

Online Course Syllabus SOSC 1450 Spring 2021

Course Name: Introduction to Comparative Politics (online)

Course Instructor	Office Hours
Wenfang Tang (唐文方) Email: tangwenfang@ust.hk	Email or appointment
Teaching Assistants: Jun YIN (殷俊): jyinae@connect.ust.hk Mitch Yau TSANG (曾由): mitchtsang@ust.hk	Course Site To access the course site, log into UST Canvas using your username and password.

Academic Course Home

Division of Social Science

Prerequisites

None

Course Goal and Objectives

The goal/purpose of this course is to introduce a set of ideas and concepts that emphasize the common experiences in governance across different societies. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Compare political, social and economic lives in different countries and regions
- Analyze credible empirical evidence
- Broaden and diversify their understanding of different political cultures
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills by challenging the conventional wisdoms

Course Work

This course consists of the following activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the course and instructional modules objectives. In each module, you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

Assignments (File Submission): Students are required to complete several assignments on time (see Course Calendar section below). Instructions are provided in short videos found in the appropriate modules as well as in the respective folder description.

Online Discussions (File Submission): Students are also required to submit written discussions on the assigned topics (see Course Calendar section below). Note that Discussion responses will be submitted via the respective folders under Assignments; topic details are provided in short videos found in the appropriate modules as well as in the respective folder description.

Quizzes: There will be 4 quizzes based on the assigned readings and lectures (see Course Calendar).

Grading Criteria

Grading of the quizzes is based on a curve. The highest score for each quiz will be treated as 15%. A make-up quiz is only allowed if the student presents a doctor's note stating the student's inability to take the quiz during the scheduled time. A make-up quiz will not be graded on a curve. No late written assignment/discussion will be accepted unless there is a doctor's note stating the student's inability to complete the assignment by the due date. Discussions and assignments will not be curved.

Assignments	30%
Online Discussions	10%
Quizzes (15% each x 4)	60%
Total:	<u>100%</u>

Final grades will be awarded based on the following ranges:

A	B	C	D	F
A+ > 97	B+ 89-86	C+ 79-76	D+ 69-66	F < 59
A 96-94	B 85-83	C 75-73	D 65-63	
A- 93-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	D- 62-60	

Course Policies

Attendance

To be considered in attendance students must complete the tasks on time, including discussions, assignments, and quizzes.

Assignment Format

Detailed instructions and requirements for each assignment are provided on the course site under each module.

Communication Policy

We will primarily communicate with students via email, but we will be available for discussion by phone and online. Send personal concerns to us via our personal email addresses and request appointments with us if you prefer to discuss concerns and questions live by phone rather than in an email. Generally, it will take us 24 hours to respond to emails, except on the weekends where it may take up to 48 hours. We will provide feedback on assignment submissions only as needed.

Due Dates & Missed Deadlines

All assignments and discussion comments are:

- Due no later than 11:30 P.M. Hong Kong Time on the dates indicated in the syllabus.
- To be submitted via Canvas Assignments.

Absent instructor's approval, late assignments and discussion comments will not be accepted and the student will receive a 0 for that assignment or discussion. Assignments and discussion comments are graded by their quality.

Academic Fraud

All forms of plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is not his or her own are academic fraud. All academic fraud is reported first to the Division Head and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services. See Academic Misconduct at <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/ug-guide/integrity/dishonesty.html> for the complete policy. Students should be aware that anti-plagiarism tools such as Turn It In, will be used in the course.

Course Calendar

Week 1	Module 1: Introduction
Due: Discussion 1.1 Cultural Biases	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 1 <p>Additional Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is China viewed in America How is America viewed in China
Week 2	Module 2: Comparative Methodology I
Due: Assignment 2.3 Country Level Data Assignment 2.4 Survey Data Presentation	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 2 World Values Survey Website:
Week 3	Module 2: Comparative Methodology II
Due: Assignment 2.5 Operationalization Quiz 1 Due: Assignment 2.7 Measurement Assignment 2.8 Research Question	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 2
Week 4	Module 3: Public Policy
Due: Discussion 3.1 Public Policy Definition Discussion 3.4 Public Policy Indicators Discussion 3.6 Inequality	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapters 5 and 14 <p>Additional Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TED Talk: Richard Wilkinson: How economic inequality harms societies? (2011, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ7LzE3u7Bw)
Week 5	Module 4: Political Economy
Due: Discussion 4.4 Market Failure	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 4 Six types of market failure Solutions to Market Failures
Week 6	Module 5: Political Communication
Quiz 2 Due: Discussion 5.1 Media Control Discussion 5.3 Media Freedom Discussion 5.4 Media and Market	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morozov 2010 Crovitz 2011 Parkinson et. Al 2014 <p>Additional Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who Rules America-The Power of the Media (2013, 25 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yxkXZqs6X4

Week 7	Module 6: Democracy and Authoritarianism I
Due: Discussion 6.2 Authoritarianism	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapters 6 & 7
Week 8	Module 6: Democracy and Authoritarianism II
Due: Discussion 6.4 Subjective Freedom	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapters 6 & 7 Tang 2018 Zane 2015 Freedom House: https://freedomhouse.org/
Week 9	Module 7: Ideology and Political Culture
Due: Assignment 7.5 Civic Culture Discussion 7.6 Clash of Civilizations	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 15 Huntington 1993 Additional Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero (FRONTLINE)
Week 10	Module 8: Nationalism and National State
Quiz 3 Due: Assignment 8.2 Measuring Nationalism Assignment 8.3 Measuring National Power	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapters 3 & 13 Wright 2014 World Development Indicators
Week 11	Module 9: Revolution and Social Movement
Due: Discussion 9.3 Protest in China	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 12 Tang 2012 Additional Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economics of the Arab Spring and Its Aftermath The Rise of ISIS (Frontline)
Week 12	Module 10: Political Participation and Representation
Due: Assignment 10.2 Disproportional Election	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapter 11
Week 13	Module 11: Political Institutions
Due: Discussion 11.1 Institutions Quiz 4	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickovick & Eastwood 2019 chapters 8-12