

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political Science 2301.03: Comparative Politics: Developed Democracies under Pressure
Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:25 in LSC-COMMON AREA C338.

Instructor: Robert Finbow, finbow@dal.ca Office Hours: Online by appointment.

We live in an era of rapid change world-wide, in which political activities and decisions hold striking consequences for peoples' lives. In Western Europe, for example, politicians and citizens are struggling with the implications of deeper and wider European integration for their own nation-states; in Eastern Europe, former Communist countries are attempting the difficult transition to liberal democratic and market-based political and economic structures. In countries like Russia and Mexico, citizens are struggling to overcome the legacies of an authoritarian system and secure a democratic future but are facing setbacks along the way. The United Kingdom has divorced from the EU and its internal unity looks somewhat dubious. The United States is experiencing intense polarization of political life and the operation of its constitution suddenly seems problematic. This course proceeds on the assumption that it is fascinating to study diverse political systems and processes in their own right; but further, that through comparison and generalization, we can gain a better understanding of the characteristics of politics everywhere, including our own country.

The course surveys the methods and scope of Comparative Politics. It does so through an examination of what have been the two major prototypes of democratic systems in the contemporary world: liberal democracies (industrial, capitalist nations) featuring examples of presidential systems (USA – with references to France) and parliamentary models (UK with references to Germany and Japan); and illiberal democracies and competitive authoritarian models as found in some post-communist (Russia) and emerging industrialized states (Mexico). After a general overview of the nature of these classifications, countries from each will be studied in depth. Concepts and theories which are useful for comparing political life in various countries will be discussed including electoral politics, social diversity, gender politics and the challenges facing states in the era of enhanced globalization. In each case, contemporary trends which put democratic practices under pressure or threaten their continuity will be introduced. It is paired with POLI 2302 on Developing States to provide the core undergraduate requirement in Comparative Politics.

FORMAT:

The class will meet for lectures two days a week. Opportunities for questions and discussion will be built into this time. All communications from the instructor will be via **Brightspace announcements** and postings or emails to your **official Dalhousie email**.

TEXTBOOK: Students are expected to rent the following **electronic text**,: **Patrick H O'Neil, Karl J Fields, Don Share *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics* 2nd Edition Ebook W. W. Norton 2020** It is available at the Dalhousie Bookstore. You can **buy the print copy new for \$106.53 or you can rent for one year as an Ebook on \$55.63 available at <https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course%5b%5d=SUB,FALL23,POLI,POLI2301>** This text is also used in **POLI 2302** next term. For exam purposes you focus on 4 cases this term: **US, UK, Russia and Mexico**. For research essays, chapters on **France, Germany, Japan, and Brazil** may also be used. The other cases are studied in **POLI 2302**.

Other course materials including articles and e-book chapters, will be made available online via the class Brightspace page. Materials for assignments, readings, Powerpoint lectures, lecture notes, discussion topics etc will be posted throughout the term. Other readings will be made available via the Killam Library electronic resources and on Brightspace. Students requiring technical assistance should contact the **IT Help Desk** via: https://www.dal.ca/academics/online_learning/get-in-touch.html

COMPARATIVE POLITICS ON THE WEB:

A Brightspace site has been set up for POLI 2301 <https://dal.brightspace.com/d21/1e/content/280311/Home>

This will go live soon, and the site will be updated throughout the term. It will feature course handouts, links to websites detailing case study countries, resources for study, essay writing, and other Internet resources. There are many valuable resources for political analysis on the web including government and party pages, journalistic and news resources, commentaries by interest groups, political dissidents, etc., as well as information about the cultures, societies and economies of our case studies and most other countries in the world. Students will be encouraged to nominate pages and links for inclusion on Brightspace.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- **PART1 INTRODUCING COMPARATIVE POLITICS IN DEVELOPED STATES**

Orientation module: introduction to text, syllabus, assignments, discussions

Module 1: Introduction: overview of Comparative Politics in the Developed World

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share Ch 1 Introduction to Comparative Politics.
O'Neil, Shields and Share "States";

Timothy C. Lim, "Introduction: What is Comparative Politics?" in *Doing comparative politics: An introduction to approaches and issues*. (2nd Edition) Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010.

<https://www.rienner.com/uploads/4c1a4af61bdb3.pdf>

Module 2: Comparing Nations, Societies and Economies

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share Ch 2 "Nations and Society" Ch 3 "Political Economy"

Module 3 : Comparing Liberal and Illiberal Democracies:

O'Neil, Shields and Share Chapter 6 "Democratic Regimes" pp. 143-74; Chapter 7 "Developed Democracies" 175-201.

Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* 76, 6 (November/December 1997): 22-43

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/214284293?accountid=10406>

Module 4: Comparing Post-communist and Authoritarian States

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share Chapter 9 "Communism and Postcommunism" p. 383-415

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13, no. 2 (2002): 51-65.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://muse.jhu.edu/article/17196>

- **PART 2: CASE STUDIES**

Module 5: Parliamentarism: Politics in the U.K.

