

POLS 6380: Political Contention in a Comparative Perspective

Credit Weighting: 0.5

Pre-/Co-Requisites:

Restrictions: -

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This course aims to give students a well-rounded understanding of the field of comparative politics, which is traditionally understood as a field that compares domestic politics in different countries. The course begins with an introduction to key methods and theories in comparative politics, and will then move to discussing some of the main areas of inquiry for comparative political scientists, such as regimes and regime change, electoral politics, and civil society.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Engage in a thoughtful academic debate on key issues in comparative politics
- Appreciate the merits and limitations of the comparative method in political science
- Provide a bird's-eye view of the field of comparative politics
- Understand and apply different theoretical and methodological perspectives in comparative politics
- Situate specific studies in the broader field of comparative politics

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

This class is a seminar, which means that much will be expected in terms of student participation, which will determine 50 percent of the final grade in the class. Students need to come to each session well-prepared with questions in mind, and actively participate in discussion. Each week one student will be asked to start discussion with a short presentation.

The other 50 percent of the final grade will be determined by three written assignments (about 1500 words each).

REQUIRED READING

The course material will consist exclusively of academic material. All readings will be accessible online through your University of Guelph account.