



**COURSE SYLLABUS  
GLB/Intro to Comparative Politics  
PSCI 415.01W**

WEB BASED CLASS  
FALL 2020

Monday, **August 24** through Friday, **December 11**, 2020

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Robert G. Rodríguez  
Associate Professor, Political Science  
Coordinator, Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies Minor

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 149  
NOT APPLICABLE DURING FALL 2020 SEMESTER

Office Hours:  
NOT APPLICABLE DURING FALL 2020 SEMESTER  
***The ONLY way to contact me is via email; I will normally respond within 24 hours (48 hours maximum). YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom Video Chats on D2L may be arranged upon request.***

Office Phone: None. Please send me an email if you would like to contact me.  
***YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom Video Chats may be arranged upon request.***

University Email Address: **robert.rodriguez@tamuc.edu**

*Check the Syllabus to see if your question is answered FIRST.*

Preferred Form of Communication: The ONLY way to contact me is via email.

**\*\*CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND D2L FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS DAILY\*\***

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Required Book**

**ESSENTIALS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS WITH CASES- 6th AP Edition, by Patrick O'Neil, ISBN (for Digital Version): 978-0-393-68056-0.**

Do not be thrown off by the "AP"-- that refers to the case studies included in the book for the AP curriculum-- while we will use those case studies in this course, all of the other chapters in this version of the book are (literally word-for-word) the exact same text as the college version that I have used many times at A&M-Commerce.

*You can order the digital version of this book by going to:*

<https://www.norton.com/books/9780393639278>

You should purchase the DIGITAL version of the required book for this course instead of the printed one, as it is less expensive than the printed version and you will have instant access to it--thereby avoiding potential shipping delays and higher costs. If you feel you must have the printed version of the book, that is fine, but keep in mind that you may not receive it in time to complete course assignments. Please also note that there will be other reading assignments for this course that will be accessible through D2L.

### **Course Description:**

Welcome to Intro to Comparative Politics! The purpose of this course is to study the dominant issues in comparative politics. We will analyze important concepts, theories, and debates in the field, in addition to the underlying structures and processes of institutional design in major types of political systems throughout the world. This course will explore how political scientists have analyzed historical, social, political, cultural, and global forces that affect political systems.

We will begin our journey with an introduction to the field of comparative politics. Then, we will delve into substantive issues that help us differentiate between political systems such as state/society relations, comparative political economy, and development. Subsequently, we will discuss modernization and political development in both democratic and non-democratic political regimes. Special attention will be given to regime theory by examining communist and post-communist states, as well as developing countries.

### **Format:**

This is a FULLY ONLINE course that is ONLY accessible by logging in through **D2L Brightspace** on your **MyLEO** account. The course is instructor-led, with a schedule that is organized into four learning modules (Units). Learning materials and activities include **YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom video lectures for each unit, PowerPoint slides, YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom video discussions, exams, a writing assignment, and a poster presentation.**

The course materials are divided into FOUR units:

- **Unit 1: Introduction; The State (August 24-September 18)**
  - *Student Statement of Personal Responsibility DUE September 9*
- **Unit 2: Nations and Society; Political Economy (September 21-October 16)**
  - *UNIT 1 & 2 Exam October 15-16*
- **Unit 3: Democratic Regimes; Non-Democratic Regimes (October 19-November 13)**
  - *Writing Assignment DUE November 12-13*
- **Unit 4: Communism and Postcommunism; Developing Countries (November 16-December 4)**
  - *UNIT 3&4 Exam December 3-December 4*
- **Finals Week-Case Study Poster Presentations (December 7-December 11)**
  - *Poster Presentation Due December 7-December 8*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### **Learning Outcome:**

Students will understand the dominant issues in contemporary comparative politics, including important concepts, theories and debates in the field.

### **Global Learning Outcomes:**

**Learning Outcome 1:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

**Learning Outcome 2:** Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

**Learning Outcome 3:** Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

### Minimal Technology Required

**USE CHROME OR FIREFOX BROWSERS WITH D2L—DO NOT USE Microsoft EXPLORER or EDGE as these tend to have bugs when using this learning platform**

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

**Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and uploading digital images.**

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course is divided into four units. Each unit contains a video overview and PowerPoint slides for each chapter covered (8 total). Several optional class video discussions using YouSeeU video chat on D2L will be scheduled throughout the semester. There will be two examinations, the first covering Units 1&2, the second covering Units 3&4. A short writing assignment and a poster presentation will also be required.

Your grade will be comprised of:

- A) Two Examinations (worth 30% each, 60% total),**
- B) One Writing Assignment (15%)**
- C) One Case Study Poster Presentation (25%), and**
- D) Your submitted Student Statement of Personal Responsibility (1% Extra Credit-- IF submitted to me by the deadline).**

Each element of your grade is described below.

**A) Examinations:** In this course, **all students are required to take TWO exams**, each of which will consist of 30 questions in a multiple-choice format. Exams are “open book,” **HOWEVER, you MUST NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY FROM ANYONE WHILE COMPLETING THE EXAM.** You will have **50 minutes** to complete each exam online. Together, these exams will comprise **60%** of your grade (each exam is worth 30%). The exams are NOT comprehensive. There is NOT a final exam in this course, but you will have to submit your poster presentation during Finals Week.

