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## Introduction to Comparative Politics POLI 2053

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Instructor: Jonathan Nickens  
Office: 320 Stubbs Halls  
Email: jnicke8@lsu.edu  
Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30  
or by appointment

Louisiana State University  
Fall 2017  
Section 003  
127 Tureaud Hall  
MWF 12:30-1:20pm

### **Course Overview**

#### *Course Description*

This course provides a university-level introduction to comparative politics by addressing broad themes related to domestic politics of countries around the world, including modern state formation, variation in regime type, political functions and their effects, as well as other central topics & concerns of the sub-field. Particular attention will be given toward theories relating to democratic transitions, autocratic regimes, political violence and collective action. While comparative politics covers a wide-ranging area of research, this course is designed to provide the student with a firm grasp and understanding of the fundamental issues, while also highlighting some of the emerging areas of current research, methods, and modes of thinking. Whereas thematic topics of discourse will be utilized for primary instruction, detailed discussion of in

3) Students will also be required to keep up-to-date with current events and news (via selected news articles), as it pertains to topics in comparative politics and political events/activities in countries around the world. News articles will be selected by the instructor and posted to the course Moodle site throughout the semester for review by students. These news articles qualify

format for this exam will be multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The Final Exam will be administered on **December 7, 2017 (Thursday) from 7:30am-9:30am**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron, a pencil and a large bluebook for this exam. A pen is recommended for writing in bluebooks. This exam date/time is set by the University and cannot be moved, modified, or made-up.

### **Grading Policies and Exam/Quiz Schedule**

#### *Missed Exams and Make-ups*

Allowance for the excusing of missed class and make-ups of missed exams will be in accordance with University policy, which outlines valid reasons for such occurrences. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to, serious illness, death in the immediate family, religious observances, and scheduled trips for academic purposes. Proper documentation is required for any excused absence or missed examination period. If possible, let the instructor know before missing class.

If you miss an exam, contact the instructor immediately so that the situation can be evaluated and arrangements made, if applicable. Note that the Final Exam schedule is set by the University and cannot be amended, meaning that make-ups are not allowed for this exam.

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*Grading Scale*

Grading for this course will be consistent with the plus/minus grading scale adopted by the University, and as outlined in the LSU General Catalog.

Letter grade		Score			
A+	100-97	A	96-94	A-	93-90
B+	89-87	B	86-84	B-	83-80
C+	79-77	C	76-74	C-	73-70
D+					

*Plagiarism*

The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the policies, requirements, or statements pertaining to this course/syllabus. The Topics & Readings Schedule is listed as an appendix at the back of this syllabus. This schedule outlines the dates of class meetings, as well as corresponding topics of discussion and assigned readings. Students should note that this schedule is tentative, and has been designed to be modified, (if needed) as the course progresses, and as the instructor sees fit. Other considerations for schedule modification include unexpected events such as emergencies, abrupt cancellation of class, etc. Any changes to the course schedule will be stated in class, with as much advance notice as reasonably possible.

Have a great semester and Geaux Tigers.

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## Topics and Assigned Reading Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings / Notes
Aug 21	Course Introduction	Syllabus
Aug 23	Comparative Politics: An Introduction	Lim 2016, pp. 1-11 & 17-22
Aug 25	The Modern State	Textbook, Chapter 1
Aug 28	Regime Types	Siaroff 2005, Chapter 3
Aug 30	States and Democracy	

Siaroff 2005, Chapter 3

Sept 22	Voters & Electoral Systems	Textbook, Chapter 12, cont.
Sept 25	Political Parties and Party Systems	Textbook, Chapter 13
Sept 27	Political Parties and Party Systems	Textbook, Chapter 13, cont.
Sept 29		





