

Governments of the World
POL 14100-Y01

Course Information

Summer Session 2020
Class Time: Ongoing
Class Location: Brightspace
All Times are EST

Instructor

Mr. Michael Simrak
Preferred Pronouns: He, Him, His
Office: BRNG 2229
Email: msimrak@purdue.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Notice: We are still experiencing a global pandemic and the US is experiencing civil unrest as well, so I will be monitoring the situation closely and keep you updated if changes must be made to the syllabus for any reason. These events may also affect some student's ability to access the internet or a computer. Please keep me informed if any issues arise that may prevent you from completing any of the course assignments on time.

Course description

This course will provide a comparative survey of the political processes, institutions, political views and aspects of governments/politics in different political systems and regions of the world. The course aims to spark your interest in the politics and cultures of other countries and make you a better-informed citizen. Understanding the domestic politics of other nations is essential for you to understand American foreign policy decisions. Additionally, the perspective you will gain from studying politics in other countries will give you new insights into politics here at home in the United States.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize the fundamental concepts, institutions, and processes of world governments
2. Demonstrate your knowledge of how these concepts, institutions, and processes function
3. Analyze and Critique different issues within the study of Comparative Politics
4. Apply knowledge gained in the course towards contemporary issues in Global Politics

Course website

Brightspace is our course management system. You can access the course website at purdue.brightspace.com. It is strongly suggested that you explore and become familiar not only with the site navigation, but with content and resources available for this course

Learning resources & texts

- Required Textbook: J. Tyler Dickovick & Jonathan Eastwood. Comparative Politics. ISBN: 9780190854867
- Additional Readings: The list of additional readings is below, however, as we progress through the course, other resources maybe added. Access to additional readings will be through the Blackboard Course Readings Folder.

How to succeed in this course

This course is conducted online which includes some lecture and discussion. We will also make use of in class activities and videos where appropriate.

If you want to be a successful student:

- Be self-motivated and self-disciplined.
- Pay Attention to Deadlines
- Be willing to communicate if problems arise.
- Read the material before participating in discussion.

In contrast, here are some common behaviors that lead to failing the course.

- Not reading or waiting to read until just before the discussion.
- Waiting until the last day to complete assignments or not completing them at all.
- Forget about deadlines.
- Ignore emails from the instructor and/or your peers regarding course activities.

Office Hours Policy

Office hours will be available by appointment. Please send me an email to schedule a time to meet. I am available to meet through WebEx, Zoom, and Hangouts.

Assignments (Course requirements)

You will have several assignments throughout the semester. Details on these assignments, along with rubrics to guide evaluation, and guidelines on discussion participation and evaluation will be posted on the course website.

| Assignments | Due | Points | Percent of Total Grade |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Class Discussion | Every Friday | 40 (5 Each) | 10 |
| Periodic Reading Quizzes | 6 total | 80 (16 Each) | 20 |
| Country Reports (2) | 7/3 & 7/31 | 80 (40 Each) | 20 |
| Midterm | 7/10 | 100 | 25 |
| Final | 8/7 | 100 | 25 |
| Total | | 400 | 100 |

- Class Discussion (15 percent; due weekly, 5pts each): The exchange of ideas is an important part of learning, you are encouraged to frequently ask questions and share your informed opinions. Each Monday, a forum will open in Brightspace with instructions for the posts for the coming week. On some weeks we may follow a typical question and response format, however you may also be asked to submit your own questions or watch a short video. It's important you check the forum each Monday to make sure you've read and understood the assignment. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, students should use professional language in class discussions and written work. Responses should be around a full paragraph in length.
- Periodic Reading Quizzes (15 Percent; 6 quizzes, 16 pts each): Each week you will be required to complete a short quiz to demonstrate your understanding of the week's readings. You will be asked to answer four short answer questions on any of the week's readings. I will assign 6 but drop your lowest score.
- Country Reports (20 percent; two reports, 40 points each): You will be asked to complete two country reports due 7/3 and 7/31 respectively. In these projects, you will apply the concepts from our first week of class and explore a political phenomenon of interest in a country of your choice. For example, you may be interested in protest politics and its effects in France. For the second paper you will explore that same phenomenon in another country of your choice. The reason I ask that you explore the same phenomenon is because on your

final exam, you will be asked to discuss and compare your cases. More information and a rubric will be available on Brightspace. I will also provide you with some guidance on case selection.