You will have a 48-hour window to complete each exam. **If you do not complete an exam during the designated 48-hour period, you will receive 0% for that exam.**

If you have a **legitimate reason** for not completing an exam during the designated period (e.g. severe illness or injury *requiring professional medical care*, emergencies in your *immediate* family, participation in *official* university activities, legal *obligations*) **AND**

you have **supporting documentation** for your inability to take the exam, then you may **request** an extension of the period to take the exam.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be **submitted in writing VIA EMAIL and include SCANNED documentation** explaining and substantiating why your inability to take the exam during the designated period was legitimate. An approval to extend the period for you to complete the exam **will be based solely upon the professor's evaluation of your request and any supporting documentation.**

***Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.*

**IF YOU HAVE A TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEM DURING AN EXAM YOU MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES LISTED HERE!!**

Should you encounter D2L Brightspace based problems while submitting exams, the following procedure must be followed:

**Students must report the problem BOTH to the help desk AND to your professor. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511. Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please. Other support options can be found here:

1. FIRST Contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 AND <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>
2. SECOND Send me an email IMMEDIATELY to advise me of the specific problem.
3. I will confirm your problem and follow up with you on how to proceed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer and internet access problems are **not** legitimate excuses for making up an exam. Only Brightspace-based problems are potentially legitimate reasons to get an extension to complete your exam.

**IF YOU RECEIVE ASSISTANCE ON THE EXAM FROM ANYONE IN ANY WAY, THIS CONSTITUTES ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND YOU WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC "F" IN THIS COURSE AND POTENTIALLY FACE FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION. (SEE "POLICIES" SECTION IN THIS SYLLABUS)**

### EXAM DUE DATES:

- *UNIT 1&2 (Exam 1) October 15-16*
- *UNIT 3&4 (Exam 2) December 3-December 4*

**B) Writing Assignment:** There will be one short (5 page) writing assignment in this course, which will be an analysis of a film -approved by your professor- that is a dramatization of real people/events (no documentaries) focusing on a political leader or government in a country *outside the United States of America*. This writing assignment is designed to provide political science majors and LALS minors with an artifact for their senior portfolio. (This course will count toward the minor in Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies. Anyone minoring -or considering minoring- in LALS must select a film dealing with Latin American Politics) More details on the writing assignment, which is worth 15% of your grade, will be provided later in the course.

**\*\* DO NOT EMAIL ME YOUR WRITING ASSIGNMENT- IT WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED THROUGH D2L \*\***

### WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

- *Writing Assignment Due November 12-13*

**C) Poster Presentation:** You will be assigned to create a poster presentation of one of the case studies in the Essentials of Comparative Politics textbook. This assignment is an INDIVIDUAL project, not a group project. You MUST follow the provided instructions and format to successfully complete this assignment. You must create and submit a high-quality photograph(s) of your poster on December 7-8 by 11:59pm (on the 8<sup>th</sup>). (High-quality means that I can clearly read all of the information you are displaying in your poster.)

Your case study chapter will be assigned to you (I will not take requests for this assignment, however, students who are minoring in Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies -L.A.L.S.- will be assigned the chapter on Mexico --unless you have already done this case for one of my other classes). Even though more than one student will be assigned each case study, you are expressly prohibited from working together on this assignment). You will not have to actually present your poster, nor interact with others about your case study. Your poster presentation is worth 25% of your grade. I will provide you with the specific parameters/requirements/rubric for this assignment on D2L.

### POSTER PRESENTATION DUE DATES:

- *Poster Presentation Due Finals Week December 7-8*

**D) STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

**YOU MUST SUBMIT A STATEMENT ON D2L ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING *STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY* BY **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.** This is a requirement to remain enrolled in this course and **1% extra credit** will be added to your total grade in this course **IF** you submit it to me by the deadline.**

***\*\*DO NOT EMAIL YOUR STATEMENT TO ME- IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLASS ON HOW TO SUBMIT A FILE ON D2L\*\****

*Statement: I have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and agree to the policies detailed therein as a condition of being enrolled in this course. I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, and/or receiving a grade of "F" in the course.*

**STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY DUE DATE:**

- o Wednesday, September 9, by 11:59pm*

**Grading**

Your grade in this course will be determined by the following scale and criteria:

Exam 1 (Units 1&2):	30%
Exam 2 (Units 3&4):	30%
Writing Assignment:	15%
Poster Presentation:	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL:	100%

*Submit Statement of Personal Responsibility on D2L: 1% extra credit if submitted on or before Wednesday, September 9 by 11:59pm.*

**A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%**

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

**August 24-September 18**

### **Unit 1: Introduction; The State**

Required Reading:

Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 1  
Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 2

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- Follow along with PowerPoint Slides for each chapter
- **Purchase** your required book (digital version preferred)
- **Submit acknowledgment ON D2L that you have read and agree to the Student Statement of Personal Responsibility (By 11:59pm, Wednesday, September 9)**

**September 21-October 16**

### **Unit 2: Nations and Society; Political Economy**

Required Reading:

Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 3  
Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 4

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- Follow along with PowerPoint Slides for each chapter
- **Take UNIT 1&2 Exam on D2L October 15-16**



## **October 19-November 13**

### **Unit 3: Democratic Regimes; Non-Democratic Regimes**

Required Reading:

Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 5  
Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 6

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- Follow along with PowerPoint Slides for each chapter
- *Writing Assignment DUE November 12-13*

## **November 16-December 4**

### **Unit 4: Communism and Postcommunism; Developing Countries**

Required Reading:

Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 9  
Essentials of Comparative Politics, CHAPTER 10

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- Follow along with PowerPoint Slides for each chapter
- *Take UNIT 3&4 Exam on D2L December 3-December 4*

## **Finals Week: December 7-December 8**

### **Poster Presentation Assignment**

Required Activities:

- *Submit your Poster Presentation Assignment on D2L December 7-December 8*

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### Email

**Before you ask me a question in an email, check to see if the syllabus answers your question FIRST.** I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. Emails sent to me over weekends will be replied to on Mondays. I do not reply to emails that ask questions about items covered in the syllabus, such as what chapters are covered on an exam or what the assigned readings are for a given class session.

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

***If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.***

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **TAMUC Pandemic Response Statements**

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.