

Political Science 106: Politics of the World's Nations

Online Course

Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm

Office: Bolton Hall Room 630. Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by phone appointment

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Online Course Information

Online Access: This introductory course is offered entirely online on Canvas. All course materials except for the textbook will be accessible online for reading and viewing. All assignments will be completed and graded online.

Contacting Me and the Teaching Assistant: Please contact me via email: trenholm@uwm.edu. The teaching assistant, Kaan Aksoy, may be reached via email: kaksoy@uwm.edu. If you send us an email, please use "PS106" as your subject header. The teaching assistant and I check email every day during the week (although often not on weekends).

Computer Skills Needed for the Course: You will need basic word processing skills; the ability to send and receive email; and a simple understanding of how to access and browse websites, including our course website on Canvas. You will have to be able to receive email via your UWM email account, but of course you can also forward your UWM email to a private account. Checking your email and our course website regularly is very important.

Computer Resources Needed for the Course: You will need routine access to a computer that has a broadband connection. Be sure not to use an unreliable wireless connection when taking exams. The computer you use must have a basic word processing program such as Microsoft Word. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view Adobe PDF files.

Keeping Up with the Course: It is easy to fall behind in online courses. Be careful to organize your time so that you are able to complete the coursework.

Course Description

This online introductory comparative politics course will compare and contrast the political and socio-economic systems of several states—industrialized and developing, democratic and authoritarian. We begin with a theoretical introduction and consider central issues such as political culture, institutions, political crises and discontinuity (i.e., revolution and dictatorship), and economic development. We then examine the following six case studies: two Western European democracies (Britain and France), a former communist regime (Russia), a reformed communist regime (China), a developing state (Mexico), and finally our own presidential democracy (the United States).

Learning Objectives

Having completed this course, students should be familiar with the key concepts and theories that are applied to the country studies considered in this course. Students will also understand the learning objectives outlined at the beginning of each case study. Furthermore, students should enhance their critical and analytical skills in the process and apply such skills to more current research and debate in the field of comparative politics. In short, students should take from this class the critical thinking skills that will enhance their discriminating consumption of professional research and contemporary journalistic arguments in the field.

Grades

Grades will be based on two midterm exams (25% each), one final exam (25%), and the best five of six short writing assignments that I call thought papers (25%). No make-up exams will be given without a documented medical excuse or an excused University absence. I do not accept late papers. However, *students may submit their thought papers early* and may choose to work ahead. The papers will not be graded until after the stated due dates.

The six thought papers submitted on Canvas and are due as scheduled:

- Thought Paper One on Britain (Edelman): Thursday, February 17, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.
- Thought Paper Two on France (Giry): Thursday, March 3, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.
- Thought Paper Three on Russia (Soldatov and Borogan): Tuesday, March 29, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.
- Thought Paper Four on China (Economy): Tuesday, April 12, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.
- Thought Paper Five on Mexico (Bonner): Thursday, April 28, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.
- Thought Paper Six on US (Berman): Tuesday, May 10, 2022, due by 9:00 a.m.

The two midterm exams and the final exam must be taken online between 7:00 a.m. in the morning and 11:59 p.m. at night (a 17-hour time window). The exams are each 35 minutes and are scheduled as follows:

- First Midterm Exam: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m.
- Second Midterm Exam: Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m.
- Final Exam: Thursday, May 12, 2022, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m.

You will take the essay exams online in a timed format. You will have a set amount of time—35 minutes—to take an exam. You must complete the exam in that amount of time. Once you start an exam, you must finish it—there is no starting an exam, exiting, and coming back to it at another time. Each exam may only be taken one time. Each of the midterms and the final exam will consist of one multi-part essay question. To avoid losing your work while you are writing, you might want to write up your essay in your word-processing program, and then copy-and-paste it into the Canvas exam window. Once you have completed your essay, be sure to click on the relevant Canvas icon to submit your answer.

On Canvas, grades will be assigned on a 0-4.0 scale. The following list shows how these numerical scores equate to letter grades:

- A = 4
- A- = 3.67
- B+ = 3.33
- B = 3
- B- = 2.67
- C+ = 2.33
- C = 2
- C- = 1.67
- D+ = 1.33
- D = 1
- D- = .67
- F = 0

Exam and paper grades will be posted on Canvas about one week after exams are taken. Students with questions about their grades should discuss them first (via email or office hours) with the Teaching Assistant. If any issues remain unresolved, students should then contact me. Final course grades will be posted on PAWS. Please ignore the percentages in the column on the far right of the Canvas grade book as these are not relevant to our course. (This is an automatic feature on Canvas that treats all exams and assignments as having equal weight, which is not the way the course is structured. Unfortunately, this feature cannot be blocked.)

