

POS350 Comparative Politics  
Spring 2025; B-Session  
Online, 22941 / 22942

### Contact Information

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Office Hours: Zoom - TTh 8:00 – 9:30 AM, or by appointment

All emails **must have POS350 in the subject line**. Please email me directly, DO NOT use Canvas messages.

### Course Description

The political world is highly complex, and yet we interact with it on a daily basis. At the international level, leaders gather to discuss issues that affect their states individually and collectively, while the impact of their decisions on the people of their country depends on the style of government and its representativeness. This course, Comparative Politics, is a subfield of political science and serves to introduce students to key concepts in the comparative study of political systems. While most of us are familiar with the politics of the United States, the U.S. is only one of almost 200 cases in the world and does little to help us understand the wide variety of political regimes around the world. This class focuses on the variations in domestic institutional characteristics among states, and we will analyze how these differences affect political outcomes such as participation, identity, regime type, economic and development policies, and institutional trajectories.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- ☐ Define, identify, and apply key concepts of comparative politics including the state, government, regime type, and institutions.
- ☐ Differentiate and analyze the domestic characteristics of states that define their regimes and political systems.
- ☐ Compare and contrast political institutions across different states and their effects, to explore political phenomena in the fields of identity politics, political economy, and public policy.

This course fulfills the ASU **Global Communities, Societies and Individuals** General Studies requirement. Students completing a Global Communities, Societies and Individuals course will be able to:

1. Describe historical, contemporary, or transforming global issues through the perspective of specific individuals, communities, or societies.
2. Analyze the interactions among social, political, economic, or cultural systems across local, regional, and global scales or spaces.
3. Articulate ways in which dimensions of difference such as race, gender, socio-economic status, religion, language, or citizenship separately and together affect individuals and communities.
4. Communicate coherent arguments using evidence drawn from qualitative or quantitative sources.

### **How Will You Learn?**

#### **Statement of Learning Success**

Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently, and everyone struggles sometimes. You are not, ever, the only one having difficulty! If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we will develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through ASU and I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

#### **Teaching Modality**

This is an online, asynchronous course. All lectures are recorded, and students may access them online.

#### **Communication**

The course Canvas site can be found at <https://canvas.asu.edu/>. Please **DO NOT** email me through Canvas – ONLY email me at my work email address stated on the first page. All Canvas messages will be ignored. You are responsible for ensuring that the primary email address you have recorded with the university is the one you will check for course communications because that is the email address that Canvas uses for you to receive course announcements.

#### **Asking for Help**

If you need to access or ask questions of me outside of class time, visit my office hours. I have office hours online to make access more flexible to all. The time and location can be found at the top of page 1.

#### **Course Responsibilities & Absentee Policy**

This course is broken down into seven modules covering the Spring 2025 B-session (March 17, 2025 – May 2, 2025). While you can read ahead using the course calendar below, you cannot complete other work early: we will be working through the modules together. Please make sure to check our course's Canvas announcements regularly. This is the primary way I will communicate

with the class. For each module, be sure to cover the module's assignments, lectures, and complete any tests and/or assignments.

This is an intensive 7-week course. As detailed on the ASU Online site, you should expect to dedicate 18 hours a week to a three-credit class in this format, more if you assimilate material slowly. You must guarantee you dedicate enough time to this class in order to succeed.

Since our course is asynchronous, live participation in the course is not required. However, it is your responsibility to follow the syllabus and meet all deadlines. All work is expected to be completed as scheduled. Late work is not accepted without a documentable excuse (e.g., medical excuse with doctor's certification, university-sanctioned activity with organizational letter).

More information on excused absences related to religious observances can be found at: ACD 304-04 [Accommodation for Religious Practices](#). Information on excused absences related to university-sanctioned activities can be found at: ACD 304-02 [Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities](#).

You are responsible for your online connection to the course. You should have a dependable internet connection, a reliable computer, and a backup plan should you have a problem. You are responsible for addressing any technical problems as they arise, calling Tech Support, and emailing me to make me aware of any problems you are having. If you have a technical problem that affects submission of work due, you must contact Tech Support immediately (e.g., during the exam period), **get a case number, and email it to me to verify**. Failure to do so will result in a "0" for that test or assignment. Not seeking immediate Tech Support and making me aware will result in a failing grade. You must guarantee that you remedy any technical problems in a timely fashion (within 1 working day/8-hours) to avoid adversely affecting your grade. **A lack of connectivity or technical issues that I am not made aware of prior to will not be accepted as an excuse for delayed or missed work.**

### **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all communication, examinations, papers, academic transactions, and records. You are required to acknowledge ASU's Academic Integrity Policy at the start of the class online.

All your work for this class is expected to be original work, and this includes your own work from previous classes. Claiming to have completed work that you have not is academic deceit, and I will pursue sanctions if you make such a claim and access-reports show that you have not accessed or completed said work. All violations of academic integrity are subject to ASU policy. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification, and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity>.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the education process per [Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#).

