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PSCI 220S.01: Introduction to Comparative Government

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Introduction to Comparative Government

Instructor: Eric H. Hines

Office: JRH 206

Office Hours: MTW 2:10-3 p.m and by appointment

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Phone: 406.359.1660 (Cell/Voicemail)

Course Number: PSCI 220S

Class Location: Social Sciences 352

Meeting Time: MWF 10:10-11:00 p.m.

Website: Moodle (<http://umonline.umt.edu>)

CRN (Add/Drop): 31230

You may schedule an appointment with me online at <http://meetme.so/erichines>

TAs	Email	Office	Office Hours
Samantha Seaman (Exams)	samantha.seaman@umontana.edu	COR 347	TBD
Kiley Gage (Papers)	kiley.gage@umontana.edu	COR 347	F 12:00-2:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparative government, or comparative politics, is the comparison of politics — who gets what, when, and how — across different states. The purpose of the course is to develop your ability to describe, explain, and predict political behavior through meaningful comparison. The course focuses on five areas of interest in comparative politics: political development, regimes, participation and representation, policymaking, and political economy. As we examine these issues, we will see how comparing these issues across states helps provide answers to major questions in political science including why individuals, groups, and governments behave in certain ways, who really governs, and why certain political behaviors are seen in certain places at certain times.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will be able to:	This will be assessed by:
Describe the nature, structure, and development of key individual and group political behaviors and political regimes.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.
Explain political behavior at the individual, group, and organizational level using different theoretical approaches.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.
Evaluate how well conclusions and generalizations about political behavior are justified based on the available data.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

There is one *required* textbook for this course:

O'Neil, Patrick H. 2013. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: Norton. ISBN: 9780393912784.

You must also purchase an **i-clicker student remote** (ISBN: 0716779390) and register it at <http://www.iclicker.com/registration> if it is not already registered for another class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following paragraphs outline the basic requirements for this course. More detailed information on specific assignments can be found on Moodle.

Clicker Questions (50 points)

A variety of clicker questions will be used to assess learning. You must be in class and have a clicker to earn points, no exceptions. A clicker participation score worth 50 points will be calculated at the end of the semester using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total Responses}}{0.9 * \text{Total Questions Asked}} * 50$$

Research Paper (350 points)

You will choose an economic, social, or political issue and produce a 5-page paper comparing different countries with respect to this issue. You may choose the issue and countries you wish to compare. You will submit via Moodle a topic (25 pts), a research process assignment (50 pts.), case selection and hypothesis (25 pts), and an annotated bibliography (100 pts.) during the semester to ensure timely completion of this project.

Quizzes (100 points)

Most weeks on Friday there will be a short 5-10 question multiple choice exam over the readings and lectures. Scores on the quizzes will be averaged to determine the final grade and your lowest 3 quizzes will be dropped. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Celebrations of Knowledge (500 points total)

The main assessments in this course are "celebrations of knowledge." Each celebration, except the first, will feature a take-home essay submitted prior to the celebration and mixture of questions types including multiple choice and short answer in class. Make-up celebrations will be allowed if documentation of illness, injury, family emergency, or participation in a University sponsored activity is provided. Make-up exams must be approved and scheduled with a TA before the missed celebration.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Complete assigned readings before class.
2. Attend class regularly.
3. Complete assignments by their deadlines.
4. Inform the instructor beforehand of any reasons why they are unable to do this.
5. Complete the course. University policy on incompletes will be strictly enforced.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online at: <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES:

I encourage students with documented disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

GRADING

Final grades are based on the below scale with points distributed as listed above. Grades will be posted on Moodle. Your graded work will not be handed back, but students are welcome to review graded work with the TAs during their office hours.

Scale: A = 1000-930, A- = 929-900, B+ = 870-899, B = 830-869, B- = 800-829, C+ = 770-799, C = 730-769, C- = 700-729, D+ = 670-699, D = 630-669, D- = 600-639, F = < 600.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to make changes to this course schedule. Changes will be posted to Moodle and distributed via email. All assigned readings are from the textbook or on Moodle (M).

