

**San José State University**  
**Political Science Department**  
**Political Science 2: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

### **Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
Office Location:	Clark Hall 404F and virtual on zoom (link available on the course home page on canvas)
Office Hours:	Online Tuesdays 3:00-4:00pm In person Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am
Email:	danjela.dudley@sjsu.edu
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom:	Hugh Gillis Hall 116
GE Category:	Area D (Social Sciences)

### **Course Description**

From the catalog: Comparative analysis of different kinds of political systems; their political institutions, processes and policies; the environments in which they occur and their consequences.

Comparative politics is the study of domestic politics and political issues around the world. It is also a powerful research tool: a way to discover patterns of similarities and differences in countries' responses to the problems they face.

This introductory course will survey a range of topics including the nature of the modern state, types of democratic and non-democratic regimes and their characteristics, regime stability, political violence, economic development, and globalization.

### **Course Format**

This is an **in-person class** with regularly scheduled class meeting times. We will meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 12-1:15pm. Until February 13, we will meet on zoom. The link to connect to class meetings is available on the course home page on canvas. Starting on February 14, we will meet in HGH 116.

Students must have access to an electronic device with a camera and microphone, and reliable internet connection to be successful in this course. SJSU has a free [equipment loan program](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php) available for students (<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php>).

### **Canvas Course Page**

Course materials such as syllabus, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) (<http://sjsu.instructure.com>).

**You are responsible for regularly accessing the Canvas course website to read any required materials and complete assignments. You are also responsible for regularly checking Canvas**

**for any announcements.** Make sure that Canvas has your current email address. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php). For technical problems with Canvas, please contact [eCampus](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/how-we-can-help/contact-us.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/how-we-can-help/contact-us.php).

## **General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO 1: demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present (assessed in exams and quizzes);

GELO 2: compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts (assessed in exams and quizzes);

GELO 3: place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, or historical contexts (assessed in group activities); and

GELO 4: draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues (assessed in analyses of current events).

## **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

In addition to the General Education Learning Outcomes, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: understand the basic principles of the comparative method and its use in explaining political, economic, and social processes and events (assessed in exams and quizzes);

CLO 2: demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, theories, and arguments in comparative politics (assessed in exams, quizzes, and participation);

CLO 3: apply comparative politics concepts, theories, and arguments to ongoing events around the world (assessed in analyses of current events and group activities);

CLO 4: discuss and debate major issues in comparative politics in a collaborative manner (assessed in group activities and participation).

## **Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)**

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

PSPLO 1 Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 2 Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3 Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 4 Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

O'Neil, Patrick H. (2020). *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (7th edition). W.W. Norton & Company: New York and London. ISBN13: 978-0-393-53277-7.

The text is available for purchase from the Spartan Bookstore or from various online retailers. Other readings and videos will be available through Canvas.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

### **Quizzes (20% of the course grade)**

There will be 4 quizzes which will vary in format and may include short answer, fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice, and essay questions. Specifics on the format and the material to be covered will be provided one week before each quiz. Quizzes will be timed and administered during scheduled class meetings.

### **Exams (30% of the course grade)**

There will be 2 exams which will consist of a variety of question types and may include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short-answer, and/or essay questions.

Exam 1 (midterm) will cover the material from weeks 1-7 and will be held during our regularly scheduled class meeting on Thursday March 24 at noon.

Exam 2 (final) will cover the material from weeks 9-15 and will be administered during our scheduled final exam on May 24 at 9:45am.

### **Group activities (20% of the course grade)**

There will be 2 group activities in which you will work in groups of 4.

Group activity 1: you will be tasked with finding/proposing a solution to an issue in comparative politics. Your group will meet (in person or virtually), discuss a specific topic, and arrive at a resolution of the issue in question.

You will have two options on how you wish to complete and submit this first group project: 1) you can choose to have a recorded meeting on zoom which you will submit on canvas; or 2) you can complete the project by writing the main points of your discussion and the conclusions you have reached and submitting the report on canvas.

Group activity 2: you and your classmates will play an online game. As a group, you will then write a short report (500-700 words) about your experience playing the game. How did you make decisions? Why? What are the main lessons you learned from playing the game?

For each group project, detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas and assignments will be discussed in class, one to two weeks before they are due. It is essential that you carefully read the guidelines for each assignment once they are posted on Canvas.

### **Current events (20% of the course grade)**

In two written assignments you apply the concepts learned in class to contemporary issues in comparative politics.

**Country profile:** Each student will be assigned a country to research and will write a profile (500-700 words) explaining the country's current political, economic, and social conditions, and any issues the country is currently facing. Students will be asked to share their findings with the rest of the class in brief statements throughout the semester. Detailed instructions will be provided on canvas.

