

**Hofstra University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Comparative Politics: PSC02**  
**Professor Carolyn Dudek**  
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**First Year Program Cluster**  
**Fall 2022**

***Globalization Without Convergence: Comparative Perspectives on Political and Economic Institutions:*** Examines the basic principles for a comparative analysis of political and economic institutions. Students will develop a deep appreciation of how governments establish rules and implement decisions, and how these decisions influence the size of the economic pie and its division among citizens.

**Two courses: Principles of Economics II (ECO 02); Comparative Politics (PSC02)**

**Schedule:** MW: 11:20-12:45 Barnard 101

**Office hours:** Tuesday 12:00-1:00 via ZOOM

**PSC 02: Comparative Politics**

**Course Description**

This course aims to familiarize students with the basic concepts used in the study of comparative politics. We shall examine conceptual issues such as state building, regime types, governance, regime transition, different forms of representation, election systems, political culture and a comparative look at different kinds of government institutions. To address current trends around the world we will also examine concepts such as populism and illiberal democracies. Within this broad array of concepts, we will also examine specific topics such as globalization, development/underdevelopment and political economy. The goal of this course is so that students will become better able to examine current events in a more analytical and informed way. To fully examine these concepts, country specific examples will be used to provide an

illustration of the diversity and complexity of politics. We will also discuss current events to enable students to apply what they are learning in class. In connection to our cluster, there will be an emphasis on political economy and how institutions and ideologies shape economies and economic policies.

## Course Requirements:

### Required Texts:

O'Neil, Patrick. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* 7th edition, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc: New York, 2021 (black cover with rainbow text).

-an e-version of the text can be purchased

☞ Select readings and videos will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure to follow the syllabus for when these are required.

### Laptop Requirement:

Students must have a laptop to take exams. Students may use a computer to take notes, but are not allowed to be on social media or surfing the web during class. Classes are not to be recorded or posted on social media. Students who do not utilize their laptops according to class rules will be banned from bringing their laptop until there is an exam.

### Suggested Resources:

Daily reading of *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *BBC News* or *The Economist*.

Listening to NPR news 93.9 FM

### \*Course Evaluation:

3 mini-exams	30%
1 <sup>st</sup> 3-page essay (Belgium and Rwanda)	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> 3-page essay (Development)	15%
Presentation	5%
Constitution Paper (4pgs)	15%
Reflection Questions (x3)	15%
Participation	10%

\*Students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade.

**Attendance Policy:** Students should email the professor to explain any absences. **More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a zero-participation grade.** Excused absences are only allowed for medical reasons (ie illness or quarantine) or special circumstances. If you are ill, please contact the professor in the morning to attend class remotely if able. Remote access to class will **not** be offered on a regular basis.

## Course Outline:

**Topic 1:** September 7-12: What is Comparative Politics?

Reading: Chapter 1

**Topic 2:** September 12-21: States, Nations, Political Culture and Political Attitudes

Reading: Chapters 2-3

Comparing Japan and the US: -“Glen S. Fukushima: Japanese Capitalism and Its Lessons for the United States”

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/glen-s-fukushima-japanese-capitalism-and-its-lessons-united-states>

**\*\*Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Special Event: “**An Overview – Interrogating Hate in the European Union and at Home**” Speakers: **Sally Charnow**, Professor and Chair of History **Carolyn Dudek**, Professor and Chair of Political Science **Paul Fritz**, Associate Professor of Political Science **Santiago Slabodsky**, The Robert and Florence Kaufman Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies, and Chair in Jewish Studies, and Associate Professor of Religion.

