

PSC 2603: Governments Around the World
David Stroup
University of Oklahoma
Spring 2017

Price Hall, Room 3030
MWF 9:30-10:20am

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Catalog Description:

This is a gateway course in political science and international and area studies. This course provides an introduction to the varieties of politics and governmental systems around the world. Students will develop skills in comparative analysis to understand why countries have distinct types of government and policies.

Course Objectives:

During this course we will learn more about not only the concepts of government and how to compare systems and concepts across cases of states, cultures, and societies, but also how to read, write, and think more critically. Furthermore, it is the purpose of it to introduce you to a subfield of the discipline of Political Science and the debates, theoretical underpinnings, and concepts found and utilized in that subfield. Therefore, this course is designed to introduce you to comparative politics and the way that research and debates are expected to be carried out in this subfield. This course is also designed to improve your analytical, critical thinking, and communications skills. Your ability to develop and use these skills is as important to you as the information that you will take from this course.

PREREQUISITE: PSC 1300 American Federal Government

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Stephen Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context* (3rd Edition), Los Angeles, CA: CQ Press (2015)
ISBN: 9781452241524

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Students are encouraged to keep up with current events in Global Politics as they may become relevant to the course.

BBC News: <http://www.bbc.com/>

The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com>

Foreign Policy: <http://foreignpolicy.com>

The Diplomat: <http://thediplomat.com/>

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com>

Foreign Affairs: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

This class will use a variety of different types of assessment to gauge students' performance.

The Simulation:

During the final two weeks of the course, students will play a role in a simulated constitutional convention. More details about the simulation will be given later in the semester. The simulation will be graded on participation and evaluation of the final document.

Graded assignments for the semester will be apportioned as follows:

- White Paper 1 (25%):** Students will produce a white paper (3-5 pages) directed to the United States department of state concerning the subject of institutions and political stability in a country of their choice. Further details on the assignment will be given on the rubric.
- White Paper 2 (25%):** In the second white paper (3-5 pages) students will produce a brief examining one of the topic covered after the break (development, globalization, ethnicity, gender, religion, public health, environment, etc.) as it relates to their chosen case study. Further details will be given on the assignment rubric.
- Simulation Paper (25%):** In lieu of a final exam, students will be turn in a 5-7 page paper covering their role in the course simulation. Further details about the assignment will be included in the Simulation Packet.
- Daily Feedback Form (25%):** At the start of each class students will be given a daily feedback form in which they will be asked to respond to a series of questions relevant to the day's topic. Completed forms must be turned in at the end of class to receive credit.

In addition, students are expected to come to class having already read the assigned readings in preparation for class discussion. This is a reading intensive class. We will continually revisit topics as the course progresses, so plan ahead to ensure that you do not fall behind.

LATE WORK POLICY:

All assignments must be completed prior to the beginning of class on the day it is due. Work turned in after the start of class will be considered late. The policy of this class will be to accept late work, at an initial penalty of 1 letter grade, with an additional letter grade penalty assigned for every subsequent day the work is late. If you are having personal or scholastic problems that will lead to you having trouble turning work in on time, please come see me *before* the work is due.

CLASS COMMUNICATION:

Please check your OU email account daily. I will use email to communicate with you individually and collectively from time to time. Please also check "Canvas" (www.canvas.ou.edu) often to download course content and other materials, to see course announcements.

OFFICE HOURS:

The time and location for my office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. If you are unable to attend at any of the listed times, please see me to arrange a time which will be more amenable to both of us.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

While academic honesty is presumed and required on the part of students in this course, you are encouraged to read and familiarize yourself with the university's guide to academic integrity (http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html) which I will adhere to. I have zero tolerance for academic

dishonesty including **cheating and plagiarism**. Students who engage in those practices will receive a grade of zero on the assignment, and will be sanctioned according to university policy.

ACCOMMODATION POLICY

The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. If you encounter a problem throughout the course of the semester, it is imperative that you let me know. Please, don't hesitate to contact me. If I can't solve the problem, I will find someone who can. The university requires students with disabilities to register with the Office of Disability Services (located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 325-3852 or TDD only 325-4173) prior to receiving accommodations in this course.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays. Students who plan to observe a holiday should notify me immediately in order to make appropriate arrangements.

IMPORTANT DATES

Final day to register or add a class: January 20

Final day to drop with no record on transcript: January 30

Final day to drop a course with an automatic W: March 31

White Paper 1 Due: March 10

White Paper 2 Due: April 21

Simulation Paper Due: May 12

SOME GENERAL ADVICE:

A few suggestions for how to get the most out of this course:

- Give yourself ample time to do readings and writing assignments, and come to class prepared.
- Read actively and take good notes in class and on readings. Engaging the material critically will help you to better understand the subject.
- Participate in class discussions and activities.
- Ask questions. If there's something you don't understand, don't hesitate to ask for clarification.
- Ask for help. Come to office hours or schedule an appointment to meet with me if you find yourself having trouble.

