Political Science (PSCI) 3600.002
Government and Politics Around the World
Spring 2019

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There is a Canvas site for this course where all copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus).

I. Goals and Objectives of the Course: This course is designed as a general overview of the subfield of comparative politics. The focus is on how political scientists understand the development of political systems around the world and address questions such as: What causes democracy? Why do authoritarian regimes emerge? Although this is not a current events course, although certainly current events affect the substance of what we study. This course is primarily designed to provide both a broad overview of major theoretical approaches to the study of the field of comparative politics (the field that focuses on the study of government and politics throughout the world), the method by which comparativists compare political phenomenon across nation-states, and the application of these approaches and methods of comparison to the study of political development and comparative political systems.

One of the primary goals of this course is to promote the analytical skills of the student. This involves not only knowing some basic facts about the world (such as where countries are located), exposure to the practice of conducting critical analysis (such as what appears in a typical political science journal article) but also the ability to apply academic learning to real world problems. To help cultivate such skills this course will be centered around a “problem solving” exercise-how to build democracy in countries that are currently not democratic. During the course of the term we will be investigating some of the basic factors that affect democratic development. These include the relationship between economics and democracy, culture and democracy, and institutions and democracy.

To promote such problem-solving skills you will take a map quiz, do weekly assignments writing short responses to questions I pose via Packback, review a classic article in comparative politics, and design a constitutional arrangement for a country that is currently authoritarian (like North Korea) or from civil war (like Syria). In this project, students will be asked to formulate a constitutional design that would be most appropriate for this country. This constitutional design will include the design of executive power, the structure of the legislature, the electoral system, the territorial division of power and the design of the judiciary (more on this later in the term). Although the constitutional design project will be a group exercise, each student is responsible for their own final paper. These constitutional designs will be due Monday March 6, 2019 by 5:00 pm.

II. Texts: There is one required texts for this course:

Also required is purchase of access to the Packback platform. Class participation will be assessed via “Packback” (more below)

In addition there will be assigned readings that will be placed on Canvas as supplemental reading materials

V. Course Requirements
a) There will be three exams scheduled for this term
Two In-Class Major Exams: = 200 pts (100 pts each exam) (February 19 and April 4)  
A comprehensive major final examination = 125 point (May 9)

b) One Map Quiz (on January 31) = 30 pts

c) Weekly Packback assignments (10, 10 points each) = 100 points

d) Article Review Paper (due February 12, 5-7 pages) =50 pts

e) One group presentation (April 30, May 2) = 30 pts

f) One Constitution Paper (May 6, 10-12 pages) = 75 pts

The total number of points for this class = 610 pts
Note on Packback assignments:
Class participation will be assessed via “Packback”. The Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics (first 7 assignments) and the development of the group project (last 3 assignments).

Writing questions and answers on Packback will:
- Help you develop writing skills necessary for any career path
- Reinforce the imperative skill of justifying thoughts and claims with credible evidence and then citing the evidence!
- Enhance critical thinking sought out by employers
- Deepen your understanding of the course content by gaining diverse insights and perspectives from your peers
- Help develop coordination of your group projects

Course goals for using Packback are for all students to actively learn, critically think, and move past regurgitation of the course content. The goal is for each student to gain interest & informed opinions on the subject matter.

Your participation on Packback will count towards 100 points of your final grade. There are 10 Packback assignments each will be worth 10 points. For the first seven assignments I will post a question that I view important for that week. You will see many of these topics covered by these questions on the exams as well. You will write at least a 200 word response to the question. Although the point of the exercise is to get you to write about topics related to the course and apply it to some current event, there is not a right or wrong answer, the point is to get you to write about topics related to the course. The responses are graded based on an algorithm that rewards you for the quality of your response.

The final three packback assignments will be designed to coordinate discussion on the group project, reward participation in the project’s development, and monitor for “free riding” problems.

Before you start posting, be sure to read the Community Guidelines found in the tutorial on Packback. If your post doesn’t follow the Packback Community Guidelines, there is a chance it will be removed and you won’t receive points for that post.

There will be a Sunday 11:59 PM deadline for submissions in your community each week. This will not begin until January 27, 2019.

