PS 204 Introduction to Comparative Politics  
(On-Line Version)  
Spring 2015  
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Course Description
This course will deepen your understanding of the theory and practice of comparative politics. The textbook will expose you to a variety of viewpoints on some of the most important aspects of political theory, political institutions, actors and political processes from a comparative perspective.

Required Texts
*Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Fourth Edition, by Patrick O’Neil (W.W. Norton & Company) Do NOT purchase older versions of the textbook because it will not prepare you for the quizzes or examinations adequately. The course structure follows that of this required textbook.

Evaluation
All exams will be taken on-line via Blackboard. The exams are all contained within the folder called “Chapter Tests.” This is the last link on the green menu at the upper lefthand side, under “Blackboard Help.”

Your grade for the class will be based on 11 chapter exams, all taken on-line via Blackboard. You will have 30 minutes to take these exams, and you may re-take this exam once, but the questions will be different. These eleven scores will then be averaged.

**THERE IS NO MIDTERM OR FINAL IN THIS CLASS.**

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 110</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A--</td>
<td>90 - 93</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C--</td>
<td>70 - 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B--</td>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 66</td>
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Technological Requirements:

- You will need regular access to a competent computer with web access.
- **No incompletes** can be given for this course due to its web-based nature.
- All exams must be completed by Friday of Finals Week. There are NO extensions given in this course.
- PS 204 cannot be repeated for credit – the traditional lecture course PS 204 and the independent study/distance education course PS 204 are treated as the same course by the Registrar’s office.
- Please email me with any questions from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and I will respond within 24 hours.

**Class Web Sites:**

- **Blackboard:** The Blackboard web site ([https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/](https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/)) is the main web site used for this class. The Grade Center, where you can keep track of your test scores, will also be hosted on Blackboard.
- **W.W. Norton Resources:** Norton has excellent study resources to match this textbook specifically and can be found at: [http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol4/](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol4/). Please utilize this Study Space for practice quizzes, chapter outlines, flash cards, video exercises, and other interactive tools.

**Chapter Exams – all due by Friday of Finals Week, 11:59pm.**

The Chapter Exams can be found in Blackboard under the tab “Chapter Tests.” You will take one exam per chapter. All exams are open book and open notes. The available times for exam attempts are 11 a.m. Sunday to 11 a.m. Monday each week. You may take this exam once, but the questions will be different.
test for each chapter that will cover material in the *Essentials of Comparative Politics* main textbook. These are not proctored, but they are closed book. In order to take them you will need to promise that you are not looking things up in the book, sharing questions or answers with classmates, printing out the exam, or using a exam or exam answers provided by a classmate. **If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the tests will be a zero,** which will make it essentially impossible to pass the class.

You will be given 30 minutes to take each chapter exam. After completing the test, please make sure you press the submit button about 30 seconds before the 30 minute time limit because it takes the system about that long to process your quiz.

You have two attempts to take each test. You will receive the highest grade. You are not required to take the test two times. You must finish the test within the time allotted or you will not get a grade. If for some reason you lose a connection, you can use your second attempt to take the test again.

Please see below Schedule Table for all suggested deadlines. You can take the exams at any time and get ahead in the class. The table below gives you a suggested timeline in order to keep up with the material and the class.

**Note: You have two attempts to take each test, therefore I will not reset tests except on very rare occasion.**

**Online Grade Book Information**

- The Blackboard online grade book will house all your earned grades for the quarter. Blackboard automatically updates your grades after you complete an exam. You need to be very careful while taking the exams. A few common concerns:

- If you see an icon other than a score where your score should be, it means you either went over the time limit while completing the quiz or that the quiz was interrupted. Remember you need to press the “submit” button about 30 seconds before the 30 minute time limit.

- If you see an icon that looks like a padlock, it means that an error occurred while you were taking the quiz and your quiz was interrupted. Usually it means that you lost your Internet connection, accidentally closed the browser window, or some other technical error occurred. Send me an email if you see an icon other than your score and I will fix the problem.