

## Course Information

---



### **Comparative Politics (SS)**

POLS 2200-002

Fall 2025

## Course Section Information

---

**Days:** Online

**Time:** Online

**Campus:** Online

**Classroom:** Online

## Course Description

---

The study and comparison of political power, institutions, culture, and patterns of interaction within and across countries. Emphasis is placed on the comparative method; major themes such as the state, nation, nationalism, democracy, and political economy; and how history, identity, and resources shape political interaction and outcomes in a wide range of country cases. Students learn about similarities and differences across countries, and come into contact with cultural and political contexts other than their own.

Semester: All

## Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

---

None

## Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

---

**Authors: Dino Bozanelos et al.**

**Title:** Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu).

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

---

- Articulate the fundamental concepts of comparative politics and apply the primary methods and approaches used by comparativists to analyze political systems.
- Demonstrate the use of the Most Similar System Design (MSSD) and the Most Different System Design (MDSD) techniques by evaluating empirical data in comparative case studies.
- Analyze the causal factors contributing to uneven development, democratic decline, and the influence of identity on political outcomes across different countries.
- Evaluate the behavioral variations among political figures, groups, or countries by identifying and explaining the underlying socio-political that contributed to these differences.
- Locate, assess, and synthesize information from diverse, credible sources to support arguments in comparative politics, adhering to ethical research standards.

## Assignment Schedule

---

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Beginning of Course Survey</a>	Quiz	0

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
8/31/25	<a href="#">Course Introduction Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
8/31/25	<a href="#">Introduction Discussion</a>	Discussion	5
9/4/25	<a href="#">Week 2: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
9/7/25	<a href="#">Week 2: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
9/11/25	<a href="#">Week 3: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
9/14/25	<a href="#">Week 3: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
9/18/25	<a href="#">Week 4: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
9/21/25	<a href="#">Quiz #1</a>	Quiz	60
9/21/25	<a href="#">Week 4: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
9/25/25	<a href="#">Week 5: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
9/28/25	<a href="#">Research Question, Table, and Thesis Statement 1</a>	Assignment	30
9/28/25	<a href="#">Week 5: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
10/2/25	<a href="#">Week 6: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
10/5/25	<a href="#">Week 6: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
10/9/25	<a href="#">Week 7: WRS</a>	Assignment	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/12/25	<a href="#">Comparative Paper #1 - Outline</a>	Assignment	50
10/12/25	<a href="#">Week 7: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
10/16/25	<a href="#">Week 8: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
10/19/25	<a href="#">Week 8: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
10/23/25	<a href="#">Week 10: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
10/26/25	<a href="#">Quiz #2</a>	Quiz	60
10/26/25	<a href="#">Week 10: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
10/30/25	<a href="#">Week 11: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
11/2/25	<a href="#">Comparative Paper #1 - Most Similar Systems Design (Signature Assignment GE)</a>	Assignment	200
11/2/25	<a href="#">Week 11: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
11/6/25	<a href="#">Week 12: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
11/9/25	<a href="#">Week 12: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
11/13/25	<a href="#">Week 13: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
11/16/25	<a href="#">Research Question, Table, and Thesis Statement 2</a>	Assignment	30

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/16/25	<a href="#">Week 13: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
11/20/25	<a href="#">Week 14: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
11/23/25	<a href="#">Comparative Paper #2 - Outline</a>	Assignment	50
11/23/25	<a href="#">Week 14: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
11/27/25	<a href="#">Week 15: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
11/30/25	<a href="#">Quiz #3</a>	Quiz	60
11/30/25	<a href="#">Week 15: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
12/4/25	<a href="#">Week 16: WRS</a>	Assignment	5
12/7/25	<a href="#">Week 16: Critical Thinking Response</a>	Discussion	10
12/8/25	<a href="#">Comparative Paper #2 - Most Different Systems Design (Signature Assignment GE)</a>	Assignment	200
12/8/25	<a href="#">Submit: Course Reflection (GE)</a>	Assignment	35

## Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Weekly Reading Summary (WRS): Each week, after completing the assigned readings, you write and submit a WRS. The WRS is a brief submission (2-3 paragraphs long), and using your own words you will paraphrase the main points of the reading. Do not try to critique or respond to ideas in the text; the goal of the WRS is to summarize and demonstrate an

understanding of the material. WRS's are due every Thursday. While late summaries will be accepted, they will be subject to penalties for every day that they are late.