Note: It takes 24 hours for the Packback team to moderate a post and send a coaching email. If by any reason your post is moderated because it does NOT meet the Community Guidelines, you will need to edit and re-publish your post to receive credit for the week. This is why it is important that you complete your Packback questions and responses far before the deadline in case your post is moderated.

You will receive a welcome email from holla@packback.co prompting you to finish registration and payment. Packback has already created an account for you with your school email, all you need to do is reset your password. This email may be directed to spam or filtered out, so make sure you do a thorough scan of your inbox if you can’t find the email.

If you search your inbox and still can’t find the welcome email, or if you are new to the course, you may manually register by following the instructions below:

1. Navigate to https://Packback.co/questions and click “Register as a new student”.
   Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can login with your credentials.
2. Make sure to register with your SCHOOL email address and real first name and last name.
3. Enter our class community’s access code into the “Join a new Community” module on your dashboard.

The Community access code: 18ef16c3-5e96-4366-94b7-02847f5adf25

4. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

If you have ANY questions or concerns regarding Packback throughout the semester, please contact the customer support team at holla@packback.co

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:

vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

VI. Policy on attendance and assignments: I do not take regular attendance-- however I will take “spot attendance”. Thus, if you are not in class consistently I will know and this will affect my evaluation of your performance. Also, since much of the exam material is based on class lectures, it would be in your best interest to attend regularly.

No late assignments or excused absences for missed examinations will be allowed except for the following:

If you are absent because of university-sponsored and/or educational activities, provide the instructor with written confirmation of the reason for your absence, provided by the activity’s sponsor. The instructor does not accept any doctor’s notes or other notes explaining absences, except for verifications for absences provided by the Office of the Dean of Students. To report serious illness or other issues for which you seek accommodation, please contact the Dean of Students at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/temporary-illness

If emergencies arise that prevent you from taking an exam, or otherwise prevent you from completing an assignment, please contact the instructor immediately.

Unfortunately Packback assignments are automatically graded (I will go over the scoring criteria prior to the first assignment, in class), and if you miss them your cannot make them up under any circumstances. Please make sure they are completed before the due date and time.

VII Schedule of lecture topics and readings:

January 15: Introduction to the course (What is this course about?)
No readings

January 17-22: The origins of the field of Comparative Politics and structural functionalism
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 1

January 24-29: Modernization, the political consequences of economic development, dependency and statism
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 3
MAP QUIZ January 31
Packback assignment 1 (due January 27 by 11:59 pm)

February 5-7: Culture and Ethnic Politics
Readings John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 4
Packback assignment 2 (due February 3 by 11:59 pm)

February 12-14: Social Structure and Politics
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 5
Packback assignment 3 (due February 10 by 11:59 pm)
First article review on Foley and Edwards paper due by beginning of period on February 12

FEBRUARY 19 – FIRST EXAMINATION

February 21-26: Democratization and the Global Environment
Readings : John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 6
Packback assignment 4 (due February 24 by 11:59 pm)

Feb 28-March 5: Electoral Systems and Political Parties
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 7

Packback assignment 5 (due March 3 by 11:59 pm)

NO CLASS MARCH 7 (in Ethiopia)

SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-15
March 19 - 26: Executives and Legislatures
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 8

Packback assignment 6 (due March 24 by 11:59 pm)

March 28: Judiciaries & Federalism
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 9

Packback assignment 7 (due March 31 by 11:59 pm)

March 28-April 2: Historical Approaches to Democracy and Democratization
Readings: John Ishiyama Fundamentals of Comparative Politics chp 2

April 4: Second Examination

April 9-11: Old Democracies
Britain and France
Packback assignment 8 (group project due April 14, 11:59 pm)

April 16 - 18: Post War Democracies:
Germany, Japan, India
Packback assignment 9 (group project due April 21, 11:59 pm)

April 23- April 25: Transitions from Authoritarian Rule?
Russia, Mexico and Ethiopia
Packback assignment 10 (group project, due April 28 11:59 pm)

April 30: Group Presentations

May 2: Group Presentations

Constitution Papers due on MONDAY MAY 6 by 5:00 pm

Final Examination: Thursday May 9, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

VIII. Additional information

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES
According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. For additional information see the next segment (Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism and https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of
cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access website at https://disability.unt.edu/.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard/Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: http://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and
UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.