

**Antalya Bilim University**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 205**  
**Comparative Politics**  
**Fall 2019**

Class time:

**Lecture 1:** Tuesdays 13:30-14:50 and Wednesdays 11:00-12:20

**Lecture 2:** Tuesdays 15:30- 16:50 and Wednesdays 13:30-14:50

Office Hours: Mondays 13:30-14:30 and Tuesdays 11:00-12:00

Didem akmaklı İşler

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(A2-19)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to comparative political analysis. For this purpose, the course first focuses on the basics of comparative method. After a brief discussion on the focus and methodology of comparative politics, the course provides detailed information about the political systems of a series of countries. The country selection is based on variation in geographic, social, political and economic features. The countries that will be covered are the US, the UK, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Russia, India, China, Iran, 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.

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 follow current events occurring in these countries particularly during the week they are covered. This will enable discussion on current examples of how the social, political and institutional features studied function in each of the countries. You may also access comparative data sets such as Freedom House, World Values Survey, World Development Indicators, and Human Development Index to compare these countries based on a range of indicators.

\*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, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company

You may find the book in the library at the reserve desk. You are recommended to follow daily news/columns in the Economist; the New York Times; The Washington Post; The Guardian; The Independent; the Financial Times as well as news channels such as BBC.

### **Assessment Criteria:**

- 1) Attendance & Participation (10%):** Attendance and participation make up 10% of your overall course grade. **Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than 1/3 of classes will fail the course (FX).** Students are also expected to actively participate in the course. Active participation means following the course carefully, asking questions, making comments and giving examples about the relevant topics/themes.
- 2) Country Presentation (5%):** Each student will present on a current event occurring in the country that is covered the week they present. It should be an event that acts as an example of a particular institutional character of the country being covered (political system, electoral system or party system, for example). For example, you may present on the latest elections in the country and highlight the electoral system of the country and how the electoral system relates to election results. The event you present should be from a newspaper and the event should have occurred in the last 6 months – preferably though it should be an ongoing issue occurring that week. Each student will present a different news item though more than one student may present on the same country. You will sign up for the country during the 2nd week of class and presentations will begin week 3. With the approval of the instructor you may choose a country different than those covered in class. You must present on the date you are assigned unless you have a valid reason to be excused from class. If you do not present on the assigned date you will receive a “0” for your presentation grade.
- 3) Quizzes (15%):** You will have 4 quizzes throughout the semester, and 3 of them with the highest grades will make up 15% of your overall course grade. The quizzes are intended to encourage you to follow the class and to read the course material on a regular basis.
- 4) Mid-term (30%):** You will have one mid-term exam throughout the semester and it will constitute 30% of your overall grade. The Midterm will be based on all of the course material we cover until the exam date.
- 5) Final exam (40%):** You will have a final exam at the end of the semester. The majority of the final exam questions will be based on the course material we cover after the midterm exam.

## **Expected Student Conduct in the Classroom**

- You are expected to come to class on time. Students who arrive after the first 5 minutes will not be admitted and you will be noted absent. If you need to leave early you must ask for permission before class starts. You may not leave class to use the restroom or answer a phone call – unless there is an emergency and you ask for permission *before* class.
- If you engage in activities/ conversations that disrupts class, you will be asked to leave.
- PLAGIARISM, which is the practice of using or copying someone else’s idea or work and claiming it as your own in exams and term papers is considered a crime, and will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who are proven to plagiarize in their assignments will receive a zero from the assignment and their cases will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. For more information on plagiarism and classroom conduct please consult the *Student Handbook for the Department of Political Science and International Relations*. You may access it on our department’s webpage.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1: Course overview and details of Syllabus**

- Syllabus. Please read and keep a copy of the syllabus. You are responsible for knowing all the information provided in the syllabus.

### **Week 2: Introduction: The development of comparative politics**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 1.

### **Week 3: Politics in the UK**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 2.

### **Week 4: Politics in the US**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 3.

### **Week 5: Politics in Germany**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 5.  
**Quiz 1**

### **Week 6: Politics in Japan**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 6.

### **Week 7: Politics in Russia**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 7.  
**Quiz 2**

**Week 8: Mid-Term Week**

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

**Week 9: Politics in China**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 8.

**Week 10: Politics in India**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 9.  
**Quiz 3**

**Week 11: Politics in Iran**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 10.

**Week 12: Politics in Brazil**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 12.  
**Quiz 4**

**Week 13: Politics in South Africa**

- Cases in Comparative Politics, Chapter 13.

**Week 14: General Discussion and Review**

- No readings assigned.