

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLI 2053 (Section 3) Asynchronous Online Course, Spring 2021

Politics is the art of the possible.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Wonik Kim, wkim@lsu.edu

Associate Professor of Political Science at LSU

Virtual Office Hours via Zoom: 10:00-11:00 am on Wednesdays

TEACHING ASSISTANT

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Doctoral Ph.D. Candidate of Political Science at LSU

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines fundamental issues of politics. As an introductory course, this class has three major goals: 1) to understand various approaches, theories, and empirics widely studied in the comparative study of politics, 2) to equip students with an analytical framework to study big, fundamental issues in the world, and 3) to provide a broad and critical standpoint about the world we live in and the ability to relate some of our own interests to existing concerns of other scholars. Therefore, we study politics explicitly from a **comparative and global perspective**, so that we categorically reject ethnocentrism still pervasive in the American politics literature.

REQUIREMENTS

This course is based on 100% online asynchronous learning.

- We do not have a real-time, virtual class meeting.
- Students are required to read and study the textbook and instructor's weekly notes according to the course schedule. I will post the notes every Monday. Students are required to take weekly quizzes, three exams, and write a paper. This is an online course that moves rapidly, so it is extremely important to pay close attention to the course schedule and check the course Moodle regularly.
- I will hold virtual office hours (OH) via Zoom for 10:00-11:00 am on Wednesdays. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to see me virtually via "Zoom Office Hour" on Moodle during OH, or make an appointment if you can't make it to OH. The best way to contact me for a short question is by email. I will make every effort to answer your question in a timely manner usually within 24 hours.

Books

- Shively, W. Phillips. 2019. *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. 15th Edition. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publisher.
- Orwell, George. 1949. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

1) Weekly quizzes (39% = 13 weekly quizzes × 3% for each quiz)

A weekly quiz consists of three short questions. Each question requires an answer with two to five sentences. It will be posted on Moodle at 9:00 am on Monday. Students have four days to complete the quiz by 9:00 am on Friday.

2) Examinations (45% = 3 exams × 15% for each exam. The exams are not cumulative)

An exam consists of five essay questions (plus bonus questions). Each question requires an answer with four to seven sentences. It will be posted on Moodle at 9:00 am on Monday. Students have four days to complete the exam by 9:00 am on Friday. The first exam is February 15-19 in Week 6, the second exam is March 22-26 in Week 11, and the third exam is April 26-30 in Week 16 (see the course schedule below).

3) Critical review paper (16%)

Students should read George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* thoroughly and write a critical review paper in which you present *your own thought* about the book. Your paper must center around answering the following question: Why is *Nineteen Eighty-Four* still relevant to understand today's capitalist democracies? The text should be no longer than ten double-spaced pages. Read the paper guideline very carefully posted on Moodle. The deadline of the paper is Friday, April 23 (or any time before this date).

Quizzes (39%) + Exams (45%) + Paper (16%) = Total 100%.

GRADING SCALE

A+	100 ~ 97	B+	89 ~ 87	C+	79 ~ 77	D+	69 ~ 67	F	59 ~ 0
A	96 ~ 93	B	86 ~ 83	C	76 ~ 73	D	66 ~ 63		
A-	92 ~ 90	B-	82 ~ 80	C-	72 ~ 70	D-	62 ~ 60		

LSU LEARNING COMPETENCY STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Global Learning.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating on exams, plagiarizing, buying or selling assignments, altering grades, intentional deception, and collaborating with others without permission. This is an on-line course, so posting test answers on social media or any internet sites during and after the test, and emailing others with test answers during and after the test are strictly prohibited. A student suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability.

POLICY ON DEADLINES

The course takes deadlines seriously, so everyone must adhere to this policy. I recognize, however, that there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline. If you encounter a problem that prevents you from meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand that problems can arise, and I will accommodate difficulties that you may encounter. But please be prepared to provide appropriate documentation, such as doctor's note. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees that the absence is a university-excused absence (Note PS-22).

DISABILITY

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, LSU will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from Disability Services in 115 Johnston Hall, indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority. LSU recognizes that achieving national prominence depends on the human spirit, participation, and dedicated work of the entire

University community. LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas. LSU proactively cultivates and sustains a campus environment that values open dialogue, cooperation, shared responsibility, mutual respect, and cultural competence – the driving forces that enrich and enhance cutting edge research, first-rate teaching, and engaging community outreach activities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Week	Date	Reading	Quiz	Exam
1	January 11-15	Chapter 1. Politics and Power	Quiz 1	
2	January 18-22	Chapter 2. Modern Ideologies	Quiz 2	
3	January 25-29	Chapter 3. The Modern State	Quiz 3	
4	February 1-5	Chapter 4. Policies of the State	Quiz 4	
5	February 8-12	Chapter 5. Economic Policy of the State	Quiz 5	
6	February 15-19			Exam 1
7	February 22-26	Chapter 7. Democracies and Dictatorships	Quiz 6	
8	March 1-5	Chapter 8. Political Culture	Quiz 7	
9	March 8-12	Chapter 10. Elections	Quiz 8	
10	March 15-19	Chapter 11. Parties	Quiz 9	
11	March 22-26			Exam 2
12	March 29-April 2	Chapter 12. Interest Groups	Quiz 10	
13	April 5-9	Chapter 13. Social Movements	Quiz 11	
14	April 12-16	Chapter 14. Parliamentary Governments	Quiz 12	
15	April 19-23	Chapter 15. Presidential Governments	Quiz 13	
16	April 26-30			Exam 3