Date	Topic	Assignment
1/28	Introduction; Distribution of Syllabus	
1/30	What is Comparative Politics?	O'Neil, Ch. 1
2/1	The Modern State: Definitions and Origins; Quiz	O'Neil, Ch. 2
2/4	Case Studies in State Formation; Failed States	Selected Readings on Moodle
2/6	The Modern State: Regime Types and Ideology	O'Neil, Ch. 3, pgs. 69-80
2/8	States and Identity: Nationalism; Quiz	O'Neil, Ch. 3, pgs. 57-69; 80-83.
2/11	States and Identity: Ethnicity, Religion and Race	
2/13	Nationalism Exercise*	Bring Handout to Class (M)
2/15	Celebration of Knowledge #1 (Essay)	Research Topics Due
2/18	President's Day -- No Class	
2/20	States and the Market: Key Concepts and Debates	O'Neil, Ch. 4
2/22	States and the Market: Economic Models; Quiz	Selected Readings on Moodle
2/25	Democratic Institutions: What is Democracy?*	O'Neil, Ch. 5, pgs. 127-131; Bring Handout to class (M)
2/27	Democratic Institutions: Democratization and Regime Change	O'Neil, Ch. 5, pgs. 131-136
3/1	Democratic Institutions: Executive-Legislative Relations; Quiz	O'Neil, Ch. 5, pgs. 136-146 Research Assignment Due (M)
3/4	Democratic Institutions: Elections	O'Neil, Ch. 5, pgs. 146-159
3/6	Democrastan Exercise*	Bring Handout to Class (M)

Date	Topic	Assignment
3/8	Celebration of Knowledge #2 (Essay)	Case Selection Due (M)
3/11	Democratic Institutions: Political Parties & Party Systems	Selected Readings on Moodle
3/13	German Election Simulation*	Bring Handout to Class (M)
3/15	New Democracies Exercise*; Quiz	Selected Readings on Moodle
3/18	Democratic Institutions: Civil Society and Case Studies	Selected Readings on Moodle
3/20	Film: After Democracy	
3/22	Authoritarian Institutions: Governing; Quiz	O'Neil, Ch. 6
3/25	Authoritarian Institutions: Participation and Representation	Selected Readings on Moodle
3/27	Political Violence: Revolutions and Terrorism	O'Neil, Ch. 7
3/29	Celebration of Knowledge #3 (Essay)	Annotated Bibliography Due
Spring Break		
4/8	Advanced Democracies: Freedom, Equality, and Identity	O'Neil, Ch. 8
4/10	Advanced Democracies: European Integration	"Europe in 12 Lessons"
4/12	Issues in Comparative Politics #1: The Euro; Quiz	CQGP, "Future of the Euro" (M)
4/15	Postcommunist States: Communism and its aftermath	O'Neil, Ch. 9
4/17	Issues in Comparative Politics #2: Communism Today	CQGP, "Communism Today" (M)
4/19	Newly Industrializing and Less-Developed States; Quiz	O'Neil, Ch. 10
4/22	Issues in Comparative Politics #3: The Rise of Africa	Readings on Moodle (M)
4/24	Globalization and Economic Sovereignty	O'Neil, Ch. 11
4/26	Celebration of Knowledge #4 (150 points)	Research Papers Due
4/29	Public Policy: Welfare	Readings on Moodle (M)
5/1	Public Policy: Health Care	Readings on Moodle (M)
5/3	Issues in Comparative Politics #6: Social Welfare; Quiz	CQGP, "Social Welfare in Europe" (M)
5/6	Public Policy: Environment	Readings on Moodle (M)
5/8	Politics of Diversity: Religion	Readings on Moodle (M)
5/10	Politics of Diversity: Gender or Gay Rights; Quiz	Readings on Moodle (M)
5/13	Celebration of Knowledge #5 @ 10:10 a.m. in SS 352	