- Midterm Exam (20 percent;100 points, Due 7/10). Your midterm exam will open in the exam folder on Brightspace on July 8th at 7:00am. This exam will cover the material from weeks 1-4. It is composed of short answer responses and essays. An A-level midterm will fully answer each question with reference to the assigned readings. You may use your textbook or any of the assigned readings. You may not work with others.
- Final Exam (20 percent;100 points, Due 8/7). Your midterm exam will open in the exam folder on Brightspace on August 5th at 7:00am. This exam will cover the material from weeks 5-8. It is composed of short answer responses and essays. One of those essays will ask you to discuss the two countries you selected for your reports. An A-level final will fully answer each question with reference to the assigned readings. You may use your textbook or any of the assigned readings. You may not work with others.

Grading scale

Indicate the numerical ranges for each letter grade. You might also want to include information on whether late assignments will be accepted and any grading penalties for late assignments.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| A+ | 97 - 100% of points | C | 74 - 76% of points |
| A | 94 - 96% of points | C- | 70 - 73% of points |
| A- | 90 - 93% of points | D+ | 67 - 69% of points |
| B+ | 87 - 89% of points | D | 64 - 66% of points |
| B | 84 - 86% of points | D- | 60 - 63% of points |
| B- | 80 - 83% of points | F | 00 - 59% of points |
| C+ | 77 - 79% of points | | |

Policies

Please review the following course policies.

Email Policy

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at any time when you need clarification or help. I will do my best to respond to all student emails within 24 hours, unless otherwise noted. Emails sent outside of normal business hours (8am-6pm) or over the weekend, may take me longer time to respond to. When sending emails, please make sure to include the course number in your subject line along with the title of your email. In the subject be sure to include specific questions as well as any information you think might be necessary.

Class Participation/Preparedness

It is expected that everyone will come to class having done the readings for the assigned day as well as completing all assignments. Class discussion is a significant part of our course format, so it is also important to come prepared to contribute to class discussions.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in these behaviors will receive a zero on the assignment and may face disciplinary action.

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and

copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

Please review the following resource page on plagiarism:

http://www.education.purdue.edu/discovery/research_integrity.html.

Please refer to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity:

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity>

Missed or late work

All assignments are due by the date listed in the syllabus. Any assignments received late will be penalized 3 percentage points per day. In the case of serious illness, accident, or emergency (accompanied by a formal medical excuse in the case of illness, or other formal documentation in the case of accident or emergency) this penalty will be removed.

Grief absence policy for students

In the event of the death of a loved one, please reach out to the Office of the Dean of Student as soon as you are able, and they will be able to inform your professors of your absence. There are specific amounts of excused absence time depending on certain criteria, however, my personal policy is that I will work with you to catch you up regardless of those circumstances.

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

See the University's website for additional information:

http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/classes.html

Classroom Netiquette (Etiquette but on the Net)

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea, but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement below, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience.

Please read the Netiquette rules for this course:

- Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language (e.g.: The use of slurs, direct personal attacks). Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.

Students who repeatedly violate our etiquette policy will lose participation points.

Violent behavior policy

It is expected that all students will engage with each other in a polite and respectful manner. It is okay to disagree, even passionately so, however it is never okay to jeopardize the safety of your classmates. Students who are unable to maintain decorum will be asked to leave.

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, Violent Behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity.

See the University's website for additional information:

<http://www.purdue.edu/policies/facilities-safety/iva3.html>

Emergency Statement

It is highly recommended that you sign up for Purdue Emergency Alerts through text.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors via email. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you need resources to make the course more accessible or require special accommodations in coursework, please let me know as soon as possible. I will be more than happy to work with you, but per university policy I will require documentation from the disability resource center.

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University views, evaluates, and treats all persons in any University related activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Purdue's Equal Opportunity, Equal Access and Affirmative Action policy which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Additionally, the University promotes the full realization of equal employment opportunity for women, minorities, persons with disabilities and veterans through its affirmative action program.

Any question of interpretation regarding this Nondiscrimination Policy Statement shall be referred to the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance for final determination.

You may want to refer students to Purdue's nondiscrimination statement:

http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html

Mental Health Statement

COVID-19 UPDATE: "CAPS will continue to be available and offer our services in a modified fashion. Please see our announcement of changes on the CAPS homepage. Any changes made at the university level in regard to elevated safety concerns/precautions may change this and result in more limited services being offered. We will continue to update the website with any changes in our operations."

- **If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack, <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>.** Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.
- **If you need support and information about options and resources,** please see the Office of the Dean of Students, <http://www.purdue.edu/odos>, for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm).
- **If you're struggling and need mental health services:** Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Course Evaluation

During the last two weeks of the course, you will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. Purdue now uses an online course evaluation system. You will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have up to two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation is an integral part of this course, and your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

Grade Appeals

I will take appeals on individual assignments. Please submit appeals in writing to my email, including a detailed explanation of why your grade should be adjusted. Appeals will be granted only if the student can show an error on the part of the instructor.

According to Purdue Policy: "You may only appeal the final grade for a course. You may appeal if: You are able to demonstrate that an inappropriate grade was assigned as a result of prejudice, caprice, or other improper conditions such as mechanical error, or assignment of a grade inconsistent with those assigned other students. Or, you wish to challenge the reduction of a grade for alleged scholastic dishonesty.

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/grade-appeal-process/>

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change, please pay attention to your email and blackboard as all changes will be announced ahead of time.

Course Schedule

| Topic | Dates | Readings | Assignments |
|---|-------------|--|---|
| Introduction | 6/15 – 6/19 | D&E: Ch. 1 & 2 | Quiz Due Friday at 11:59pm |
| The State and Development | 6/22 – 6/26 | D&E: Ch. 3-5 Excerpts from <i>Politics as a Vocation & Wealth of Nations</i> , <i>Communist Manifesto</i> | Quiz due Friday at 11:59pm |
| Democracy v. Authoritarianism | 6/29 – 7/3 | D&E: Ch. 6 & 7 Excerpts from <i>Origins of Totalitarianism</i> & “What Democracy is, and is not” | Quiz due Friday at 11:59pm Country Report #1 due 7/3 at 11:59pm |
| Constitutions, Legislatures, and Executives | 7/6 – 7/10 | D&E: Ch. 8-10 | Midterm Exam due 7/10 at 11:59pm |
| Political Parties, Nationalism and Ideology | 7/13 – 7/17 | D&E: Ch. 11, 13&15 Excerpts from: <i>Imagined Communities</i> & <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> | Quiz Due Friday at 11:59pm |
| Revolution and Contention | 7/20 – 7/24 | D&E: Ch. 12 Excerpts from <i>The State and Social Revolutions</i> and <i>Contentious Politics</i> | Quiz Due Friday at 11:59pm |
| Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality | 7/27 – 7/31 | D&E: Ch. 14 Excerpts from <i>Contentious Politics</i> , <i>Beyond Racism & Out in the Periphery</i> | Quiz due Friday at 11:59pm Country Report #2 due 7/31 at 11:59pm |
| International Relations | 8/3 – 8/7 | D&E: Ch. 16 | Final Exam Due 8/7 at 11:59pm |