

**CPO 3003  
Comparative Politics  
Spring 2022**

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**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course in comparative politics with an emphasis on democratic institution-building. We examine the theoretical and the practical dimensions of comparative politics. The first two sections of the course examine institutional and behavioral issues currently debated in newly established democracies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. We explore competing theories of comparative politics as well as core issues in the field such as party and parliamentary development, influence of electoral systems and voting behavior. In the final section of the course, you will apply these theories and concepts to develop a constitution for the hypothetical country of Kerblakistan. Our course is available on Canvas—you can access the course home page, readings and your grades.

**Instructional Method:**

This course is designated “in-person” by FAU.

**Course Objectives:**

My course objectives for you focus on the following:

- Develop knowledge of concepts, theories and terminology in comparative politics.
- Understand how institutional choices affect political behavior of elites and voters.
- Apply theories and concepts discussed to real world scenarios.

**Classroom Requirements:**

- It is not appropriate to come to class late; however if you come to class late, please find a seat near the door.
- If you need to leave early, please discuss this with me prior to the start of class.
- Any personal issues should be dealt with before class begins so that you do not leave and re-enter the room. It is disruptive and interferes with the classroom experience.

**Grade Requirements:**

Grades in the course are based on the following: First, there are two examinations during the semester. The examinations consist of multiple-choice questions. Material for the examinations is drawn from both the lectures and the assigned readings. I provide a make-up examination only with a University-approved excuse (please see the FAU policy below). Second, you will have two homework assignments on electoral system attributes and party system determination. Third in order to assist you in thinking about the different ways in which the system of government, rights and freedoms and divisions of power can be structured as well as the social development

of a state, you have been assigned a country in which you are required to summarize its constitutional features as well as level of democracy, corruption and economy. Fourth, you will design a constitution for the hypothetical country of Kerblakistan. The constitution involves incorporating several institutional issues discussed in the class. Grades are not curved or adjusted.

**Grade Point System:**

Examination 1	100 points
Examination 2	100 points
Constitution Design	85 points
Country Constitution	45 points
Homework Assignments	15 points
<u>Total</u>	<u>345 points</u>

**Grade Scale:**

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage/Points</b>
A	93-100% (321-345 points)
A-	90-92% (311-320 points)
B+	88-89% (304-310 points)
B	83-87% (286-303 points)
B-	80-82% (276-285 points)
C+	78-79% (269-275 points)
C	73-77% (252-268 points)
C-	70-72% (242-251 points)
D+	68-69% (235-241 points)
D	60-67% (207-234 points)
F	0-59% (0-206 points)

**Course and FAU Policies:**

Accessibility Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses—Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter—however disability

services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas](http://www.fau.edu/sas).

#### Code of Academic Integrity Policy

Students at FAU should endeavor to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is a serious breach of these ethical standards because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive to the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

#### Counseling and Psychological Services Policy

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling>.

#### Covid 19 Statement:

Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases and the omicron variant, all students regardless of vaccination status are expected to wear masks while indoors in any FAU facilities, including classrooms and laboratories. Students experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) or students who have come in contact with confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 should immediately contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512). Symptomatic students will be asked to leave the classroom to support the safety and protection of the university community. For additional information visit [www.fau.edu/coronavirus](http://www.fau.edu/coronavirus). In classes with face-to-face components, quarantined students should notify me immediately as you will not be able to attend class. I will not be able to offer an online version of the class but will make reasonable efforts to assist students in making up the work.

#### Drops/Withdrawal Policy

You are responsible for completing the process of dropping or withdrawing from a course. Please consult the FAU Registrar FAQ for more information on dropping and/or withdrawing from a course.

#### Grade Appeal Process policy

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply (FAU Regulation 4.002 information on the grade appeals process):

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- The grading process used non-academic criteria.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

#### Religious Accommodation Policy

In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices

and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. For further information, see FAU Regulation 2.007.

#### Recording of Lectures Policy

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

#### University Approved Absence Policy

In accordance with rules of the FAU, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor at least one week prior to missing any course assignment.

#### **Readings:**

All readings are available in Canvas. There is a "Readings" folder in the files application that contains all the course readings. Please bring them with you to class as we will be addressing specific arguments made by the authors.

#### **Course Reading and Requirement Outline:**

##### Introduction: How to Study Comparative Politics

John S. Dryzek. 2006. "Revolutions without Enemies: Key Transformations in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100:4 (Nov):487-492.

##### State and Society

Michael Robbins. 2015. "After the Arab Spring: People Still Want Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 26:4 (Oct): 80-89.

Christopher Walker and Melissa Aten. 2018. "The Rise of Kleptocracy: A Challenge for Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 29:1 (Jan):20-24.

##### Unitary and Federal Arrangements

Jan Erk, and Lawrence Anderson. 2009. "The Paradox of Federalism: Does Self-Rule Accommodate or Exacerbate Ethnic Divisions?" *Regional and Federal Studies* 19:2 (May):191-202.

##### Democratization and Political Culture

Marc F. Plattner. 2019. "Illiberal Democracy and the Struggle on the Right." *Journal of Democracy* 30:1 (Jan):5-19.

### Economic Development and Democracy

Daniel Treisman. 2020. "Economic Development and Democracy: Predispositions and Triggers." *Annual Review of Political Science* 23:241–257.

### **Examination 1 (Friday, 25 February)**

### Variations of Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Filip Reyntjens. 2016. "The Struggle Over Term Limits in Africa: A New Look at the Evidence." *Journal of Democracy* 27:3 (Jul):61-68.

### Elections and Electoral Systems

Cynthia McClintock. 2018. "Reevaluating Runoffs in Latin America." *Journal of Democracy* 29:1 (Jan): 96-110

Pippa Norris. 1997. "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems." *International Political Science Review* 18:3 (Jul):297-312.

### Parties, Party Systems and Voting Behavior

Joseph LaPalombara. 2007. "Reflections on Political Parties and Political Development, Four Decades Later." *Party Politics* 13:2 (March):141-154.

### **Examination 2 (Friday, 15 April)**

### Designing a Constitution for Multi-Ethnic Societies

Josep M. Colomer. 2001. "The Strategy of Institutional Change." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 13:3 (Jul): 235-247.

Dylan O'Driscoll, Irene Costantini and Serhun Al. 2020. "Federal versus Unitary States: Ethnic Accommodation of Tamils and Kurds." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 26:4 (Oct):351-368.

Alfred Stepan and Cindy Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarianism versus Presidentialism." *World Politics* 46 (Oct):1-22.

### **Constitution Assignment for Kerblakistan (Friday, 29 April 10:30-11:00)**

### **List of Important Dates for the Course:**

- Examination 1 (Friday, 25 February)
- Country Constitution Assignment (Friday, 18 March 10:30-11:00)
- Homework Assignments (TBA in class)
- Examination 2 (Friday, 15 April)
- Constitution Assignment for Kerblakistan (Friday, 29 April 10:30-11:00)

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I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus as necessary.