As for any threatening behavior, all incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on-or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.

Appropriate online behavior (also known as netiquette) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics and being courteous and respectful in all communications. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor, and limitations placed on continued access of such forums. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts incident reports from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Canvas & Technical Support**

We are running Canvas as our learning management system. I would recommend reading over the Canvas Guide for Students, and refer to it when you run into difficulty. Help can be found at: CanvasHelp. Be aware that Tech Support is recommending Firefox as its preferred browser, and suggests you have an alternate browser as well. If you have trouble, call Tech Support; 24/7 phone support is available at 855-278-5080.

I also recommend you familiarize yourself with the ASU System Health page. The ASU System Health page will inform you of any problems with the ASU system so you can determine if there is a system outage, if problems with course software have been reported, or if the problem appears to be with your computer/connection. You can access the System Health page at: <http://syshealth.asu.edu/>. Here you will also find links to the Service Desk via either phone or chat.

### **Course Materials**

There is one textbook for this course, as listed below. In addition, we will be utilizing a range of additional materials. Materials assigned, both in the syllabus and any additional materials, are required. You may access the materials through ASU's library website (<http://lib.asu.edu/>).

#### **Textbook**

*Essentials of Comparative Politics* by Patrick H. O'Neil. 2017. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN 978-1-324-06202-8.

## Digital Subscriptions

All ASU students have access to free digital subscriptions including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. You will need to create subscriptions to these if you have not to avoid the paywall while accessing material for this class. More can be found at: <https://askalibrarian.asu.edu/faq/268944>

## Lectures & Videos

Narrated lectures will be posted with each module. They are meant to direct you through the topics we are covering and provide the foundation from which you approach the additional reading and viewing material. You will be required to view the streaming video online as assigned. The material covered in these videos is integral material and will be included in exams. If you have technical difficulties listening to or viewing these assignments, please contact Tech Support.

## Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services

In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#), written permission *must* be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell or publicly post any of the instructor's materials. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date if permission is given.

## Grading & Requirements

Your grade in this course will be assessed based on the following three items:

- ☐ 6 of 8 Quizzes (20%)
- ☐ 4 of 6 Short Writing Assignments (10%)
- ☐ 3 Online Examinations (70%)
  - Examination 1 (20% of final grade)
  - Examination 2 (25% of final grade)
  - Examination 3 (25% of final grade)

There will be NO extra credit, **no exceptions**.

**Quizzes (25%):** The quizzes **can be cumulative** and cover both class lectures and assigned readings. These quizzes will test key information. On average, there will be one quiz per module (in addition to a syllabus quiz), for an approximate total of eight quizzes for the semester. Each module quiz is timed, and students have 10 minutes to take each quiz. On each module quiz, there will be a question about current affairs in the around the world. I strongly encourage you to read at least one of the following news sources on a regular basis (note that some - but not all - have a limit on the number of free articles per month):

- ☐ BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/>
- ☐ Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/us/>
- ☐ National Public Radio: <http://www.npr.org/>

- ☐ The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- ☐ The Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com>

I will take the top six quizzes. There are no makeup quizzes. If you miss between 40-50% of the total quizzes given, your final quiz grade for the semester will be a 0%. If you miss 50% or more of the in-class quizzes given, you will automatically fail the course.

**Short Writing Assignments (10%):** You will be required to complete four (4) of six (6) short writing assignments. There will be a short writing assignment for each of the first six modules (there is no short writing assignment for Module 7). These assignments are 180-220 words long and require students to answer a specific question pertaining to that particular module's course content. You are only required to complete 4 of the 6 short writing assignments. Only your highest 4 scores will count towards your final grade. Each short writing assignment is worth 2.5% of your final grade for a total of 10%.

**Online Examinations (70%):** There are three online examinations for this course. This is a timed exam. Exam questions will come from both the class lectures and the course readings. Students will have 50 minutes to complete the test. **All exams can be cumulative.**

- ☐ Examination 1 (20%)
- ☐ Examination 2 (25%)
- ☐ Examination 3 (25%)

Examination 1 is weighted at 20% of the student's total grade, and Examinations 2 and 3 are 25% each. The lower weightage of Examination 1 compared to Examinations 2 and 3 is to facilitate students' adjustment to the course materials at the beginning of the semester.

## Grading

The following table represents how you will demonstrate your learning and how I will assess the degree to which you have done so.

If you believe a grade does not reflect your performance, you are welcome to dispute the grade. I ask that all grade appeals be made in writing. In the memo, explain why you should receive a higher grade on that quiz, examination, assignment, or analysis. This should be done ONE week after the grade is announced and submitted during office hours right after we speak. You will then receive a response in writing addressing your concerns. You will have a total of 3 working days to submit your appeal after the one-week waiting period post-grade submission.

I use the ASU +/- grading scale. More information on ASU's grading policy may be found at <https://students.asu.edu/student-records-grades>.

