

Hagerstown Community College
OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS DOCUMENT

COURSE: POL 206 – Comparative Politics, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Schwartz

SEMESTER/YEAR:

Time:

Room:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course examines the field of comparative politics, encompassing both theoretical approaches and examinations of current political systems operating around the world. Students learn about the variety of ways that societies organize themselves politically, including both democratic and non-democratic institutions. The emphasis is on understanding the factors that operate in societies that encourage some forms of political organization over others.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students are expected to learn how to analyze political structures and processes that are manifested and developed in countries around the world. They are also expected to learn how to present their analysis in an appropriate format for political science.

Assessment: Aside from completing assignments, quizzes and exams, students will produce a final paper that analyzes a comparative politics case. They will be expected also to analyze a political situation in a game theoretic format. The analysis will be presented in either a strategic format or an extensive game tree format.

TEXTBOOK: Clark, William Roberts; Matt Golder; Sona Nadenichek Golder, *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 3rd ed., 2017. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will make analytical/synthesizing presentations that will be judged as competent by practitioners of comparative politics.

MINIMUM CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE:

	DIRECT Faculty Instruction In-class 37.5 h required	Student Work Out of Classroom 75 h required
In-class "lecture"	37.5 h	
Reading chapters		15 h
Quiz/activity for each chapter	Included in lecture time	10 h prep
Research project		30 h
2 lecture exams		10 h exam prep
Cumulative final exam	Included in lecture time	10 h exam prep
Total Hours	37.5 h	75 h

COURSE CONTENT OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the principles of comparative politics;
2. Be familiar with the broad spectrum of extant political systems functioning in the world today;
3. formulate a theoretical framework to analyze the contemporary political institutions;
4. assess the structure and functions of basic political organizations;
5. analyze, using a particular theory or combination of theories about comparative politics, a selected international issue or problem;
6. Demonstrate elementary competence in analysis of a problem or situation using game theory.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES: The procedures used in Comparative Politics are a form of performance contracting. There will be no curve; the point system for the course will be: A = 100 – 90; B = 89 – 80; C = 79 – 70; D = 69 – 60; and F = 59 – 0.

Students will complete one term paper. It will be due April 24 and will be worth 100 points. More details the paper will be provided in the first weeks of the term.

Students will also take two exams. The first exam is worth 100 points. The second is worth 200 points.

Quizzes and assignments counting as quizzes will be administered too. These will be worth 500 points cumulatively.

Participation in the class will be required. Participation involves attendance, but attending class is not enough. That said, if a student is not attending class, that student not participating in the discussion for that day. I will speak to you personally if I feel your participation is lacking. Participation will be worth 100 points.

A total of 1000 points will be earned for a perfect grade in the class. The percentages for grading can be figured out with some simple arithmetic. An “A” grade, for example, will range from 1000 to 900 points.

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and evaluation procedures as needed. Students enrolled in this course are expected to use literate and effective English in their speech and in their writing. All papers submitted must be well written; grades on written work (including examinations) will be based on expression as well as content. The papers should follow the style guide of the American Political Science Association, which is quite similar to the APA style. The style guide for this style is posted on Moodle.

COURSE POLICIES: The student will be expected to use any resources needed to achieve the objectives of the course. There will be two class meetings per week. The student should plan to spend an amount of time preparing for class that equals the time spent in class. The instructor will be available for student conferences outside of class, within reason.

Students are expected to read all assigned materials and to complete all assignments prior to class. Any student who is unprepared should alert the instructor prior to the start of class.

Students are expected to attend all classes. This is a small class, so your absence will be noticed and felt. It is the student's responsibility to confer with the instructor about the absence and missed course work. If a student knows he/she will miss a class, the student should email the instructor prior to the start of class informing the instructor that he/she will miss the class for a reason specified in the email. A student is responsible for making up all missed course work.

A student should make prior arrangements to turn in homework and make up exams. There is no "make-up time" for quizzes. If a student knows he/she will miss a class in which an exam is scheduled, the student should arrange a make up with the instructor. The instructor is not required to accept late work or make arrangements for a make up exam and the instructor will not do so unless the student has an acceptable excuse.

Students may consume beverages in class, but they should not be distracting.

All cell phones must be turned off during class. Please see me if you intend to use an electronic device for note taking.

Students are expected to abide by the College's policy on academic integrity, as outlined in the HCC catalog and the HCC Student Handbook. Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating during exams, using the work of others as yours, fabrication of information or citations, having unauthorized possession of exams, submitting the work of others under your name, or tampering with academic work of others. Plagiarism is the presentation of the words or ideas of another person or source as if they were one's own. Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported.

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, the course content and/or the evaluation (testing) procedures as deemed necessary.

Further, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from any class that he or she ceases to attend. Failure to do so will result in the recording of an "F" grade.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Eric Schwartz

Division of Behavioral Sciences & Business

Telephone: 240-500-2409,

Email: eschwartz@hagerstowncc.edu,

Office: BSH 135.

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday, 1-2- p.m.

Services for Students with Disabilities: Students may receive reasonable accommodations if they have a diagnosed disability and present appropriate documentation. Students seeking accommodations are required to contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) office as early as possible. Students may contact a DSS staff member for an appointment at dss@hagerstowncc.edu or at 240-500-2530.