



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Comparative Politics
Fall 2024

General Information

Course & Section #	POLS 3351-001
Term & Years	Fall 2024
Course Schedule	Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:15pm
Course Location	Senator Frank L Madla 210

Instructor Information

Name and Title	Dr. Daniel Braaten Associate Professor of Political Science
E-mail	dbraaten@tamusa.edu
Phone Number	210-784-2276
Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am-11:00am
Office Location	Central Academic Building, Office 347-C

Course Overview

The structures, functions and processes of selected political systems.

Student Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to assist students in demonstrating basic knowledge of comparative politics. Specifically, students should be able to illustrate the following outcomes based on successful completion of this course:

1. Understand the basic concepts of comparative politics
2. Understand the comparative method for analyzing politics

Required Course Materials

Essentials of Comparative Politics 8th edition – Patrick H. O’Neil

Course Requirements

Homework Assignments – There are four homework assignments in this course. The assignments will involve some level of data analysis related to topics covered in class. Each assignment is worth 40 points and due dates are scheduled in the syllabus (160 points total)

Quizzes – There are __ weekly quizzes in this course. Each quiz will cover the chapter for that week. Each quiz is worth 12 points with 1 point per question. The quizzes are taken through blackboard, are timed, and are available from Thursday after class to Friday at 11:59pm. Students are to work on the quizzes on their own. I will drop the two lowest quiz scores and there are not make up quizzes available (total points)

Exams – There are two exams in this course – a midterm and final exam. The midterm will be worth 100 points and the final will be worth 150 points. Both exams will be a

combination of multiple choice and short answer and will be given in class. (250 total points)

Participation - A combination of in class and online discussions and activities. (100 total points)

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend every class. If a student is unable to attend class, they should notify the Professor as soon as possible.

Electronics Policy

Students can use laptops and/or tablets in class if they feel they are helpful for their educational experience. However, as the instructor I reserve the right to tell students to stop using them if I feel they are causing a distraction to myself or the rest of the class. I prefer that student put their phones away for the duration of the in person portion of the class.

Make-Up Assignments

I will accept late homework assignments up to one week after the original deadline. Additionally, I will not extend the due dates for assignments. I will not allow make up quizzes or exams except in cases of legitimate excuses (e.g. illness, family emergency, school sponsored event)

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

The faculty of the Department of Arts and Sciences expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion- the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the College. Students are expected to do their own course work. Cheating or plagiarism by an individual student will result in a grade of F on the particular paper or in the course.

Prohibited Conduct

All forms of prohibited conduct are outlined in the TAMU-SA student handbook. In addition, guidelines and procedures for handling instances of student misconduct are contained therein, which can be viewed on line at:

<http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/studenthandbook.html>.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Week	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings	Assignments due
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Week 1 (8/27, 8/29)	Intro to Class	Syllabus	No Assignments due
Week 2 (9/3, 9/5)	Politics	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 1	Quiz #1 due on 9/6 at 11:59pm
Week 3 (9/10, 9/12)	States	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 2	Quiz #2 due on 9/13 at 11:59pm
Week 4 (9/17, 9/19)	Nations and Society	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 3	Quiz #3 due on 9/20 at 11:59pm/ Homework Assignment #1 due on 9/22 at 11:59pm
Week 5 (9/24, 9/26)	Political Economy	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 4	Quiz #4 due on 9/27 at 11:59pm
Week 6 (10/1, 10/3)	Democratic Regimes	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 5	Quiz #5 due on 10/4 at 11:59pm
Week 7 (10/8, 10/10)	Non-Democratic Regimes	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 6	Quiz #6 due on 10/11 at 11:59pm/ Homework Assignment #2 due on 10/13 at 11:59pm
Week 8 (10/15, 10/17)	Mid-Term Exam	No Reading Assignment	Mid Term Exam on 10/17
Week 9 (10/22, 10/24)	Political Violence	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 7	Quiz #7 due on 10/25 at 11:59pm
Week 10 (10/29, 10/31)	Developed Democracies	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 8	Quiz #8 due on 11/1 at 11:59pm
Week 11 (11/5, 11/7)	Communist & Post-Communist Countries	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 9	Quiz #9 due on 11/8 at 11:59pm/ Homework Assignment #3 due on 11/10 at 11:59pm

Week 12 (11/12, 11/14)	Developing Countries	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 10	Quiz #10 due on 11/15 at 11:59pm
Week 13 (11/19, 11/21)	Globalization	<i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> Chapter 11	Quiz #11 due on 11/22 at 12:30pm
Week 14 (11/26, 11/28)	Thanksgiving	No Reading Assignment	No Assignments due
Week 15 (12/3, 12/5)	Homework Assignment #4/ Final Exam Review	No Reading Assignment	Homework Assignment #4 due on 12/6 at 11:59pm
Week 16 (12/10)	Final Exam	No Reading Assignment	Final Exam on 12/10 from 2:00-3:50pm

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

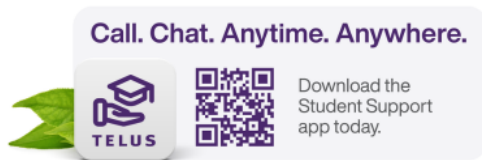
Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio

employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

POLS 3351 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity

Important Dates:

<u>August 26</u>	<u>First day of class</u>
<u>September 2</u>	<u>Labor Day Holiday</u>
<u>November 11</u>	<u>Last day to drop with an automatic "W"</u>

<u>November 19</u>	<u>Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University</u>
<u>November 27</u>	<u>Study Day – No classes</u>
<u>November 28-30</u>	<u>Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes</u>
<u>December 5</u>	<u>Last day of classes</u>
<u>December 6</u>	<u>Study Day – No classes</u>
<u>December 7-13</u>	<u>Final exams</u>

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