**Analysis:** You will write an analysis (500-700 words) of the most salient political, economic, or social issue facing your assigned country. This might be an economic crisis, political instability, regional dispute, a public health crisis, an antiterrorist operation, an indigenous group's protest, or similar. Students will be asked to share their findings with the rest of the class in brief statements. Detailed instructions will be provided on canvas.

### **Participation (10% of the course grade)**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings, ready to discuss them, and prepared to participate in class activities. Class meetings will regularly include discussions and various group or individual activities (such as completing a short write-up related to that day's topic, finding a solution to an issue, researching contemporary examples of an issue discussed in class, and similar). Students may be called by name to address concepts from the readings.

Your participation grade will be based on the frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions and participation in and completion of in-class activities.

### **Final Examination or Evaluation**

**University policy S17-1** (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states that "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

The culminating activity in this course is Exam #2 which will be held during the designated final exam period. Please note that students will not be allowed to take the final exam early.

### **University Policy Regarding Workload**

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus." Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all your courses.

## Assignment weights and due dates (dates subject to change with fair notice)

Assignment	% of grade	Due date(s)	GELOs
Quizzes	20% total	February 17 March 10 April 14 April 28	1-2
Exams	30% total	March 24 May 24 at 9:45am	1-2
Group activities	20% total	March 17 April 21	3
Current events	20% total	March 3 (country profile) May 5 (analysis)	4
Participation	10% total	recorded each class meeting	1-4

### Late Work

Please read carefully as late policies vary by assignment type.

**Exams and quizzes:** exam and quiz make-ups are only given in cases of medical or family emergencies, in accordance with the university's policy on excused absences. In these cases, proper documentation must be provided.

Please note that if you are making up an exam or a quiz, it will be different from the exam taken by the rest of the class. As a result, you must notify me immediately if you have an emergency because I will need additional time to write a new exam for you.

**Group activities and current events analyses:** all four of these assignments can be submitted up to 24 hours late without penalty. After the initial 24 hours, late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each started 24-hour period.

**Participation:** because participation requires in-class interaction and timely discussion of concepts, it cannot be made up.

### Grading Information

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades. For example, if an assignment is out of 100 points, 97-100 is an A+, 93-96.9 is an A, 90-92.9 is an A-, and so on. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

Grade	Percentage
A plus	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96.9%
A minus	90 to 92.9%
B plus	87 to 89.9 %
B	83 to 86.9%
B minus	80 to 82.9%
C plus	77 to 79.9%
C	73 to 76.9%
C minus	70 to 72.9%
D plus	67 to 69.9%
D	63 to 66.9%
D minus	60 to 62.9%

## **Classroom Protocol**

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be respectful to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated. Class meetings will not be recorded.

Please come to class on time and stay for the entire period. Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive to everyone.

## **Attendance**

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Lectures are essential because they emphasize the most important points, help you make sense of the readings, and contain information on issues/concepts that did not receive adequate attention in the readings. While they will address some themes presented in the course readings, they will also include additional information that you may not find in the readings but which you will be expected to know for exams, quizzes, and assignments.

In addition, class meetings will be an opportunity to ask questions about the material and course assignments, clarify expectations, and similar. Finally, while attendance is not graded, participation in class activities is graded: if you are not present, you can't participate and engage with in-class activities. Remember, class meetings will not be recorded.

## **Zoom Classroom Etiquette**

Because our class will meet on zoom until February 14, please keep in mind these rules.

Camera: while you are not required to keep the video on during lectures, I strongly urge you to keep in on because it fosters discussion and aids groups activities and Q&A sessions.

Use appropriate names and backgrounds: you must sign in with your name as listed on Canvas. You will be required to log into your SJSU One account before accessing class meetings on zoom. If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional.

Position the camera correctly: be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.

Mute your microphone: to help keep background noise to a minimum, remember to mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

Be mindful of background distractions: find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible. If possible, avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.

Avoid multitasking: you can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom). Keep in mind that your success in this class depends on active engagement in class activities.

## **Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

**Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class meetings, lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings.**

**Students are prohibited from distributing, sharing, or posting class lectures, slides, exams, or any other instructional materials.** Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, exams, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. [University policy S12-7](#) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Students who plagiarize or who are suspected of cheating during an exam/quiz/assignment will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment or a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

## **Library Liaison**

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. His name is Nyle Monday and his email is [nyle.monday@sjsu.edu](mailto:nyle.monday@sjsu.edu).

