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#### Time and Location

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30:50 100% Web Based

#### Instructor Information

Jeong Hyun Kim, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Louisiana State University

E-mail: kim1@lsu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

# **Course Description**

Why are some states democracies, and others not? Why do democracies use different electoral rules, and what are their consequences? Why do some people vote, and others not? Comparative Politics is a subfield of political science that addresses these questions and more in different contexts around the world. This couristeroduces fundamental concepts, theoris and questions of the study of comparative politics. We will learn a number of topics central to understanding the political systems and political events around the world: democratization, voting and elections, political parties, representation, and tipical violence. This course will give students a basic understanding of how politics operates in the political systems around the world, and how historical, cultural, economic, and institutional differences across countries affect politics and policynaking.

#### Course Structure

1. This course will be delivered 100% online. There are two components of the course. First, all lectures will be præcorded by the instructor and will be posted on Moodle in the format of narrated PowerPoint slides. Second, there weilZbom synchronous sessions. These synchronous sessions consist of class discussions and group activities

# **Teaching Assistant**

**Harriet Sellers** 

Ph.D. Student, Department of Political Science, Louisiana State University. E hselle6@lsu.edu

# **Learning Objectives**

- Understand the fundamental concepts and theories in the study of comparative politics.
- Employ critical thinking analytical tools to understand political phenomena.
- Develop skills to think critically and communicate thoughts effectively.

#### **Course Materials**

- 1. There is one required book in the course, available for purchase at the university bookstore. I strongly encourage purchase this bookWilliam Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder, 2018. Principles of Comparative Politics, 3rd Edition, CQ Press (ISBN: 978 1506318127).
- 2. For some weeks, there will be additional readings beyond the textbook. I will post these read ing materials on Moodle.

#### Course Policies

### LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative LearningtC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and u \ v • š CE š • v • \ \ ( • o ( • o CE v CE X ( \ \ \ \ \ \ v v u v š o P \ ) o \ ( š Z practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and furtionality in their postbaccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Global Learning.

# Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the LSU Code of Student Conduct [Link]. I strongly encourage you to review these policies. All violations §fZ  $\mu \nu$ ] À  $\times$  • ] š  $\times$  [•  $\mu$  v ] ×  $\mu$  š % } o ] ] • over to the Dean of Students. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

## **Special Accommodations**

For students wb have special needs or who require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made. To request

Attendance (10%) After taking tatecture, you are required to take a quiz/ poll posted on Moodle. I will take your attendance based on whether you take this quiz/ poll. I will also take attendance for Zoom synchronous sessions. If you are unable to attend these sessions synchronouslyou will need to watch the recorded video of the sessions and } u ‰ o š š Z ••] P v u v š •Ç v Z Œ } v } µ • o Ç ~ W o • o š u u attend synchronous sessions). If you are going to miss class due to religious holidays or university events, you that notify me as soon as possible (at least one day prior to the day of your absence).

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- Participation (10%) Class participation is essential to learning. Each week, there will be discussion forums on Moodle, where students can post their thoughts on afispeci topic. You are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions as often as you can. In order to receive the full participation grade, you will need to post on these forums at least once a week.
- Quizzes (15%)
- In addition to quizzes for attendaedracking, there will be 5 quizzes during the semester. You will be taking these quizzes on Moodle at a specific time that I will notify in advance. Each quiz will consist of approximately 10 multiple choice questions. At the end of the semester I will or Z š µ v š [• o } Á š < µ ] Ì } Œ X Y µ ] Ì Ì questions both from the assigned readings and recent lectures. Makeup quizzes will not be given unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees that the absence is a university excused absee. Students who miss quizzes will receive a score of 0.
- Media Report Assignment (20%) See the section below for details.
- < Exams
  - Midterm (20%) Tuesday
  - Final (25%) Tuesday
  - Both midterm and final exams will be delivered in an openok, takehome format. Thepurpose of the exams is to assess your comprehension of concepts we are discussing and your ability to employ them in the explanation of major components of political systems. They will draw on all aspects of the course: readings, lectures, class discussins and activities. The final exam is cumulative and is based on all materials covered throughout the semester.
  - Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees that the absence is a university excused absetudents who miss exams will receive a score of 0.

## Media Report Assignment

The primary purposes of this assignment are to 1) motivate students to follow political events across the globe and 2) facilitate understanding of how academic theories speaktitespio the real world. Over the course of the semester, each student is required to monitor news coverage on politics in a country of your choice other than the U.S. Your job is to gather at least

- 1. What are the main political agendas in theuntry?
- 2. How does each story reflect change or continuity in politics in that country?
- 3. How does each story relate to the material we have covered in class?
- 4. What are the implications of this story for other countries and world politics?

You are encouragetob pick stories from the following newspapers or magazines. The websites of these newspapers make it very easy for you to find recent stories on specific countries: from § Z Z } u % P o ] I } v ^t } OE o \_ v § Z v • % ] (] of De hor ] v X / Á ] o of access these websites through LSU libraries. Please consult with me if you want to use a story from a source that is not listed here, and are unsure about whether it is acceptable for the