pass/no pass grade option

Nov. 18 Last day to drop a course and receive "W" grade

December 15 @ 1pm FINAL EXAM

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

*Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week 1

August 25: Introduction session will cover the course structure and requirements, as outlined in this syllabus. This class will provide a brief outline of ...

August 27: Introduction to the comparative method

READINGS: ERCP 1 & CCP 1

Week 2

September 1: States

READING: ERCP 2

September 3: ***No in-person class, I will be at American Political Science Association Conference. Please watch the following videos linked on our MPCOnline classroom, and take the video quiz.***

John Green's Crash Course on World History:

Coal Steam, and the Industrial Revolution,
Capitalism & Socialism, Imperialism, Decolonization,
And Take the Video Quiz!

Week 3

September 8: States continued
*Census Day
September 10: Case Study: India
READINGS: CCP 9

Week 4

September 15: Nations and Societies
READINGS: ERCP 3

September 17: Case Study: United States
READINGS: CCP 3

Week 5

September 22: International Political Economy
READINGS: ERCP 4
September 24: Case Study: United Kingdom
READINGS: CCP 2
Journal #1 DUE

Week 6

September 29: Democratic Regimes
READINGS: ERCP 5
October 1: Case Study: Germany
READINGS: CCP 5

Week 7

October 6: Nondemocratic Regimes
READINGS: ERCP 6
October 8: Case Study: Japan
READINGS: CCP 6
Journal #2 DUE

Week 8

October 13: Midterm Review
October 15: **MIDTERM EXAM** *bring blue book

Week 9

October 20: Political Violence
READINGS: ERCP 7
***TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**
October 22: Case Study: Russia
READINGS: CCP 7

Week 10

October 27: Advanced Democracies
READINGS: ERCP 8
October 29: Case Study: France
READINGS: CCP 4

Week 11

November 3: Communism & Postcommunism

READINGS: ERCP 9

Video: Communist, Nationalist, and China's Revolutions

November 5: Case Study: China

READINGS: CCP 8

Week 12

November 10: **Term paper workshop**

November 12: Case Study: Iran

READINGS: CCP 10

Journal #3 DUE

Week 13

November 17: Less-Developed Countries & Newly Industrialized Countries

READINGS: ERCP 10

November 19: Case Study: Mexico

READINGS: CCP 11

Week 14

November 24: Case Study: Brazil

READINGS: CCP 12

November 26: **Holiday no school**

Week 15

December 1: Globalization and the Future

READINGS: ERCP 11

Video: Globalization I & II

December 3: Case Study: South Africa

READINGS: CCP 13

Week 16

December 8: Case Study: Nigeria

READINGS: CCP 14

Journal #4 DUE

December 10: Final Exam Review

***FINAL TERM PAPER DUE by 12:30pm** submitted hard copy in person AND electronically through mpconline.

Week 17

Tuesday December: 15 @ 1pm!! **FINAL EXAM** *bring blue book

Enjoy your break and thanks for a great semester!