Critical Thinking Response (CTR): Each week, after reading and watching the assigned material, you will complete a CTR. Each response must be at least two full paragraphs long, engage critically with the questions or theme under study by offering a clear thought and argument, and support the argument with examples or evidence. Additionally, you will need to respond to at least two posts from classmates. Each response to a classmate must be constructive and coherent (no less than 100 words) and add knowledge to the overall discussion. Critical thinking is not only about what you think, but what you think and argue. Thus, the "I agree" type of response will not earn full points.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester you will complete 3 quizzes that closely track the readings and videos shown in the modules (see Modules for quiz schedule details). Each quiz will have 20 multiple-choice questions for a total of 60 points. All 3 quizzes will make up 18% of your final grade. Quizzes are not accumulative. Quizzes will be open for a week so you can complete them at any time and any place within that time-frame. Note, you have 20 minutes to complete the quiz once you start it, so make sure you are prepared before you start.

Research Question, Table, and Thesis Statement 1: This assignment will lead to comparative paper outline 1. Further details are found in the assignment directions.

Research Question, Table, and Thesis Statement 2: This assignment will lead to comparative paper outline 2. Further details are found in the assignment directions.

Comparative Paper Outline 1: The outline will lead to comparative paper 1: Further details are found in the assignment directions.

Comparative Paper Outline 2: The outline will lead to comparative paper 2. Further details are found in the assignment directions.

Comparative Papers x 2: Throughout the course you will write two Comparative Papers. Each paper needs to be about 5-7 pages long (double space). Your first paper will compare a comparative theme across two cases using the Most Similar System Design (MSSD) technique and your second paper will compare a comparative theme across to cases using the Most Different System Design (MDSD) technique. Each paper is worth 200

points and both papers make up 40% of your final grade. More information will be given to you in class throughout the semester.

## Grading Scale

---

### Grading & Assignments

Your final grade for this class will be calculated as follows:

Comparative Papers x2: 400 points

Weekly Reading Summaries WRS: 70 points

Critical Thinking Responses CTR: 140 points

Quizzes x3: 180 points

Research Statements x2: 60 points

Research Outline x2: 100 points

Intro Discussion and Quiz: 15 points

Course Reflection: 35 points

---

Total Points: 1000

A 100 - 93%

A- 92 - 90%

B+ 89 - 87%

B 86 - 83%

B- 82 - 80%

C+ 79 - 77%

C 76 - 73%

C- 72 - 70%

D+ 69 - 67%

D 66 - 63%

D- 62 - 60%

E 59 - 0%

## Engagement Plan

---

- I will do my best to respond to email within 24-48 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments within one week of the assignment due date. The best way to contact me is through Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.
- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.

## Additional Materials

---

All the necessary learning materials are included on the weekly modules in Canvas course page.

## How to Navigate to Canvas

---

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload



assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

## General Education Information

---

SS

This course fulfills the above requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

## How to Succeed in the Course

---

Educational research suggests that learning is more than just reading materials from a book and watching videos on your own; it happens through discussions and working collaboratively in groups. Online learning communities are an excellent space for these learning experiences to happen.

In this course, you are part of a learning community, which means that you and your classmates will work together to make meaning of the ideas that you are learning as you make a commitment to initiate conversations, respect your peers, and engage in the material.

## Course Content Advisory

---

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

## Institutional Policies

---

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

---

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Online Tutoring

---

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:

<https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx>

If you have any additional questions reach out to [elarningsupport@slcc.edu](mailto:elarningsupport@slcc.edu).

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

---

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

# Comparative Politics (SS)

POLS - 2200 002

## Student Academic Calendar

---

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)