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share "United Kingdom", 218-249.

Module 6: Presidentialism: United States

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share "United States" 250-275.

Module 7: Politics in Russia: Back to Authoritarianism

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share "Russia" 426-449.

Module 8: Politics in Mexico: Illiberal Democracy

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share "Mexico" 570-599.

- **PART 3: COMPARING CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PROCESSES AND SOCIETAL INFLUENCES**

Module 9: Political parties and election systems

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share pp. 173-81; 232-39; 260-66; 438-41; 581-586.

Module 10: Political Cleavages: Class, Ethnicity, Race, Religion

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share pp. 54-86; 240-43; 267-69; 443-45; 589-91

Module 11: Gender Politics and Political Participation

Read: Chappell, L. (2010). Comparative Gender and Institutions: Directions for Research. Perspectives on Politics, 8(1), 183–189. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592709992751>

Lane Kenworthy and Melissa Malami "Gender Inequality in Political Representation: A Worldwide Comparative Analysis" *Social Forces*, 78 (1) (Sep., 1999), pp. 235-268.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=2374573&site=ehost-live>

Rosie Campbell, Sarah Childs, and Joni Lovenduski. "Do women need women representatives?" *British Journal of Political Science* 40.01 (2010): 171-194.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/195320495?accountid=10406>

See also the links to items on Russia, US, UK and Mexican women in politics on Brightspace.

Module 12: Globalization and the Future

Read: O'Neil, Shields and Share "Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics" 690-716 and pages 243-48; 270-75; 445-49; 592-99.

OFFICE HOURS:

All student consultations will be held via online **MS team meetings** to limit personal contact in light of the ongoing Covid situation. Student will be discouraged from impromptu in person consultations and should book an **MS Teams appointment**. There will be times for these appointments **on Wednesdays and Fridays** first term which can be arranged via email.

EVALUATION: The final grade will be arrived at as follows:

Participation	Throughout the term	10%
Online Quizzes	Best 10 of 12	10%
Essay Proposal	Topic/outline Oct. 11	10%
Midterm Test	Late October	10%
Term Essay (8 pages/2,000 words);	Nov. 29	25%
Final Exam	Dec. TBA	35%

(All written assignments must be submitted via Brightspace assignment Dropbox with Ouriginal screening **Late Penalty: 2% per working day**).

Participation will be calculated using **5% attendance; 5% participation in class discussion**.

Information on all these assignments will be posted on the Brightspace page early in the term. Essay topics will be distributed close to the start of the term. An essay proposal will be used to screen for appropriate topics and to provide feedback to improve the final product. The essay will be about 2500 words; information on format and requirements will be posted soon. Assignments will be screened for academic integrity using **Ouriginal** software.

The final exam will cover material from assigned readings, lectures and class discussions. Students will complete two essay questions, chosen from two sections spread across all topics from the term. It will ask students to use course materials to analyse and respond to the questions.

You must complete **all assignments** in the course in order to pass the course. The course’s grading scheme follows the Dalhousie undergraduate academic calendar.

The grading thresholds are:

90-100 = A+	77-79 = B+	65-69 = C+	50-54 = D
85-89 = A	73-76 = B	60-64 = C	below 50 = F
80-84 = A-	70-72 = B-	55-59 = C-	

Add/drop dates for fall term: http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Last Day to Change and Add Classes for registered students: September 19, 2023

Last Day to Drop without “W” October 4, 2023

Last Day to Change from Audit to Credit and Vice Versa: October 4, 2023

Last Day to Drop with “W”: November 2, 2023

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by the University Senate

University Statements

Academic Integrity http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Accessibility https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of the term. Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class (read more: http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility.html)

Student Code of Conduct

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported,

which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

(read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Contact the program at elders@dal.ca

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

Dalhousie courses are governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. (<https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/catalog/viewcatalog.aspx>)

Important student information, services and resources are available as follows:

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates) http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- Classroom Recording Protocol https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html
- Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Grade Appeal Process https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html
- Sexualized Violence Policy https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html
- On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond) https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html
- Indigenous Student Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
See also: Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous->

[connection.html](#)

- Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803.)
- <https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-Protocol- July2018.pdf>
- Black Student Advising Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advicing.html
- International Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html
- South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre <https://southhousehalifax.ca/about/>
- LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative - <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres/education-campaigns/LGBTQ2SIA-collaborative.html>
- Dalhousie Libraries <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Copyright Office <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Human Rights and Equity Services <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>
- Writing Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Study Skills/Tutoring http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Online Netiquette

Students will always be expected to engage in online communications in a respectful fashion. This applies to any common areas in any internet exchanges as well as in individual communications with the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to remove any comment, posting or message which violates Dalhousie guidelines for a respect culture. <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

For further information you should consult

<https://dal.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/126100/viewContent/1834588/View>

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Policy: "All students are required to comply with health and safety requirements on campus, and should be considerate of others' health concerns. Non-compliance may be reported under the Code of Student Conduct." The **Code of Student Conduct** can be found here:

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html

The university is encouraging **regular testing and self-screening**, For students who must miss class due to illness or high-risk exposure, reasonable accommodations will be made at the discretion of the instructor. Similarly, the instructor will communicate plans in case their class must go online for a time, either because of their own exposure/illness or because of a temporary interruption of in-person classes. Students are **expected to regularly check their Dalhousie email and Brightspace announcements**.

