

Comparative Politics 204

Summer2019

Credits 5

Instructor: Dr. Leena Shah

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Class room ABH210

Class time 10 am.

No cell phones to be used in class

Course Description

Comparative Politics is the study and practice of comparing different political units and systems. Through comparison, students will learn how political authority operates and focus on the role of the citizens and overall performance in a time of globalization. This course will look at the United Kingdom as a case study and study its domestic politics in comparison with the United States. We will evaluate the Parliamentary system with the Presidential System. At the same time, we will focus on various public policies like Immigration, Healthcare and Education. Our study will also include field trips to enhance our academic experience. Each week we will focus on a specific area of study related to the U.K. and U.S.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to

- Apply the comparative and case study methods to the study the politics.
- Categorize different political, economic and social systems, institutions and processes.
- Evaluate the ways in which countries differ politically, economically, and socially.
- Apply concepts and theories from the field of comparative politics to the real world.
- Compare and Contrast diverse viewpoints and articulate well-reasoned arguments regarding contemporary political issues.

- Distinguish comparative politics from international relations.
- Comparatively evaluate the political and economic system of their home country.

Text Book

Newton and Van Deth. *Foundations of Comparative Politics* (2016) (20 \$ at Amazon)

Recommended Reading

Fields, O'Neil and Sher. *Cases in Comparative Politics* (2006)

Leach, Coxall and Robins. *British Politics* (2nd edition)

In addition, you will be asked to do research and keep abreast of current events on a day to day basis. For this you will need to have access to a newspaper or journal. Lectures and class discussions will be easier to follow if you do the readings.

Complete all the assignments.

Read all the assigned material.

Participate in class and in the field trips

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. I expect you to attend class on a regular basis. Your attendance will also count for class participation. In case of an emergency please inform me right away or if you know ahead of time that you will be missing a class, be sure to let me know. At the end of the quarter if you have not missed a single day of class, I will give you 2 extra credit points.

Assignments

There will be 5 assignments in the quarter.

1. We will look at the statues on the street by Whitehall and Parliament. Each student will pick one statue/monument and research the background and present it in class. Due the 4th of July
2. Students will look at the British system of Education and compare and contrast it with the U.S. You will critically evaluate Race to the Top and our decentralized school system with a single curriculum system in the U.K. For this you will visit local schools and talk to the British citizens about their education system. Your findings will be presented before the class and in a 5-page double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, written paper submitted to me in class. Please do not copy or paste portions from other writers. Spelling and grammar and quality of writing will be factored in this assignment. Due on the 11th July.
3. This assignment will compare the American Health Care System with the British Health Care System. We will visit a clinic and talk to health care officials. What are some of the concerns and issues that the British face in this area? In addition, you will do research on the American System.? Has Obama Care been a viable option.? What can we learn about the two different health care systems? What recommendations would you make after your research and interview? The findings will be presented in class and a written paper will be due. Due 18th July (5 page paper)
4. This assignment will cover the recent Brexit issue and its impact on the British. Compare with USMCA (NAFTA). Questions to ask:

Is Britain better off outside the EU?

Is U.S. better off outside USMCA (NAFTA)?

Is it the end of Globalization and Social Democracy?

Is Nationalism eroding or strengthening?

Read Globalization and end of Social Democracy by Chris Pierson,(2001) Australian Journal of Politics and History.

https://www.academia.edu/3423324/Globalisation_and_the_end_of_social_democracy

The students will talk to people on the street and find out their views on globalization and Brexit. After conducting your research, we will debate this issue in class. Due the 25th July.

Reflection

You will write a reflection of your visit to the U.K. This will be a 5-page double spaced 12pt font paper on your impressions, field trips, expectations and your learning experience. This will be due online after your return on August 6th via email or through Canvas.

The students will be graded on

Substance

Clarity (how well organized it is)

Creativity

Interactive if it is a class presentation

And how well they answered the questions. These presentations will be worth 20 points each. Except for the Statues which is worth 5 points. For the first 3 assignments you will work in groups of 2 students. Last one will be done individually.

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Class Discussions of Current events

Once a week we will discuss current events. Students are asked to bring a relevant political article from a British newspaper. They are required to read it before coming to class. You will be split up into groups to discuss the articles and then select two per group to discuss with the rest of the class. Failure to bring an article will result in loss of class participation points. Extra credit will be given for the best article, one that evokes a good amount of discussion.

Participation Class

I highly recommend class participation and have valued it at 15 points. This will include participation in class discussions.

Changes

If you are absent, please make sure you check with me or a classmate about any change. I may change certain dates and readings as we go along. Therefore, it is important that you keep abreast of all the changes.

General information

- Students should always make and retain copies of their assignments and exams until the end of the quarter as an insurance against loss by you or me.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students failing to comport themselves will be asked to leave class. Please make sure you are respectful of everyone's opinion and do not make any personal attacks on other students.
- All papers even extra credit need to be typed up and meet the minimum criterion for college level work. All papers must meet the basic MLA guidelines.
- Please make sure your papers are not plagiarized. Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided by citing the sources. For more information, see http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_what_is_citation.html

Grades

The grades will be broken up as follows:

4 Assignments	60 points
Class participation:	15 points
Reflection	15 points
Current Events	5
Research Statues	5
Total	100 points

Grades will be assigned on a percentage basis

A 95 and above (4.0)

A- 90-94(3.7)

B+ 87-89 (3.3)

B 84-86 (3.0)

B- 80-83 (2.7)

C+ 77-79 (2.3)

C 74-76 (2.0)

C- 71-73 (1.7)

D+ 67-70 1.3)

D 64-66 (1.0)

F Below 64 (0.0)

Readings

Week 1

Chapter 1. Why do we study Comparative Politics: An introduction

Chapter 5 Presidential and Parliamentary government

Guest lecture (U.K and U.S. Political Systems)

Week 2

Issues, Problems and the Policy Process

Chapter 7 Policy Making and Legislation

Guest Lecture on Education in the UK

School visit and Observation

Week 3

Chapter 12 Voters and Elections
Guest Lecture: Healthcare Policy in the UK
Healthcare in the U.S.
Judiciary: visit the Supreme Court

Week 4
Chapter 7 Prime Minister and Cabinet v President
Parliament and the Legislature

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Spring 2017

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F.”

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY

425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.