**POLS 205/255**

**Comparative Politics**

**Fall 2023**

**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

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(A2-69)

Class day/time: Fridays 10:00-12:50

Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:30-15:30 & Thursdays 13:30-15:30 If this office hour does not suit you, please send an email to make an appointment via email ([Nermin.aydemir@antalya.edu.tr](mailto:Nermin.aydemir@antalya.edu.tr)).

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the students to comparative political analysis. After a brief introduction on the comparative thinking, the course provides detailed information about the political systems of a series of countries. Political systems with significant variations are chosen to provide students a wide range of different political cultures and institutions. The country selection is based on political and economic development levels and the selected countries are the UK, the US, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, India, Iran, Brazil, and South Africa. The course pays attention to historical developments, social compositions, political economics as well as institutional structures like governmental agencies (executive, legislative, and judiciary), constitutions, and electoral and party systems.

The students are expected to rely on the course book to study the political systems of the above-mentioned countries. In addition to the course book, students are also encouraged to use comparative data sets such as Freedom House, World Values Survey, World Development Indicators, and Human Development Index to come up with alternative comparative analyses with additional case studies.

Comparative Politics course is based on problem based learning and necessitates very active student participation.

\*Please read the required material *before* class in order to participate actively.

**Course Material:**

Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company

**Recommended:**

You are recommended to follow daily news/columnists in the Economist; the New York Times; The Washington Post; The Guardian; The Independent; the Financial Times as well as the news channels of CNN, BBC, and Al-Jazeera.

**Course Requirements & Assessment**

1. **Attendance & Participation (20%): Attendance and participation is required unless there is a valid excuse.** Attendance and participation make up 20% of your overall course grade. Attending to all the courses does not mean that students will automatically get points from this section as they are expected to actively participate in the class discussions. Active participation means following the course carefully, fulfilling all the requirements under the PBL frame, asking questions when deemed necessary, making comments and giving examples about the relevant topics/themes. Please inform the lecturer in advance if you have a valid excuse.
2. **Discussion Leadership (10%):** Every week a group of students are expected to lead the discussion under the PBL approach.
3. **Mid – Term Exam (30%):** You will have a mid-term exam at the 8th week of the semester.
4. **Final exam (40%):** You will have a final exam at the end of the semester.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who are proven to plagiarize in their assignments will have a ZERO from this assignment and their cases will also be referred to Disciplinary Committee. One should note that PLAGIARISM, which is the practice of using or copying someone else’s idea or work and pretending that you thought of it or created it, in exams and term papers is considered as a crime, and will be subject to disciplinary actions.**

**Operation of the Course**

This course relies on the **problem based learning (PBL)** approach. This approach is mainly built upon active student participation to the in-class debates. It requires all students to read the assigned course material and contribute to the discussions. PBL approach combines lectures with active seminar discussions. Discussion topics for each week are specified in the syllabus. Yet, the specific focus of the discussions will be based on the problem statements raised by the students during “pre-discussion” sessions. Details of these are elaborated below.

**Lectures:** The first sessions of each week are reserved for lectures by the instructor. These lectures will explain the main discussions in the literature. Still, these lectures are not designed in a classical format. Rather, lecture sessions require an active interaction among students and the instructor. Students are required to read the lecture material before coming to lectures and contribute to the discussions during the lecture hours.

**Pre-Discussion:** In pre-discussions, students are expected to define the **problem statement**, which is meant to identify a puzzle and a title for the post-discussion. In other words, pre-discussions determine the specific points that will be discussed in next week’s post-discussion. Students will be given one-page document to read in 7-10 minutes. This will be done after the instructor introduces the weekly topic. Then, a group of students will be responsible for taking notes on the screen. In the remaining 20 minutes, students will have a brainstorm and identify what they know, what they assume and what they want to explore further in order to solve the puzzle. Students are in charge of defining the **learning goals** for each seminar discussion. The learning objectives constitute the joint agreement of the group about the research steps that are needed in order to investigate the puzzle until the post-discussions.

**Post-Discussion:** In post-discussion, students are expected to discuss and share their take on the points specified in the pre-discussion. During the post-discussion you can also exchange additional sources and materials that you found. The student who took notes in the previous pre-discussion will be responsible to introduce the discussion topic and moderate the debate along with the supervision of the instructor. Every student has to make 1-2 minutes speech for each concept / problem statement addressed in the post-discussion.

**Expected Student Conduct in the Classroom**

ABU students are expected to behave in a certain way during the class hours. The expected student conduct in the classroom includes but not limited to:

* Coming to class on time and not leaving the class early without prior permission of the instructor. If you have any valid excuses, please do inform the instructor in advance.
* Focusing carefully on the course and avoiding engagement with not-class related activities such as checking e-mails from laptops/cell phones, reading not-class related materials such as newspapers and magazines, engaging in side conversations. **Please focus on the class not your cell-phones off during the class time!!!**
* Students are expected to behave mindful about the instructor as well as the fellow students while asking questions and making comments. They should request permission from the instructor before asking a question or making a comment. Also, they should respect other student’s right to ask questions/make comments.
* Students are expected to behave mindful about the physical environment as well. They should be careful not to trash the classroom. Students should clean up their garbage before leaving the classroom.
* Students should keep track of their own attendances to avoid any kind of loss of attendance related data.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction: The development of comparative politics**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 1.

**Week 2: Politics in the UK**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 2.

**Week 3: Politics in the US**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 3.

**Week 4: Politics in Germany**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 5.

**Week 5: Politics in Japan**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 6.

**Week 6: Politics in Russia**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 7.

**Week 7: General Review and Discussion before Mid-Term Exam**

**Week 8: Mid-Term Week**

-------- No Class ---------

**Week 9: Politics in China**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 8.

**Week 10: Politics in India**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 9.

**Week 11: Politics in Iran**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 10.

**Week 12: Politics in Brazil**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 12.

**Week 13: Politics in South Africa**

* Cases in Comparative Politics, Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share, 5th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company; Chapter 13.

**Week 14: General Discussion and Review**

* No readings assigned.