

The University of Texas at Tyler

Comparative Politics

POLS 3370.001

MWF: 9:05-10:00 AM

RBN 3041

Ms. Melissa Salgado

Office: CAS 120

Email: msalgado@uttyler.edu

Please check Canvas for announcements.

Office Hours: Office hours will be held Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-2PM or by appointment. Office hours can be held face to face or students can request a virtual appointment as well.

Form of Contact:

Email: msalgado@uttyler.edu

- Please send an email from your patriots' email only as I will not respond to emails from any other accounts. Email is the best way to contact me.
- During weekdays students can expect an email back at minimum within 24 hours, on weekends students can expect *at least* 48 hours before a response back. (Weekends begin Fridays at 5pm!)
- Please make sure you are paying attention to announcements on Canvas, this will be the main way in which I will communicate with the whole class outside of in class announcements.

Course Information:

- This course is an introduction to comparative politics one of the main sub fields of political science. Comparative politics offers an opportunity for an in-depth look into the differences in political systems, institutions, political culture across countries. This course will focus on looking within countries and comparing political development and factors like democracy, non-democratic regimes, political economy and others. This course will serve as an overview of many different topics that can be found discussed in the comparative politics subfield.

Learning Outcomes:

- After completion in this course students should be able to:
 - Define comparative politics.
 - Be familiar with the different ways a state can develop.
 - Understand the different institutions that make up a government

- Understand the development of the different types of democracies.
- Be familiar with external factors that affect government like political economy, political culture, and civil society.
- Be familiar with the inner workings of one country they will follow throughout the semester.
- Be able to understand the development of different countries and how they work.

Readings:

Readings will be available through Canvas. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to obtain the required reading for each class and come to class prepared to discuss that day's readings. Readings are required for this course.

Assignments and Student Assessment:

Class attendance is expected of students whether it is face to face or virtual. Class grades will be determined by the following break-down:

- **Participation/Quizzes**
 - Class attendance is required in this course. Throughout the semester attendance will be taken and often this will be in the form of quizzes. Quizzes will be given spontaneously and will be on topic for that week's subject matter. The other portion of this grade will also be based on in class discussions for that week's content. Attendance will be taken and chronic lateness will culminate in absences as well.
- **Writing Assignments/ Reflection Papers**
 - There will be three reflection papers due for this class, one per each "segment" of thematic break down. Due dates will vary as students will sign up for the weeks, they would like to submit a paper in but each student will have completed three in total. These papers will be based on that week's readings and should incorporate elements of the content of the readings as well as information pertaining to their assigned countries. For the week the students write their papers they are required to lead class discussion, but all students should come prepared to discuss and with questions regarding the content of the readings for the week. More information can be found on this assignment on canvas.
- **Exams**
 - There will be two in-class exams in this course. One midterm and one final. Exams will cover content that was covered up until the class day before the exam takes place. Exams will be on October 9th and December 7th.
- **Research Paper**
 - This course requires a research paper on the country assigned at the beginning of the semester. The research paper will have two different portions to it. The first part of the paper will include an in-depth country portfolio that covers relevant information on your assigned country. The second half of the paper is case study where each student will have a question of their choosing based on one of the weekly themes we cover throughout the semester. In this portion of the paper students will use their assigned country to answer their question. More information and requirements for this assignment can be found on canvas.

- **Presentation**

- One of the last projects for this course will be a presentation on their research paper. Students will have limited time to share with the class what they found on their country and what their case study is.

Assessment of Student

Learning:

Participation	10%
Writing Assignments	30%
Exams	30%
Research Paper - September 26: Topic and question due. - October 30: Literature Review with sources and Case study outline	20%
Presentation	10%

*This syllabus and due dates are subject to change.

UT Tyler Student's Rights & Responsibilities:

UT Tyler AI Policy:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, the use of AI is prohibited.

Semester Schedule Outline	
	- All required readings can be found on canvas.
Week 1	Overview of Comparative Politics: What is comparative Politics? and How to Research in Comparative Politics
Week 2	Development Theories and Defining the State
Week 3	Development Theories Continued
Week 4	Democracy: Institutions
Week 5	Democracy: Institutions
Week 6	Democracy: Elections, Parties, Non-democratic Regimes
Week 7	Democracies: Non-democratic regimes and Developing Democracies
Week 8	Developing Democracies and Democratization
Week 9	Political Economy
Week 10	Political Culture
Week 11	Civil Society
Week 12	Political Violence
Week 13	Case Studies:
	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14	Presentations
Week 15	Finals: Final Monday December 7 th at 8AM