**\*\*meet during class time in the Guthart Cultural Center Theater**

**\*\*No in-person class on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and no office hours Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
On-line lecture will be provided

 **Monday, October 3: Essay #1 due (Comparison of ethnic tensions: Rwanda and Belgium)**

**Topic 3:** September 26-October 5: Political Economy: Development and Underdevelopment

Reading: Chapters 4 and 10

**\*\*No in-person class on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, an on-line lecture will be posted**

 **Reflection #1: Due Monday, October 10th-Answer questions on page 132-133 (“Why Have Poverty and Inequality Declined in Latin America?”).**

**\*\*Special Event: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, “The Challenge of Islamophobia in Europe”** Speaker: **Farid Hafez** Visiting Professor of International Studies at Williams College

**\*\*meet during class time in the Guthart Cultural Center Theater**

 **Wednesday, October 19, Mini-Exam #1**

**\*\*\*No in-person class Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> due to department student trip**

**Topic 4:** October 17-26: Democracy and Developed Democracies (parliament/presidential systems, election systems, political parties)

Reading: Chapter 5, Chapter 8

**Topic 5:** November 1-3: Illiberal Democracies and Populism\*

View Videos:

- Michael Ignatieff on the Challenge of Illiberal Democracy and Capitalist Authoritarianism
- Michael Ignatieff: Liberal vs. Illiberal Democracies

Read Articles:

- Serhan, Yasmeen, “*The EU Watches as Hungary Kills Democracy*” *The Atlantic*, April 2, 2020.
- Mudde, Cas “Populism in the Twenty-First Century: An Illiberal Democratic Response to Undemocratic Liberalism”, The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy.

\*Videos and Readings on Blackboard under “Course Documents”

**📖 Reflection #2: Due Wednesday, November 02: Answer questions on pages 204-205 (“What Explains the Different Paths of Zimbabwe and South Africa?”).**

**Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>-joint session with presentations**

**✍️ Mini-Exam #2: Wednesday, November 9**

**Topic 6:** November 14: Undemocratic Regimes

Reading: Chapter 6

**📖 Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>: Essay #2 due (inequality paper using ECO data)**

**Topic 7:** November 16-21: Regime Transition in Latin America

Excerpt from *Paula*, by Isabel Allende

TBA

**📖 Reflection #3: Due Monday, November 21: Answer questions on pages 310-311 (“Why did Reform Fail in the Soviet Union but Succeed in China?”).**

**Topic 8:** November 28-December 5: Regime Transition-Communism and Post-Communism

Readings: Chapter 9

**Topic 10:** December 7 Globalization

Reading: Chapter 11



**Wednesday, November 30: Public Policy discussion (JOINT MEETING WITH ECO 02)**

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>: Constitution Paper due**

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: mini-exam #3**

### Summary of all Assignment Due Dates

**Wednesday, September 29: Essay #1 due (Comparison of ethnic tensions: Rwanda and Belgium)**

**Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: Reflection #1: Answer questions on page 132-133 (“Why Have Poverty and Inequality Declined in Latin America?”).**

**Wednesday, October 6: Mini-Exam #1**

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: Reflection #2: Answer questions on pages 348-349. (“Why did Asia Industrialize Faster than Latin America?”)**

**Monday, October 18: Essay #2 due (inequality paper using ECO data)**

**Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> : Mini-Exam #2**

**Monday, November 8: Reflection #3: Answer questions on pages 204-205 (“What Explains the Different Paths of Zimbabwe and South Africa?”).**

**Wednesday, November 17: Reflection #4: Answer questions on pages 310-311 (“Why did Reform Fail in the Soviet Union but Succeed in China?”).**

**Monday, December 6: Constitution Paper due**

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: mini-exam #3: 10:30-12:30**

### **Professor's Class Policy:**

Students are required to attend class sessions and to actively participate in class. You are responsible for all readings listed in the syllabus or announced during class sessions. This means that students are responsible for material in the texts even if it is not discussed in class. Likewise, students are responsible for material covered in class that is not in the text(s).

Promptness is important. Please keep late entrances and early exits to a minimum, it is deemed impolite to walk in and out of class during lectures or discussion.

**Cell Phone Policy:** cell phones should not be out. Mobile phones are a distraction from you learning the material. So “disconnect” while you are in class. If you are caught using your mobile phone during class for non-class purposes you will be asked to put it away. The **2<sup>nd</sup>** time will result in a **5% final grade reduction**.