## **University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policies concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc., and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [University’s Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Communication and Help

If you have questions or need help with class, don't hesitate to talk to me. Here are several ways to contact me:

**Office hours:** the best way to communicate with me is during my office hours. I will have both in-person and virtual office hours this semester. **Online office hours will be held on Tuesdays 3:00-4:00pm.** The link is available on the course home page on Canvas. **In person office hours will be on Thursdays 10:30-11:30am** in Clark Hall 404F. Both online and in person office hours are drop-in, which means **you don't need an appointment to see me during these times.**

When you click on the link for online office hours, you will be placed in a virtual waiting room. If I am not already talking to another student, you will be immediately allowed into the meeting. If I am in a meeting with another student, you will be in the waiting room until I am done and can let you into the "office."

I recommend using office hours for most issues, as this is the best way to get the most complete answers to your questions. If you are not available during my office hours, let me know what your schedule looks like and we'll figure out an alternative time to meet.

**Email:** email should be used only for quick inquiries. I will generally reply to your emails within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays (please remember that I don't check my email on weekends or holidays—make sure to contact me early if there are any pressing issues). Please note that email should not be used for substantive issues where extensive communication is needed (such as discussing paper topics or explaining concepts from the material) or for confidential issues (such as discussing grades, personal issues, and similar, because email is not considered a confidential form of communication).

**Q&A discussion thread:** I will keep a Q&A discussion board on canvas for the entirety of the semester. Any questions that might also be of concern to the entire class should be posted there (nothing confidential please). For example, questions about paper format, structure/requirements of different assignments, deadlines, and similar, would be beneficial to other students as well and should be posted on the Q&A thread. I will check the Q&A discussion board several times per week (on weekdays). If you know the answer to a question posed by another student, feel free to reply.

## The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or through Canvas. It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.

## POLS 2/Introduction to Comparative Politics Spring 2022 Course Schedule

<b>POLS 2 Spring 2022 Course Schedule</b> Subject to change with fair notice		
<b>WEEK</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
0	Jan 27	<p><b>Course introduction</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read course syllabus, welcome messages, and “start here” module on Canvas</li> </ul>
1	Feb 1-3	<p><b>What is comparative politics</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 1</li> </ul>
2	Feb 8-10	<p><b>The modern state</b></p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 2</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p>Country assignments for country profile; groups for group activities</p>
3	Feb 15-17	<p><b>Nations, identities, &amp; society</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 3</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Quiz #1:</b> Thursday February 17</p>
4	Feb 22-24	<p><b>Comparative political economy</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 4</li> </ul>

**POLS 2 Spring 2022 Course Schedule**  
**Subject to change with fair notice**

WEEK	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	Mar 1-3	<p><b>Political violence</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 7</li> <li>• Berman, Crises Only Sometimes Lead to Change: And Here’s Why (on Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Country profile:</b> due March 3</p>
6	Mar 8-10	<p><b>Democratic regimes</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 5 pages 141-153</li> <li>• Karl &amp; Schmitter, What Democracy Is...And Is Not (on Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Quiz #2:</b> Thursday March 10</p>
7	Mar 15-17	<p><b>Forms of democracy</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 5 pages 153-176</li> <li>• Linz, The Perils of Presidentialism (on Canvas)</li> <li>• Horowitz, Comparing Democratic Systems (on Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Group activity #1:</b> due March 17</p>
8	Mar 22-24	<p><b>Exam review and exam 1</b></p> <p><b>Exam 1 Thursday March 24</b></p>
	Mar 29-31	<p><b>Spring break</b></p>

**POLS 2 Spring 2022 Course Schedule**  
**Subject to change with fair notice**

WEEK	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	Apr 5-7	<p><b>Non-democratic regimes</b></p> <p><u>Requires readings and videos:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 6</li> <li>• Levitsky and Way, The New Competitive Authoritarianism (on Canvas)</li> </ul>
10	Apr 12-14	<p><b>Communism &amp; post-communism: political, social, &amp; economic changes</b></p> <p><u>Requires readings and videos:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 9</li> <li>• Krastev, Paradoxes of the New Authoritarianism (on Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Quiz #3:</b> April 14</p>
11	Apr 19-21	<p><b>Developing countries: challenges of (under)development</b></p> <p><u>Requires readings and videos:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 10</li> <li>• Banerjee &amp; Duflo, How Poverty Ends: The Many Paths to Progress—and Why They Might Not Continue (on Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Group activity #2:</b> due April 21</p>
12	Apr 26-28	<p><b>Advanced democracies: does democracy make life better?</b></p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O’Neil, chapter 8</li> </ul> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><b>Quiz #4:</b> April 28</p>

**POLS 2 Spring 2022 Course Schedule**  
**Subject to change with fair notice**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
13	May 3-5	<b>Globalization &amp; the future of comparative politics</b>  <u>Required readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• O'Neil, chapter 11</li></ul> <u>Assignments:</u> <b>Current events analysis:</b> due May 5
14	May 10-12	<b>Special topics: students' choice</b>  <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBD</li></ul>
15	May 24	<b>Exam #2 (final exam) May 24 at 9:45am</b>