**Course Syllabus for POL 341: Comparative Government**

Fall 2016

Professor Josiah Marineau

Office Hours: MW 3-4pm, TTh 11-12:15pm and 2-3:15pm, F 1-4pm

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Course Meeting Time: T-Th, 9:30am-10:45am

Course Meeting Location: Stapp Hall 2

**Course Description:** Monarchic, republican, democratic, constitutional, and dictatorial forms of government along with the historical, economic, social, and cultural forces influencing the modern government of leading countries.

**Course Objective**: The objective of this course is to assist the student in developing their knowledge of, and appreciation for, the complexity of politics around the world.  It will examine many of the key concepts important to comparing nations, as well as how changes in the world may change or threaten both states and the state concept.  The student will be responsible for understanding the basic components of political systems, how these interact, and how they are evolving.  Finally, students will be expected to learn specific knowledge about the political systems of some of the most important countries in the world.  By the end of the course, the student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of:

* The comparative process, and its role in understanding
* The state and the state concept;
* The role of culture, ethnicity, and ideology in politics;
* How governments interact with their broader economy;
* The various types of government, and how and why these vary;
* The challenges that face economically developing and developed states; and
* The potential threats to the stability of the state, both internal (political violence) and external (globalization)

**Textbook:**   O’Neil, Patrick, Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2015. *Cases in Comparative Politics.* 5th edition.Norton: New York. ISBN: 978-0393937541.  (*Required)*

This text is required.  It will be the source of all quizzes, but will not be discussed thoroughly in class.  Passing the course without close and immediate access will be very difficult.  Purchasing this text is STRONGLY advised as you will need to read and study from it every week.  Additionally, much of the information and many of the terms in the recommended text can be found here.

**Recommended Text:** O’Neil, Patrick.  2015. *Essentials of Comparative Politics.* 5th edition.Norton: New York. ISBN: 978-0393938975.

This text will be the primary source of the majority of the lecture material, although a portion of each week’s lectures will cover aspects of the country covered in that week. Almost everything you need from this text will be covered in class or can be found in the first.  You will want access to it, but can probably share a copy.

**Assessment**

Grades for this course will be based upon attendance and participation, weekly quizzes, a poster session at a conference on campus, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

*Assigned Reading*: Getting satisfactory results in the course simply cannot be accomplished without reading the text. Students are highly encouraged to keep up with the reading each week, rather than waiting until either the quizzes or exams and then attempting to cram the material the night before. The lectures and reading material build on each other, and so simply attending lectures (while also highly encouraged) is insufficient to acquire the material needed for a successful performance in the course.

*Attendance and Participation* (10%): Coming to class is an essential component to a satisfactory performance in the class, and so is participation. This means speaking up when you have a question, active involvement in group work, and responding to questions from the instructor. To not disrupt the participation of others, arriving in class on-time is crucial. Be on-time. **Note that attendance will be taken each class session.**

*Weekly Quizzes* (15%): The required textbook contains 10 countries included as case studies for the course.  Beginning with week 2, students will take a quiz per week over the country chapters.  These quizzes will be randomly generated from a test bank provided by the textbook publisher to ensure that the content is adequately covered.  Each quiz will consist of 10 true false and multiple choice exams.

*Country Presentations* (10%): Each student will select a country from the *Cases in Comparative Politics*  reader to present. The presentation should be between 10-15 minutes, and should both summarize the material in the text and also apply the concepts discussed in that week to the country. A country sign-up list will be circulated the first week of class.

*Poster Session* (10%):Students will be required to develop a Poster to be presented in the Social Sciences Division Poster Fair.  These posters will require each student to select an underdeveloped country other than the country selected for the in-class presentation. The poster will apply three of the concepts discussed in the weekly lectures. The three concepts could include, for example, democratic regimes, political economy, and globalization, but the three will be up to the student. More information will be provided about the specific nature of the problem at a later date. The poster session will be held on Wednesday, December 7th.

*Midterm Exam* (25%): We will hold a midterm exam on 25 October. The midterm will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

*Final Exam* (30%): The final will be cumulative, and will similarly include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final will be held at 8am, on Thursday, December 15th.