STAY HOME IF YOU FEEL UNWELL: If you are not feeling well, please remain home. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, including a cough (new or worsening) or a fever, you should complete a COVID-19 self-assessment and schedule a COVID-19 test through the province. If you are ultimately diagnosed with COVID-19, follow all guidance you receive from Public Health.

MASKS: While masks are now optional, for the safety and health of your classmates, you are still encouraged to wear masks within the classroom.

SEEKING HELP: If any students are struggling, and are looking for mental health support, please make sure you reach out for help. There are a variety of mental health resources and supports available for students at www.dal.ca/mentalhealth.

If you wish to chat with a mental health professional, same-day counselling appointments are available at the Student Health and Wellness Centre on the 2nd floor of LeMarchant Place. Appointments can be made by calling 902-494-2171 or online at: www.dal.ca/studenthealth/bookonline

Students can also access free and confidential mental health counselling support 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, by calling Good2Talk at 1-833-292-3698 or by texting GOOD2TALKNS to 686868.

If you are in crisis, you can always call 902-429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167 to reach the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

EMERGENCIES AND DISRUPTIONS

FIRE ALARMS: In the event of a fire alarm activation, please immediately exit the building in a calm and orderly fashion via the nearest exit from the building. Please remain outside of the alarming area. Once the alarms have ended, and the fire department has granted approval, someone will announce that people may safely re-enter the facility. In the event of an extended closure, additional information will be announced via DaSAFE. If the alarm occurs during a test or exam, please remain separated from your classmates once you have exited the facility, and do not communicate with each other. Additional updates will be made by course instructors, clearance to re-entry is made, should this occur.

STORM CLOSURES, POWER OUTAGES, etc.:

In the event of a closure due to weather, power outage, flood, etc., additional information will be released via multiple channels through DaSAFE. Students should download the DaSAFE app and consider subscribing to text alerts as the most efficient way to receive information as things evolve.

Due to the size and complexity of our campus, often first responders cannot find the location they need to respond to. In the event of an emergency, please immediately contact Dalhousie Security at 902-494-4109 (or via the mobile bluelight feature of the DALSAFE mobile app). Dalhousie Security will contact emergency services, and will bring them directly to your location on campus.

· If first aid is required, once Dalhousie Security has been notified you can contact 911 to have them help you with required first aid steps.

· In the event of a fire, please pull the closest fire alarm pull station and exit the facility. Once safely outside, contact Dalhousie Security to inform them of the location and nature of the fire.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

1. Classes will be conducted consistent with the faculty member's Art. 3 rights to academic freedom, including control over the weight given to specific themes, presentation of materials, and assignments, and interventions and participation by students
2. The Professor has an obligation to ensure the curriculum is covered comprehensively, over a range of topics and perspectives, with enough time for all assigned materials and themes.
3. Students have opportunities for participation, appropriately limited by class size and the need for everyone to have an opportunity to earn participation points
4. If students notice omissions, errors, or problems with course slides and lecture or reading material, they should express their concerns to the instructor in writing so that they can be duly considered and addressed.
5. Students are encouraged to work with the Professor to develop projects, essays and research topics consistent with course goals and their interests in diverse elements of the political world.

Article 3: Academic Freedom

3.01 The Parties recognize and affirm that academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of the purpose of Dalhousie University in the search for knowledge and the communication of knowledge to students, colleagues and society at large. The Parties agree that academic freedom carries with it a corresponding responsibility on the part of Members to use their freedom responsibly, with due concern for the rights of others, for the duties appropriate to the Member's university appointment, and for the welfare of society. Academic freedom does not confer legal immunity either inside or outside Dalhousie University, nor does it prevent collective self-governance and peer evaluation as conducted or approved by the Senate or by other academic, research or professional bodies whether within or outside Dalhousie University. Academic freedom does not require neutrality on the part of the individual. Rather, academic freedom makes commitment possible.

3.02 The Parties agree that they will not infringe or abridge the academic freedom of any member of the academic community. Members of the bargaining unit are entitled to freedom, as appropriate to the Member's university appointment, in carrying out research and in publishing the results thereof, freedom of teaching and of discussion, freedom to criticize, including criticism of the Board and the Association, and freedom from institutional censorship.

3.03 Academic freedom, as appropriate to the Member's university appointment, implies protection of Members by the Board and the Association from pressure intended to hinder or prevent them pursuing their scholarly and research interests and communicating the results thereof to students, colleagues and the community at large. The Parties acknowledge this responsibility, whether such pressure emanates from inside or outside the University.