



## CPO 3003: Comparative Politics Spring 2025

**Professor:** Dr. Roper

**Classroom and Time:** General Classroom Bldg. South, Room 103, T&RF 12:30pm-1:50pm

**Office:** SO 391F

**Office Hours:** T&R 12:00pm-12:30pm and 2:00pm-2:30pm

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**Course Web Page:** [www.stevendroper.com/CPO3003.htm](http://www.stevendroper.com/CPO3003.htm)

### 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 debated in established and newer democracies throughout the world. 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 where you can access the course home page, readings and your grades.

### INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

This course is designated as "in-person" by FAU.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

My course objectives for you include the following:

1. Develop knowledge of concepts, theories and terminology in comparative politics.

2. Understand how institutional choices affect political behavior of elites and voters.
3. Apply theories and concepts discussed to real world scenarios.

## COURSE POLICIES

1. It is not appropriate to come to class late; however if you come to class late, please find a seat near the door.
2. If you need to leave early, please discuss this with me prior to the start of class.
3. 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.

## SELECTED UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE POLICIES

### ACCESSIBILITY POLICY STATEMENT:

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).

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. 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. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

**CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY STATEMENT:**

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 (CAPS) POLICY STATEMENT:**

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>.

**DROPS/WITHDRAWALS:**

Please consult the FAU Registrar FAQ for more information on dropping and/or withdrawing from a course.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:**

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.

**PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university community. Academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they must acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. All written work will be submitted via Turnitin, a tool which assesses the similarity of writing to known source material. I will use this tool and its AI detection function as well as other AI tools to determine if students have engaged in plagiarism either by using material from others or using AI to generate a paper. If I determine that you have engaged in plagiarism based on these tools, you will receive a "0" for the

assignment. Repeated use will result in the use of FAU academic integrity procedures for the course. I take plagiarism very seriously and will be diligent in ensuring the integrity of academic work for the course.

#### **POLICY ON MAKEUP TESTS, LATE WORK AND INCOMPLETES:**

No late work will be accepted. However, students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. Reasonable accommodations will also be made for students participating in a religious observance. Grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

#### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION POLICY STATEMENT:**

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.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING POLICY**

#### **GRADING REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades in the course are based on the following: First, there are three 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. The first two exams are twenty-five questions. The exam lasts twenty-five minutes (from 12:30-12:55) The third exam is fifty questions and lasts fifty minutes (12:30-1:20). I provide a make-up examination

only with a University-approved excuse (please see the FAU policy above). Second 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. Third, 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 ASSESSMENT POINTS:**

Examination 1	50 points
Examination 2	50 points
Examination 3	100 points
Country Constitution	45 points
Constitution Design	50 points
Introduction	5 points
<u>Total</u>	<u>300 points</u>

#### **GRADE SCALE:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage/Points</b>
A	93-100% (279-300)
A-	90-92% (270-278)
B+	88-89% (264-269)
B	83-87% (249-263)
B-	80-82% (240-248)
C+	78-79% (234-239)
C	73-77% (219-233)
C-	70-72% (210-218)
D+	68-69% (204-209)
D	63-67% (189-203)
D-	60-62% (180-188)
F	0-59% (0-179)

## LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Each exam and Canvas assignment has a clearly stated due date and time. You can also see assignment due dates and time in the Canvas Calendar. Each exam and Canvas assignment will close at the stated due date and time. Canvas late submissions will not be possible.

## COURSE READING AND REQUIREMENT OUTLINE

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.

### Section 1:

#### 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.

#### **Examination 1 (Tuesday, 28 January, 12:30pm-12:55pm)**

### Section 2:

#### Unitary and Federal Arrangements:

Omar G. Encarnación. 2023. "Why Separatism Is No Match for Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 35(1):134-146.

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

Scott Mainwaring and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. 2023. "Why Latin America's Democracies Are Stuck." *Journal of Democracy* 34:1 (Jan)156-170.

Sarah Repucci and Amy Slipowitz. 2022. "Authoritarians on Offense." *Journal of Democracy* 33(2):45-59.

#### **Examination 2 (Thursday, 27 February, 12:30pm-12:55pm)**

### Section 3:

#### 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 3 (Tuesday, 15 April, 12:30pm-1:20pm)**

### **Section 4:**

#### Designing a Constitution for Multi-Ethnic Societies (Suggested Readings):

Eduardo Alemán and Patricio Navia. 2023. "Chile's Failed Constitution: Democracy Wins." *Journal of Democracy* 34(2):90-104.

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

Tom Ginsburg and Mila Versteeg. 2023. "The Constitutionalization of Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 34(4):36-50.

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.

Jennifer M. Piscopo and Peter M. Siavelis. 2023. "Chile's Constitutional Chaos." *Journal of Democracy* 34(2): 141-155.

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

**Constitution Assignment for Kerblakistan (Thursday, 24 April by 10:30am)**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Introduction (Monday, 13 January by 11:00am)
- Examination 1 (28 January, 12:30pm-12:55pm)
- Examination 2 (Thursday, 27 February, 12:30pm-12:55pm)
- Country Constitution Assignment (Thursday, 20 March by 11:00am)
- Last Day to Drop the Course with a "W" (Friday, 21 March)
- Examination 3 (Tuesday, 15 April, 12:30pm-1:20pm)
- Constitution Assignment for Kerblakistan (Thursday, 24 April by 10:30am)

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**I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus as necessary.**