

PSC 123: Comparative Government and Politics

Spring 2020

Syracuse University
Department of Political Science

TA: Kari Waters

Contact Information

Office: 025 Eggers

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Office Hours

By appointment

Section 1: Friday 12:45–1:40pm in Eggers 111

Section 2: Friday 2:15–3:10pm Eggers 113

Participation Grade

Attendance in discussion section is compulsory and forms 10% of the total grade. You are expected to attend each class and arrive on time. More than one unexcused absence will affect your final grade. The only valid excuses for missing class are: religious holidays, medical absences, and deaths in the family or similar emergencies. These must be documented by an official note.

In order to receive full credit for participation, you are also expected to fully participate in class discussion and any group work. If you have your cell phone out, you will lose points. Students are also expected to listen to both the TA and their peers respectfully (please see the classroom participation rubric on the back of this page).

Final Paper

The research paper (1500-2000 words) requires students to (a) pose a question related to any one of the topics in the class, (b) evaluate theoretical explanations, and (c) use comparative political methodology to compare at least two countries to evaluate which theory is most explanatory. The final paper makes up 25% of your final grade.

In order to facilitate good paper writing, you will be required to complete assignments along the way, as well as meet with me at least once. These assignments form 5% of your final grade. You are first required to email me a very rough topic area by March 12th. We will then use the section before spring break as a time to do mini workshops on your paper ideas. **You are then required to meet with me the week after spring break in order to discuss your proposals with me.** An emailed outline of your paper, including three references, is due April 13th. The final paper is due on April 27th. Please use Orange Success to make appointments with me.

I highly suggest using the Syracuse University Writing Center. They offer face to face appointments and online sessions to help you write. You can make appointments at <https://syr.mywconline.com>. Appointments fill up fast, especially at the end of the semester, so be sure to make your appointment early.

Class Policies and Other Important Information

Take advantage of office hours! Office hours are an opportunity to get clarifications about the course material or to discuss questions or ideas about the course or comparative politics more broadly. Asking questions and getting help when needed is a skill crucial to success. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet, email me, or talk to me after class. Please email me or use Orange Success to make an appointment in advance for office hours.

Plagiarism: Don't do it! If you have questions about what is or is not plagiarism, please email me and I will help you.

Schedule

The discussion sections will closely follow the topics covered in the weekly lectures. Please refer to the syllabus if you want to know the topics we will be covering on weekly basis. However, we will be setting aside March 13th for paper work shopping. Section will be canceled on March 27th in order to facilitate one on one meetings to discuss your proposal that week.

Classroom Participation Rubric

	Strong work	Needs development	Unsatisfactory work/ unacceptable behavior
Listening	Listens actively and respectfully. Responds thoughtfully to others.	Sometimes demonstrates lack of attention to others.	Projects lack of interest in, or disrespect of others.
Preparation	Arrives fully prepared with all readings completed.	Sometimes arrives unprepared or with only superficial preparation.	Exhibits little evidence of having read or thought about material.
Quality of Contributions	Questions and comments are: -relevant - reflect thoughtful engagement with assigned readings - reflect thoughtful engagement with the remarks of the instructors and other students - draw connections to other readings, evaluate the argument, provide alternate interpretations, and so on.	Questions and comments: - are sometimes vague or irrelevant. - are mostly about facts (as opposed to ideas/arguments).	Questions and comments: - betray lack of preparation - betray lack of thoughtful engagement with texts and with other students' remarks - are often vague and irrelevant.
Frequency of participation	Actively participates at appropriate times.	Sometimes tunes out, or sometimes dominates the conversation.	Seldom participates and is unengaged. Speaks out of turn or interrupts others.

Source: https://www.academia.edu/9681328/Humanitarian_Affects