Also remember to take advantage of the resources the University offers you. Services are available for students, particular with regard to questions about writing assignments. Visit the OU Learning Resource Center on the second floor of Lissa and Cy Wagner Hall in Room 280 (At the top of the main staircase), or online at http://www.ou.edu/univcoll/home/Departments/learning_center.html For the Writing Center visit: <http://www.ou.edu/content/writingcenter/Students.html>.

READINGS AND COURSE SCHEDULE:

(NOTE: Readings are to be completed by the assigned date. Schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Supplemental readings may be found on the course's canvas webpage. Guest Lecturer readings will be assigned via e-mail prior to that week's lectures)

Date	Topic	Assignment
18-Jan	Syllabus Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus (entire)
20-Jan	Comparative Politics and Comparative Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D, Chapter 1 Weber, "Politics as Vocation"
The State		
23-Jan	The State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D, Chapter 2 (38-57) Skim case studies (59-90); Focus on Chosen Case
25-Jan	The State and Ideology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D, Chapter 3
27-Jan	Do we still need the State?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York Times, "The End of the Nation-State?" Alasdiar Roberts, "The Nation-State: Not Dead Yet"
Democracies		
30-Jan	What is Democracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy is...and is not," 1991.
1-Feb	Institutions in Democratic States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D Chapter 6
3-Feb	Representation in Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D Chapter 7
Case Study: The UK		
6-Feb	Intro to British Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O'Neill, Fields and Share "United Kingdom"
8-Feb	Devolution and The Scottish Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBC News, "Devolution: A beginner's guide" Al Jazeera, "Scotland's Devolution: 'Settled will' or a broken UK?"
10-Feb	Britain after Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hill, "The greatest catastrophe of the 21st Century? Brexit and the dissolution of the UK"
Regime Change and Transition		
13-Feb	Regime Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&D Chapter 9
15-Feb	Revolutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hicham Alaoui "Is the Arab world better off, five years after the Arab Spring?"

17-Feb	The End of History?: Is Democratization Inevitable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanley and Lee “It’s still not the End of History” • Francis Fukuyama “The End of History?”
Case Study: Transitioning State (TBD)		
20-Feb	Guest Lecturer: Andrew Fox	• TBD
22-Feb	Guest Lecturer: Andrew Fox	• TBD
24-Feb	Guest Lecturer: Andrew Fox	• TBD
Authoritarian regimes		
27-Feb	Institutions in Authoritarian Government	• O&D, Chapter 8
1-Mar	Ideologies of Authoritarian regimes	• Fareed Zakaria, “Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew”
3-Mar	The Revival of Authoritarianism?	• Hinnebusch “Authoritarian Persistence, Democratization Theory and the Middle East”
Case-Study: China		
6-Mar	Ideology in Chinese Politics	• Joseph, “Ideology in Chinese Politics”
8-Mar	China’s Institutions	• Saich “The Chinese Communist Party”
10-Mar	China under Xi Jinping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Kroeber, “Here Is Xi’s China: Get Used to It” <i>ChinaFile</i> • David Shambaugh “The Coming Chinese Crackup” <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> • Eric Fish, “I Have No Idea What’s Going to Happen in China and Neither Do You” <i>Sinostand</i> • WHITE PAPER 1 DUE!
13-Mar to 19-Mar	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
State Failure and Breakdown		
20-Mar and 22-Mar	What makes a failed state and how do states fail?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotberg “Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators” • “Failed States: Fixing a Broken World”, <i>The Economist</i> • Szuhai “Rethinking the Concept of a Failed State” • Fragile States Index, 2016

24-Mar	Exercise: Rebuilding Failed States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finnegan, "Venezuela: A Failing State," <i>The New Yorker</i> • "Venezuela Should be Rich, Instead it's becoming a failed state" <i>Washington Post</i>
Case Study: Syria		
27-Mar	Guest Lecturer: Daniel Brown	• TBD
29-Mar	Guest Lecturer: Daniel Brown	• TBD
31-Mar	Guest Lecturer: Daniel Brown	• TBD
The State and the Economy		
3-Apr	The State and the Market	• O&D, Chapter 5 (197-215)
5-Apr	The Politics of Globalization	• O&D, Chapter 5 (215-255)
7-Apr	Alternatives to Liberal Capitalism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onis, "The Logic of the Developmental State" • Krugman "The Myth of Asia's Miracle"
Identity		
10-Apr	Nationalism and Ethnic Politics	• O&D, Chapter 4
12-Apr	Gender in Global Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zalewski, "Feminist International Relations: Making Sense..." • Shepherd, "Sex or Gender? Bodies in World Politics and why Gender Matters"
14-Apr	Religion in Global Politics Guest Lecturer: Jason Pudlo	• (TBD)
Health and Environmental Politics		
17-Apr	Public Health	• O&D, Chapter 11
19-Apr	Sustainability and the Environment	• O&D, Chapter 11
21-Apr	Intro to Simulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHITE PAPER 2 DUE! • Simulation Packet
Simulation		
24-Apr	Simulation	
26-Apr	Simulation	
28-Apr	Simulation	
1-May	Simulation	
3-May	Simulation	
5-May	Simulation	
12-May	FINAL DAY TO TURN IN SIM. PAPER	