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| **Aligned with****Assessment (point values)** | **Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS or IECE)** | **KTS Diversity Indicators** | **InTASC** | **ILA Standards** | **Technology (Yes or No)** | **[Include full name of SPA/s]** | **CAEP** |
| Participation 10% | 1.11.2 | 1.2 | 4 |  | N | NCSS1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.8, 1.10, 2.3 | 1.33.5 |
| Exams/quizzes45% | 1.11.2 | 1.2 | 4 |  | N | NCSS1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.8, 1.10, 2.3 | 1.33.5 |
| Presentations10% | 1.11.2 | 1.2 | 4 |  | Y | NCSS1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.8, 1.10, 2.3 | 1.33.5 |
| Posters | 1.11.2 | 1.2 | 4 |  | Y | NCSS1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.8, 1.10, 2.3 | 1.33.5 |

**Course Policies**

**Academic Integrity:**The purpose of a college education is to expand knowledge, to be exposed to different ideas, and to develop a greater understanding of the world in which you choose to live.  It is expected that each student will wish to be evaluated on their own performance and not on the performance of others.  If, however, a student is found to be cheating in any way, or willingly and knowingly plagiarizes the written works of others, severe consequences will follow.  These will include failure of the assignment, and may include failure of the course and/or suspension from the school.  To avoid this, the instructor reserves the right to move any student, or request that any student retake an exam or redo an assignment.

**Disability Statement:** Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented learning and physical disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions.  If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services.  Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment.  Please contact the Director of Disability Services at (270) 789-5450 to inquire about services.

**Campus Security:**  Cell Phone: (270) 403-3611; Office:  (270) 789-5556

**Title IX Statement:**Campbellsville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires all responsible employees, which includes faculty members, to report incidents of sexual misconduct shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator:

Terry VanMeter

1 University Drive

UPO Box 944

Administration Office 8A

Phone – 270-789-5016

Email – twvanmeter@campbellsville.edu

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are

available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: [www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX](http://www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX)

**Course Copyright and License**: Material presented by the instructor during the course is licensed for academic purposes only, and any original content produced by the instructor should be deemed under copyright.  Students may use any handouts, notes, recorded lectures, or other materials to assist them in their own learning.  Students may also share course materials with students enrolled in their section to assist them in the class.  Any use of the handouts, notes, recordings of any type, or any other materials developed by the instructor is a violation of this license and is subject to civil action.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the instructor or his designated representative.

**Course Outline**

Week 1 (Week of August 29th). Course Overview: *What is Comparative Politics?*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 1

Week 2 (Week of September 5th). *States* and *the United Kingdom*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 2

Week 3 (Week of September 12th). *Nations and Society* and *the United States*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 3

Week 4 (Week of September 19th). *Political Economy* and *France*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 4

Week 5 (Week of September 26th). *Democratic Regimes* and *Germany*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 5

Week 6 (Week of October 3rd), *Non-Democratic Regimes* and *Russia*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 6

Week 7 (Week of October 10th). *Developed Democracies* and *Japan*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 7

Week 8. (Week of October 17th). *Mid-Term Review*

* No class on October 20th for Fall Break.

Week 9 (Week of October 24th). *Midterm Exam* and *South Africa*

* **Mid-Term Exam (October 25th)**
* O’Neil et al. chapter 13

Week 10 (Week of October 31st). *Communism and Post-Communism* and *China*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 8

Week 11 (Week of November 7th). *Developing Countries* and *India*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 9

Week 12 (Week of November 14th). *Globalization* and *Brazil*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 12

Week 13 (Week of November 21st). *Mexico*

* O’Neil et al. chapter 11
* No class on November 23rd-25th due to Thanksgiving Holiday.

Week 14 (Week of November 28th). *Civil Wars, Iran* and *Nigeria*

* O’Neil et al. chapters 10 and 14

Week 15 (Week of December 5th) *Poster Session and* *Review*

* Poster Session held on Wednesday, December 7th

Week 16 (Week of December 12th). *Final Exam*

* 8am, Thursday, December 15th