A+: 98 – 100%	B+: 88 – 89%	C+: 78 – 79%	D: 60 – 69%	E: <60%
A: 94 – 97%	B: 84 – 87%	C: 70 – 77%		
A-: 90 – 93%	B-: 80 – 83%			

Note: A grade of "E" is a failing grade.

## Course Outline

### Module 1: Comparative Politics (March 17, 2025 – March 23, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapters 1 – 2
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 1** due March 23 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 1: Syllabus Quiz** due March 21 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 2: Comparative Politics** due March 23 by 11:59 PM

### Module 2: Nations, Society, and Political Economy (March 24, 2025 – March 30, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapters 3 – 4
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 2** due March 30 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 3: Nations, Society, and Political Economy** due March 30 by 11:59 PM

### Module 3: Democratic and Non-Democratic Regimes (March 31, 2025 – April 6, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapters 5 – 6
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 3** due April 6 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 4: Democratic/Non-Democratic Regimes** due April 4 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Examination 1** available on April 4 at 9:00 AM until April 6 at 11:59 PM

### Module 4: Political Violence (April 7, 2025 – April 13, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapter 7
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 4** due April 13 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 5: Political Violence** due April 13 by 11:59 PM

### Module 5: Developed Democracies and Communism (April 14, 2025 – April 20, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapters 8 – 9
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 5** due April 20 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 6: Developed Democracies/Communism** due April 18 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Examination 2** available on April 18 at 9:00 AM until April 20 at 11:59 PM

## Module 6: Developing Countries (April 21, 2025 – April 27, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapter 10
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Short Writing Assignment 6** due April 27 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Quiz 7: Developing Countries** due April 27 by 11:59 PM

## Module 7: Globalization (April 28, 2025 – May 5, 2025)

- ☐ Course Readings:
  - O'Neil (Textbook): Chapter 11
  - Additional readings: TBD
- ☐ **Quiz 8: Globalization** due May 2 by 11:59 PM
- ☐ **Examination 3** available on May 2 at 9:00 AM until May 4 at 11:59 PM

## Test-Taking Online

1. Exams are online and will be found in the module the day assigned.
2. The exams will cover ALL material assigned.
3. The exams will be open-book, open-note, though no collaboration is allowed; given you are taking exams online, I am relying on the honor system and expect you to take the exam yourself with no interaction or help. I reserve the right to require you take an alternative exam at any time and will pursue academic dishonesty charges if you are found cheating.
4. The exams will be timed, therefore, despite being open-book, open-note, you will not have enough time to go searching for answers that you do not know. Being thoroughly familiar with the material will allow you to skim your notes and materials quickly if in doubt. Take notes as you cover the material.
5. Tests maintain an exam timer, and exams will submit automatically at the time limit.
6. You must take the test in its entirety, meaning that once you have opened the exam, you must complete and submit it. As a safeguard against cheating, if you open and close the exam, you will be locked out. Therefore, it is important that you open the exam only when ready to take it and do not close the window.
7. You should NOT use the back, forward, or refresh buttons on your browser while taking your tests to avoid any technical problems. Failure to follow these directions may result in your exam closing and you being locked out of the exam by the system.
8. If you are locked out of your exam, it may be necessary for me to clear your exam attempt to allow you back into the test. Therefore, it is very important that you avoid any actions listed above. You may also want to keep a written log of your answers as you enter them.
9. Should the unfortunate happen, and you are locked out of your exam, please do not panic. Send an email immediately to me explaining what happened and I will address it as soon as possible. If you have a technical problem between 10pm - 8am, call Tech Support immediately to obtain a case number (to submit to me) and to see if they can remedy the problem.



10. Keep in mind that that you want to leave time in case you have a problem, so the earlier you take the test the better. After the deadline, the exam cannot be accessed and you will earn a “0” unless you have a documentable excuse (e.g., medical emergency).
11. It is your responsibility to guarantee your work has been submitted correctly and accepted by the system. After you have submitted your exam, go into Grades and guarantee your work has been accepted.
12. Once everyone has completed the exam and I have gone over the results, I will make your exams with the correct answers available to you. Information will be found under Announcements when exams are ready for viewing. While I appreciate that everyone is eager to see their exam attempts, please respect the integrity of the testing process and wait for exams to be released before contacting me.

### **Additional ASU Policies**

Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services office should contact SAILS immediately. The SAILS Tempe office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. SAILS staff can also be reached at (480) 965-1234 (V) or (480) 965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: [www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc).

Title IX, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information. As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

AI Use: In this course, all assignments must be completed by the student. Artificial Intelligence (AI), including ChatGPT and other related tools used for creating of text, images, or other media, are not permitted for use in any work in this class. Use of these generative AI tools will be considered a violation of the ASU Academic Integrity Policy, and students may be sanctioned for confirmed, non-allowable use in this course.

Copyrighted Materials: A warning to students that they must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the student first complies with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement.