

Political Science 260 – Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Dr. Roger Murphy  
Western Kentucky University

Summer 2020  
Webcourse June 6-28  
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Colonnade Requirement: Explorations (Social and Behavioral Sciences):

PS 260, fulfills the three hour requirement for the Colonnade Explorations section. As a Social and Behavioral Sciences course, PS 260 explores the human experience using theories and tools of political science. Students will analyze problems and conceptualize the ways in which theories and tools inform our understanding of the individual and society.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the field of comparative politics and comparative political analysis.
- Define key institutions and processes and make comparisons across different types of political systems.
- Design basic comparative research, identifying independent and dependent variables as related to comparative politics theory and concepts.

Overview

How and why do they do that? This course provides an introduction to the politics of selected countries around the world, from advanced industrial democracies to developing countries and authoritarian regimes. We will examine the similarities and differences between political and economic systems (for example, institutions, elections, participation and civil rights) which will provide greater insight into the world around us as well as our system of government. Students will learn the strengths and weaknesses of democratic and non-democratic systems, of the challenges of development and of the impact of systems (for example parliamentary and presidential) on political outcomes.

Required Readings

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, latest Edition, Norton  
Patrick O'Neil, et al, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, latest Edition, Norton

Course Requirements

Students access course powerpoints, read assigned readings and participate in forum discussions. Students will complete three quizzes, a final examination and write in the forums.

Quizzes	45%
Forums	25%
Final Examination	30%

Grading Scale: A = 90% or higher; B = 80 to 89%; C = 70 to 79%; D = 60 to 69%; F = 59% and lower.

The quizzes will each be 45 minutes long once you have accessed the quiz. It must be completed in one setting so make sure you have available time to complete the quiz. You can use your books and powerpoints. Each quiz will be available for 24 hours on the assigned date to access it.

These dates are June 12, 19 and 26. The quizzes will be divided as follows: 1 through Nations and Society, 2 through Communism, 3 from India to the end. Make sure you have the textbooks at hand when you take the quizzes. The final will be available on June 23 and will be due at midnight June 26. It will consist of short essay questions (there will be choices and page limits so please follow the instructions carefully). There will also be a discussion forum each week (in the discussion section) and you are to write a short paragraph on each topic. Each topic will be posted on the Monday.

Make-up examinations will only be given with the prior approval of the instructor and late papers (without prior approval) will be penalized. Any form of academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students found guilty of such actions will receive a zero for the work in question and also be subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Accessibility Resource Center, DSU 1074. The telephone number is (270) 745-5004 v/tty.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

#### Title IX Policies

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) (<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at ([https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf)). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.