

# **PLS 323: Comparative Government**

*3 Credit Hours*

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Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 – 3:00

Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 – 11:00 (Zoom)

This course introduces students to the study of comparative politics. First through a serious examination of the methods through which various political regimes and forms of government can be analyzed, followed by in-depth case studies of four starkly different forms of government.

## **Course Objectives**

Students will gain a strong factual knowledge of foreign countries.

Students will learn fundamental principles and theories related to the nature, formation, and continuation of different political regimes.

Students will learn how various governments around the world are structured.

Students will gain a stronger knowledge of world geography.

## **Use of Technology**

Students are **not** permitted to use laptops or recording devices to take notes. Students may use a tablet if it lies flat on the table. Students are also not permitted to text or have their cell phones out in class. Continuous violation of this policy may detrimentally affect the student's participation grade.

## **Required Texts**

*Cases in Comparative Politics* published by Norton and Littlefield

We will also draw extensively from Aristotle's *Politics* throughout the course. While I have provided a free pdf version I do encourage students to buy their own copy of [this superior translation](#) (which you can get for 10 dollars used).

## **Evaluation**

### **Course Requirements**

Participation and Attendance – 10%

Midterm Exam – 25%

Final Exam – 20%

Final Presentation – 30%

Map Quizzes – 15%

### Class Participation and Attendance

This course requires that each student complete the readings each week to participate actively in class discussions. Students should read the material and review the reading questions prior to every class. Students will be called to answer questions if there are no volunteers. Perfect attendance is expected. If a student must miss due to an illness, death in the family, school function, or some other understandable reason they should get in touch with the professor to work out an alternative assignment. Students who fail to attend 25% or more of the course are subject to the University FN policy (see below). Students who are late for more than four classes will from then on be counted as absent from the class when late.

### Midterm

The midterm exam will consist of two long-form essay questions that must be completed in class on a blue book.

### Final Exam

The final exam will consist of a series of multiple-choice questions over the five cases studied in class and on the cases presented by your fellow students at the end of the semester.

### Final Presentation

At the start of the semester, each student will be assigned a designated country not studied in class. Students will be required to create and deliver a 15-20 minute presentation outlining the features of their designated country: founding principles, political structure, culture, and recent developments. Students will then ask them questions.

### Map Quizzes

Throughout the semester, students will be charged with correctly labeling maps of four of the seven major continents. The lowest of these quiz grades will be dropped and the highest three will be averaged to calculate the final map quiz grade.

## **Schedule of Readings and Class Topics**

August 28th – Introduction and Review of Syllabus

### **Part I – The Basis of Politics**

August 30<sup>th</sup> – The Nature of Politics and the Nature of Man

*Required Reading:*

Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, Chapters 1-2

September 1<sup>st</sup> – NO CLASS (American Political Science Association)

September 4<sup>th</sup> – The Nature of Politics and the Nature of Man, Contd.

*Required Readings:*

Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, Chapters 1-2

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Citizenship and the Basis of Regimes

*Required Readings:*

Aristotle, *Politics* Book III, Chapters 1-8

**MAP QUIZ 1 – AFRICA**

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Justice, Kingship, and Law

*Required Readings:*

Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III, Chapters 9-18

September 11<sup>th</sup> – Classical Regime Types

*Required Readings:*

Aristotle, *Politics* Book IV, Chapters 1-10

September 13<sup>th</sup> – The Best Practical Regime and Types of Institutions

*Required Readings:*

Aristotle, *Politics* Book IV, Chapters 11-16

**Part II – Alternative Forms of Regime Classification**

September 15<sup>th</sup> – The Political Forms

*Required Readings:*

Pierre Manet, “The Birth of the Nation,” *City Journal*, Winter 2013.

September 18<sup>th</sup> – Democracy and Aristocracy

*Required Readings:*

Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume I, Introduction; Volume II, Part III, Chapters 5, 8

September 20<sup>th</sup> – Democracy and Aristocracy Contd.

*Required Readings:*

Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, V II, Part IV, Chapters 1, 2, 6,7,8

**MAP QUIZ 2 – EUROPE**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Method of Political Analysis

*Required Readings:*

James Ceaser, *Liberal Democracy and Political Science*, Chapter 3: Traditional Political Science

September 25<sup>th</sup> – **Midterm Examination**

### **Part III – The United States**

September 27<sup>th</sup> – Foundations of American Government

*Required Readings:*

The U.S. Declaration of Independence, Federalist 1  
*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 3: The United States: Why Study This Case?, Major Geographic and Demographic Features, Historical Development of the Public.

September 29<sup>th</sup> – American Political Institutions and Parties

*Required Readings:*

U.S. Constitution  
*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 3: The United States: Political Regime, Political Conflict and Competition

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Post-Industrial Age

*Required Readings:*

“Against Identity Politics” by Francis Fukuyama, *Foreign Affairs*

### **MAP QUIZ 3 – EAST ASIA**

### **Part IV- The United Kingdom**

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet Government

*Required Readings:*

Walter Bagehot, *The English Constitution*, Chapter 1: The Cabinet  
*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2: The United Kingdom: Why Study This Case?, Major Geographic and Demographic Features, Historical Development of the Public.