Students are responsible to complete and represent their work honestly, to cite sources appropriately, and to respect others' academic endeavors. Students must use their own words in completing exams. Copying-and-pasting from other sources, including course content materials, will result in a failing grade.

For this three-credit course, students are expected to devote six hours of study per week reading, studying, and working on assignments.

For additional information about UWM University policies see the Secretary of the University web site at: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>. The link below contains a list of University policies and links regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and University policy governing academic misconduct, among other things: <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

UWM Spring 2022 Covid-19 Statement

Panther Community Health and Safety Standards: UWM has implemented reasonable health and safety protocols, taking into account recommendations by local, state and national public health authorities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of our campus community, you are expected to abide by the Panther [Interim COVID-Related Health & Safety Rules](#), which were developed in accordance with public health guidelines. These standards apply to anyone who is physically present on campus, UWM grounds, or participating in a UWM-sponsored activity:

- All individuals visiting UWM facilities must wear face coverings while indoors;
- Unvaccinated students coming to campus are required to test weekly for COVID-19; and,
- You should check daily for COVID-19 symptoms and not come to campus if you are feeling sick.

Additional details about student and staff expectations can be found on the [UWM COVID-19 webpage](#).

General Education Requirement (GER) in Social Science

This course fulfills undergraduate students' General Education Requirement (GER) in social science by advancing students' 1) knowledge of human cultures and 2) critical and creative thinking skills. The first criterion is fulfilled by developing students' substantive knowledge of key concepts, theories, and selected case studies in the comparative political study of several nation states and cultures. The second criterion is fulfilled by student practice in learning the standard social-scientific methods of distinguishing theory from evidence; assessing the logical coherence and consistency of various author's theories and arguments; using empirical evidence to assess the validity and utility of multiple theories. Students should enhance their critical and analytical skills in the process of learning about the theories and selected case studies and apply such skills to more current research and debate in the field of comparative politics. In short, students should take from this class the critical thinking skills that will enhance their discriminating consumption of professional research and contemporary journalistic arguments in the field. Assessment occurs through a series of exams and thought papers that assess students' mastery of substantive knowledge and social-scientific reasoning.

Readings

The required digital textbook is available to rent online at: <http://www.uwm@ecampus.com>

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom eds. (2018) *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. The twelfth edition. New York: Pearson Longman. ISBN: 9780134639789.

Please rent the twelfth edition as it is the most current. If you use an older version, you will be missing information.

Other, shorter readings listed below are on the course Canvas site.

Blair, Tony. (2007) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* 86:1 (January/February) pp.1-7.

UK Cabinet Office and Prime Minister's Office. (June 21, 2017) "Queen's Speech December 19, 2019. Her Majesty's most gracious speech to both Houses of Parliament." Transcript of the Speech, exactly as it was Delivered." 19 December 2019: < <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-december-2019>> Accessed 1/9/2020.

Edelman, Eric. (2010) "A Special Relationship in Jeopardy." *The American Interest* (July/August) pp.2-10.

Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) "France and Its Muslims." *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp.87-104.

- Murphy, Kim. (2007) "Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London." *The New Republic* (April) pp.34-37.
- Soldatov, Andrei and Borogan, Irina. (2010) "Russia's New Nobility: The Rise of the Security Services in Putin's Kremlin." *Foreign Affairs* 89:5 (September/October) pp.80-96.
- Economy, Elizabeth. (2018) "China's New Revolution: The Reign of Xi Jinping." *Foreign Affairs* 93:6 (May/June) pp.60-74.
- Rubio, Luis and Davidow, Jeffery. (2006) "Mexico's Disputed Election." *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp.75-85.
- Bonner, Robert. (2010) "The New Cocaine Cowboys: How to Defeat Mexico's Drug Cartels." *Foreign Affairs* 89:4 (July/August 2010) pp. 35-47.
- Dresser, Denise. (2018) "Can Mexico Be Saved? The Peril and Promise of Lopez Obrador." *Foreign Affairs* 97:5 (September/October) pp.157-168.
- Berman, Sheri. (2016) "Populism is not Fascism, But It Could Be a Harbinger." *Foreign Affairs* 95:6 (November/December) pp. 39-44.

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction and Structural/Functional Theoretical Framework

Week 1 (1/25 & 1/27): Issues and Problems in Comparative Politics and Almond and Powell's Comparative Model of Political System, Process, and Policy.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters, 1, 2, and 3 (pp. 1-54).