**Computer Etiquette:** Your computers should be used to view the class during class time, and to take notes. Students should not be surfing the internet or doing social media. Taping of classes and posting on social media is prohibited. Students who do not utilize their laptops according to class rules will be banned from bringing their laptop until there is an exam.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required for the course. Three absences without a rationale, will result in a 0 participation grade. Chronic lateness, sleeping, making no attempt to answer direct questions, showing disrespect to the instructor or fellow students and/or creating any disturbances in class will result in a zero grade for class participation, and could, under certain circumstances, warrant further disciplinary action.

**Ethics:** Students will be held accountable to standards of ethical academic behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Please be advised that I check for plagiarized papers. Whatever you submit should be **in your own words**. Direct copying of a text, or even changing a few words here and there, constitute plagiarism. Be sure to cite all sources that you use, not just for direct quotations but also for ideas, facts, and “borrowed” ideas.

I have the right to ask for rough drafts and notes used to write papers if I suspect plagiarism. If a student is unable to produce such information the student will be reported for plagiarism and will be dealt with according to Hofstra University standards.

**Purchasing of papers will not be tolerated. Be advised that such activity is easily detectable and is not acceptable. Buying papers is unethical and also considered plagiarism.**

**Any student who plagiarizes will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and will be reported to the Office of the Provost for further disciplinary actions.**

**Exams:** Make-up exams will not be scheduled unless a reasonable excuse is provided. Anyone caught cheating during an examination will be reported to the Provost in accordance with university procedures and will result in failure of the exam and/or course.

**Essays:** Papers are to be submitted to Turnitin on the specified due date. Late papers will be **penalized a half letter grade per day that I do not receive it, weekends are included in the counting of days. No papers will be accepted five days after the due date. Do not e-mail papers, unless there is a problem with Turnitin! All papers must be submitted via turnitin on Blackboard and the date stamp on turnitin will be considered the date it was received.**

**Seeking Help:** Students are highly recommended to utilize my office hours. It is particularly important to talk to me if you are having problems following lectures, coping with the texts or having difficulty with an assignment. I would suggest starting assignments early since the due date is too late to bring problems to my attention. I am more than happy to help you understand material or to discuss other academic related concerns. Any problems not brought to my attention will not be considered as an excuse for poor performance.

**SAS:** If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Student Access Services (SAS). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University.

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to facilitate full access to all programs and services. SAS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate.

Please note that accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive; please contact SAS as soon as possible. All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing with him or her the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course. For more information on services provided by the university and for submission of documentation, please contact Student Access Services, 107 Student Center, 516-463-7075.

Additional University Policies:

Information about Academic Dishonesty; Disability Accommodations; Resources for Students who are Pregnant; Temporary Adjustments/Academic Leave of Absence; Deadlines and Grading Policies; Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct; Absences for Religious Observance and specific policies relating to COVID-19 guidelines is available on the Provost's webpage using the link below.

<https://www.hofstra.edu/about/administration/provost/provost-information-for-students.html>



## GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PSC 2 is a distribution course, satisfying distribution requirements in the Behavioral Social Sciences category. As such, the course will incorporate the following learning objectives specified by Hofstra College as general learning objectives:

Critically analyze one's own thinking by identifying one's presumptions, values, and viewpoints as well as problems, inconsistencies, and unanswered questions.

Conceive and defend alternative hypotheses and viewpoints; offer and explain reasons for provisionally rejecting or accepting them.

Clearly and accurately summarize and evaluate the facts, presumptions, viewpoints, values, and arguments presented in a text or creative work.

Gather and assess relevant information, and apply appropriate cognitive methods in solving problems or answering questions raised in a text or creative work.

Read with comprehension, and critically interpret written work in discipline-specific contexts.

Demonstrate knowledge of the intellectual, social, political, economic, or cultural practices of at least one of the peoples in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, or of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and Australia.