October 6<sup>th</sup> - Foundations of the British Regime

*Required Readings:*

Walter Bagehot, *The English Constitution*, Chapter 7: The Prerequisites of Cabinet Government

October 9<sup>th</sup> – British Political Institutions

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2: The United Kingdom: Political Regime

October 11<sup>th</sup> – British Parties

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2: The United Kingdom: Political Conflict and Competition

October 13<sup>th</sup> – **No Class**

October 16th – Brexit and Scotland

*Required Readings:*

David J. Scheffer, “A New Roadblock for Scottish Independence”, Council on Foreign Relations; Sarah Pruitt, “The History Behind Brexit”

## **Part V – France**

October 18th – Foundations of the French Regime

*Required Reading:*

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* [Selections]  
*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 4: France: Why Study This Case?, Major Geographic and Demographic Features, Historical Development of the Public.

### **MAP QUIZ 4 – SOUTH AMERICA**

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Foundations of the French Regime

*Required Readings:*

Declarations of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

October 25<sup>th</sup> – French Political Institutions

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 4: France: Political Regime

October 27<sup>th</sup> – French Parties

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 4: France: Political Conflict and Competition

October 30<sup>th</sup> – Immigration and Nationalism in France

*Required Readings:*

Angelique Chrisafis, “The Rise and Rise of France’s Far Right Marine La Pen,” *The Guardian*; Ekrame Boubtane, “France Reckons with Immigration Amid Reality of Rising Far Right,” Migration Policy Center

## **Part VI – China**

November 1<sup>st</sup> – Foundations of the Chinese Regime

*Required Readings:*

Confucius, *Analects* [Selections]  
*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 8: China: Why Study This Case?, Major Geographic and Demographic Features, Historical Development of the Public.

## **MAP QUIZ 4 – THE MIDDLE EAST**

November 3rd – Foundations of the Chinese Regime cont.

*Required Readings:*

Karl Marx, “Inaugural Address of the Working Men’s Association”

November 6<sup>th</sup> – Chinese Institutions

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 8: China: Political Regime

November 8<sup>th</sup> – Political Factions in China

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 8: China: Political Conflict and Competition

November 10<sup>th</sup> – The Future of the Communist Party

*Required Readings:* TBD

### **Part VII – China**

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Foundations of the Iranian Regime

*Required Readings:*

Qutb, *Milestones* [Selections]

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10: Iran: Why Study This Case?, Major Geographic and Demographic Features, Historical Development of the Public.

November 15<sup>th</sup> – Foundations of the Iranian Regime cont.

*Required Readings:*

Khomeini, *Islamic Government* [Selections]

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Iranian Political Institutions

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10: Iran: Political Regime

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Iranian Parties

*Required Readings:*

*Cases in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10: Iran: Political Conflict and Identity, Society.

### **November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – No class for Thanksgiving Break**

November 27<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Rights in Iran

*Required Readings:* TBD

## **Part VIII – Student Presentations**

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Student Presentations

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Student Presentations

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Student Presentations

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Student Presentations

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Student Presentations

List of Potential Presentation Topics:

## **MENTAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS AT UPIKE**

The Thrive Counseling center is located in the Record building and is a free service for students at UPIKE. From one-time meetings to be encouraged or long-term mental health support, the Thrive Counseling Center is for you. To set up an appointment please email [counseling@upike.edu](mailto:counseling@upike.edu).

Students can access online support and a personalized counselor who can meet with you at a time/date convenient to you. This program allows you to seek out a counselor who may specifically connect with your desired preferences for gender, race, religion, sexuality, nationality, etc. This offering is called *Uwill*. Link for

UWILL: <https://app.uwill.com/register/y5qtyN00usnLozqFQAnAA>

We have another online resource called *Kooth* which gives great resources and provides you someone to immediately text if needed.

Link for Kooth: [www.kooth.com/upike](http://www.kooth.com/upike)

Students can meet with the chaplain to journey in spiritual direction, be offered supportive listening, or prayer. Chaplain Rob Musick can be reached at [robertmusick@upike.edu](mailto:robertmusick@upike.edu) or 419-560-6381.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The University of Pikeville respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. The institution is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities to make all learning experiences accessible. If you feel you may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability or health condition, please contact **Misty Asbury (DRC – Disability Resource Center, 204 Administration Building, (606) 218-4484, [MistyAsbury@upike.edu](mailto:MistyAsbury@upike.edu))** to initiate a conversation about your options. Accommodations are not retroactive, so please avoid any delays in starting the process. Additional information can be found on the DRC website: <https://www.upike.edu/undergraduate/student-success/disability-resource-center/>.