Suggested reading: Fukuyama, Francis. (1989) "The End of History?" *The National Interest* (Summer) pp. 3-18. Canvas.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer) 72:3 pp. 22-49. Canvas.

Week 2 (2/1 & 2/3): System, Process, and Policy continued.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters 4, 5, and 6 (pp. 55-131). Interest groups, interest aggregation and political parties, government and policymaking, and public policy.

II. Britain

Weeks 3 and 4 (2/8, 2/10, 2/15, & 2/17): Britain

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 7), "Politics in Britain" by Richard Rose, pp. 132-172.

Also required reading: Blair, Tony. (2007) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* 86:1 (January/February) pp.1-7. Canvas.

Edelman, Eric. (2010) "A Special Relationship in Jeopardy." *The American Interest* (July/August) pp.2-10. Canvas.

Suggested reading: UK Cabinet Office and Prime Minister's Office. (December 19), "Queen's Speech 2019 Transcript of the Speech, exactly as it was Delivered." 19 December 2019. Canvas. To view the December 19, 2019, State Opening of Parliament—The Queen's Speech—BBC News, see the following web links:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtm9aMEC74U>>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZxzzPRNvLY>

2/17 (Thursday): Thought Paper One on Britain (i.e., Eric Edelman's argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

III. France

Weeks 5 & 6 (2/22, 2/24, 3/1 & 3/3): France

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 8), "Politics in France" by Martin A. Schain, pp. 174-217.

Also required reading: Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) "France and Its Muslims." *Foreign Affairs* (September/October) 85:5, pp. 87-104. Canvas.

3/3 (Thursday): Thought Paper Two on France (i.e., Stéphanie Giry's argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

First Midterm: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. (A 35-minute essay exam)

IV. Russia

Weeks 7, 8 & 9 (3/10, 3/15, 3/17 & 3/29): Russia

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 11), "Politics in Russia" by Thomas F. Remington, pp. 298-339.

Also required readings: Soldatov, Andrei and Borogan, Irina. (2010) "Russia's New Nobility: The Rise of the Security Services in Putin's Kremlin." *Foreign Affairs* 89:5 (September/October) pp.80-96. Canvas.

Murphy, Kim. (2007) "Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London." *The New Republic* (April), pp. 34-37. Canvas.

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3/29 (Tuesday): Thought Paper Three on Russia (i.e., Soldatov and Borogan's argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

V. China

Weeks 9, 10 & 11 (3/31, 4/5, 4/7 & 4/12): China

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 12), "Politics in China" by Melanie Manion, pp. 340-381.

Also required: Economy, Elizabeth. (2018) "China's New Revolution: The Reign of Xi Jinping." *Foreign Affairs* 93:6 (May/June) pp.60-74. Canvas.

4/12 (Tuesday): Thought Paper Four on China (i.e., Elizabeth Economy's argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

Second Midterm: Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. (A 35-minute essay exam)

VI. Mexico

Weeks 12 & 13 (4/19, 4/21, 4/26 & 4/28): Mexico

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 13), "Politics in

Mexico” by Wayne A. Cornelius and Jeffrey A. Weldon, pp. 382-421.
Also required readings: Rubio, Luis and Jeffery Davidow. (2006) “Mexico’s Disputed Election.” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October), 85:5 pp.75-85. Canvas.
Bonner, Robert. (2010) “The New Cocaine Cowboys: How to Defeat Mexico’s Drug Cartels.” *Foreign Affairs* 89:4 (July/August 2010) pp. 35-47. Canvas.
Recommended: Dresser, Denise. (2018) “Can Mexico Be Saved? The Peril and Promise of Lopez Obrador.” *Foreign Affairs* 97:5 (September/October) pp.157-168. Canvas.

4/28 (Thursday): Thought Paper Five on Mexico (i.e., Robert Bonner’s argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

VII. The United States

Weeks 14 & 15 (5/3, 5/5, & 5/10): The United States: A Nation of Immigrants

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 18),
Politics in the United States” by Austin Ranny and Thad Kousser, pp. 598-641.
Also required reading: Berman, Sheri. 2016. “Populism is not Fascism, But It Could Be a Harbinger.” *Foreign Affairs* 95:6 (November/December) pp. 39-44. Canvas.

5/10 (Tuesday): Thought Paper Six on US (i.e., Sheri Berman’s argument) due by 9:00 a.m.

Final Exam: Thursday, May 12, 2021, 7:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. (a 35-minute essay exam)