UPIKE faculty are committed to supporting the learning of all students. If you have concerns about barriers to your full-participation in any course, please reach out to your instructor. Conversations, initiated early in the term, can clarify areas of concern and promote open dialogue with faculty. With a desire to learn, together with the support of faculty and campus services, you can successfully navigate your educational experience.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT PREVENTION STATEMENT:**

The University of Pikeville is committed to providing a supportive learning environment and fostering safe, healthy relationships among our students, faculty and staff. As such, the institution and members of our community will not tolerate the offenses of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, harassment or stalking. To view the UPIKE Sexual Misconduct Policy, please visit:

<http://www.upike.edu/UPike/media/UPike/Documents/Student-Services/Title-IX-Policy-Updated-9-7-16.pdf>

If you have questions or concerns, please immediately contact your Title IX Coordinators listed below.

Beth Kingery  
Title IX Coordinator  
Exec. Director of Compliance & Legal Affairs  
606-218-5344  
[bethanybowersock@upike.edu](mailto:bethanybowersock@upike.edu)

Michael Pacheco  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Assoc. VP for Operations & HR  
606-218-5326  
[michaelpacheco@upike.edu](mailto:michaelpacheco@upike.edu)

Beth's office is HPE 301B and Mike's office is in the Human Resources building (Laughlin Cottage).

**TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY**

Effective August 1, 2010, the University of Pikeville campus became completely tobacco-free. Specifically, smoking or use of other tobacco products will not be permitted on any University campus property or in University-owned vehicles.

**FAILURE FOR NON-ATTENDANCE/NON-PARTICIPATION GRADE (FN)**

Students who begin a course, but at some point in the semester cease attending, and do not provide official notification to withdraw, will be assigned a grade of "FN" (Failure for Non-Attendance), dated to the student's last date of attendance (based on the definition provided below). A grade of "FN" will be assigned when a student stops attending and/or participating in a class for a period of 25% of the term or longer as measured in calendar days. An "FN" indicates that the student ceased attendance and failed to complete the course objectives. If a student receives all FN's (or failing grades) in a term, he/she is subject to the Unofficial Withdrawal procedure at the end of the term that includes the reduction and/or return of all financial aid. Students are fully responsible for all resulting charges on their student account.



Students receiving all F's or FN's in a term who are currently on probation must appeal to financial aid to receive aid in their next term of enrollment if these grades move the student to a suspension status.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Pikeville is an academic community, and like all other communities, it can function properly only if its members adhere to clearly established goals and values. Essential to those goals and values is the commitment to the principles of truth and academic integrity. In order to articulate fully its commitment to academic integrity and to protect members of its community from the results of dishonest conduct, the University of Pikeville has adopted the following policies to address cases of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

1. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise and/or claiming such material as one's own work product. The unauthorized receipt of or attempt to obtain answers or assistance during an examination or other gradable activity or event from another student or from an unauthorized device (phone, tablet, computer, etc.).
2. **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly taking another's ideas, work, or words as one's own without properly documenting or crediting the original source in any academic exercise and/or using these ideas, words, or statements in a paper or presentation without properly documenting or crediting the original source.
3. **Fabrication:** The deliberate falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
4. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another individual violate any provision of this policy.
5. **Unauthorized Acquisition of Materials:** The unauthorized receipt or attempt to obtain unauthorized examination questions/answers either for personal use or distribution to others.
6. **Unauthorized Assistance:** Attempting to give answers, receive answers, or assistance to another student during an examination or other academic exercise without authorization.
7. **Academic Falsification:** Any attempt to falsify grades and/or data results.
8. **Academic Interference:** Any attempt to interfere with another student's outcome on an academic exercise or clinical performance.

9. **Failure to Report:** Failing to report known violations of the Academic Integrity Policy.
10. **Unapproved Collaboration:** Collaborating on any assignments such as homework, notes, take-home exams, draft papers, or projects in which the instructor does not allow collaboration.

If a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is determined to have occurred, sanctions will be imposed upon the individual consistent with the nature, circumstances, and severity of the offense. Possible sanctions may include the following actions:

1. A written and/or verbal warning;
2. The requirement of additional academic integrity training;
3. A grade reduction for the academic exercise;
4. The assignment of an “F” or zero for the academic exercise;
5. A failing grade in the course with the inability to withdraw;
6. Dismissal from the university (automatic for repeat substantiated incidents of academic dishonesty); or
7. Other sanctions deemed appropriate by individual colleges.

All cases will be addressed through the procedure outlined in the University Catalog and the Student Handbook.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In case of inclement weather, see the link below:

<http://www.upike.edu/Student-Services/inclementweather>

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Regular updates regarding COVID-19 and the impact on class scheduling will be posted on the UPIKE website. Please visit <https://www.upike.edu>.

Updated:  
July 2021