

AGU Department of Political Science and International Relations

POLS 312 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

INSTRUCTOR RECORD

Name	Gökten Doğangün
Email	gokten.dogangun@agu.edu.tr
Office Phone	
Office Hours	Wednesdays by appointment

COURSE RECORD

Code	POLS
Name	Comparative Government
Hour per week	3 (3+0)
Credit	3
ECTS	5
Level/Year	Undergraduate
Semester	Spring 2026
Type	Compulsory
Classroom	Tuesday 11:00-11:45 @FOD01 Thursday 14:00-14:45 @FOD11
Prerequisites	None
Special Conditions	You should have access to CANVAS and MTeams
Webpage	For this course, I will be using the CANVAS Course Website. You will access the course syllabus, materials, links to related websites, assignments, and articles through CANVAS. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly. Information about exams and assignment grades will also be available at this site.
Content	This course introduces the students with case study examples of functioning political systems of varying types and dispositions in the contemporary world. We shall acquaint ourselves with some fundamentally important terms and concepts commonly referred to in the analysis of politics, such as: federal systems, centralist systems, parliamentary and presidential systems, executive government, political processes, democratic systems, pressure politics and lobbyists, and so forth. Our case study countries will be the USA, the United Kingdom, France and Russia. These have been selected to offer a representative sample of the diverse ways in which political systems are constituted and the diverse ways in which they function. We shall be spending two weeks on each of our case studies. We firstly consider the historical development of the state in question in order to show how we have 'arrived' at particular institutional and constitutional arrangements and practical conditions. We then turn in the second part of the case study topic to consider exactly how the political system is constituted and operates, as we might observe it today.
Objectives	At the end of the term, the students will O1: Learn central concepts, themes and discussions about a variety of political systems and institutions; O2: Become familiar with the historical development of selected cases as examples of main political systems and understand the institutional design of democratic and authoritarian regimes; O3: Develop skills to utilize major concepts, themes and debates of Comparative Government in analyzing current political and social events surrounding them; O4: Develop skills of systematic engagement and writing of weekly synopsis related to course material.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of the course, students will: LO 1: Learn the basic concepts, themes and discussions used in analyzing political systems;

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LO 2: Understand and critically examine the depth of interactions between the institutional design of political state and its implications on the nature of regime;
LO 3: Establish a foundation for future courses within the field of Political Science;
LO 4: Learn the historical traditions and institutions of USA, UK, France and Russia as examples of main political systems.

ETHICAL RULES AND COURSE POLICY

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| Course Policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The language of communication is English during instruction hours.• Lecture notes and slides will be kept private. I want to encourage students to be active listeners, meaning students should take notes and ask questions if there is anything that they do not understand.• The course readings will be weekly uploaded on Canvas. The students are expected to read and think about the assigned material before the sessions. |
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| Attendance Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class attendance is mandatory. At least 70% attendance is required. Failing to have at least 70% attendance will result in NA.• Participation to the class discussions is a requirement. Please beware that participation does not mean simply being present in the classroom or “attendance” although it requires your presence in the classroom. By participation, we refer to active and thoughtful engagement with the course material. |
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For a detailed description of AGU attendance policy, please refer to the website at <https://goo.gl/HbPM2y> section 25.

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| Email Policy | When contacting the instructor, please use AGU email. Please do not use other means, such as Canvas, to reach me. Any announcements or warnings will be sent to your AGU e-mail. Therefore, it is your responsibility to read his/her AGU e-mails regularly. |
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AGU webmail can be accessed through <https://mail.agu.edu.tr>

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| Cheating & Plagiarism | The University regards cheating and plagiarism and other instances of academic malpractice with the utmost seriousness. You are responsible for knowing the University policies on cheating and plagiarism. Not giving credit to a person for their intellectual work and passing it off as your own is stealing. |
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Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work as your own. Work means any intellectual output, and typically includes text (including lecture notes and handouts) data, images, sound or performance, or any combination of these. The significance of plagiarism is that assessments are only of any use if the work you submit is your own: to present the work of others is dishonest. You may use information that you gather from journals, books, the internet, websites, lectures or other teaching sessions, contact with others, etc., but it must always be properly attributed, and all sources used must be referenced (including lecture notes and handouts). Failure to attribute material which is not your own will be regarded as plagiarism, for which the University imposes strict penalties. All cases of plagiarism and cheating in coursework are reported to the University.

For a detailed description of AGU policies, please refer to the website at <https://goo.gl/FjLhzH>

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| AI Policy | AI can be used for certain tasks but their use must align with academic integrity and ethical considerations. Below are key guidelines for responsibly incorporating AI into your studies. AI can assist with research, brainstorming, summarization, |
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and editing but should not replace critical thinking or original work. AI-generated content may contain biases, inaccuracies, or outdated information. It is your responsibility to verify facts from credible sources.

Acceptable Uses:

- Generating ideas and outlines for essays and projects.
- Clarifying concepts and summarizing complex topics.
- Proofreading and improving writing structure.

Unacceptable Uses:

- Submitting AI-generated content as your own work (plagiarism).
- Using AI for assignments, including group work, debate activity and in-class activities.
- Relying on AI-generated citations without checking their validity.
- Automating exam answers or assessments.

Your use of AI tools must be appropriately documented and cited to stay within AGU's policies on academic honesty. Submitting AI-generated work without identifying it as such will violate AGU's Academic Integrity Policy. If uncertain about AI usage in coursework, consult your professor or university policies. A lack of compliance with course expectations regarding AI usage may negatively impact assignments or course grades.

ASSESSMENT

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)	Dates
Final Exam	37%	TBA
Midterm	30%	April 7
In-Class Activities	33%	Weekly

ASSESSMENT POLICY

Midterm and Final Exam	The questions in both mid-term and final examinations aim to test student's comprehension of concepts and issues that are discussed during the lectures and required readings. In the exams, students are expected to provide the core concepts and engage in a structured argumentation. Therefore, students are expected to give a thoughtful consideration the required readings.
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The exams will consist of short answers and essay-type questions. The final exam will include the topics covered since the beginning of the semester.

You must take the mid-term and/or final exam unless you have a proper excuse (i.e., medical condition). Failing to take final exam without an official document (i.e. health report) will result in NA.

For the AGU Make-up policy, please refer to the website <https://goo.gl/HbPM2y> section 26.

In-Class Activities	Students are expected to participate into in-class activities throughout the semester. The in-class activities will be based on opinion pieces (op-eds) related to the week's theme, role-playing scenarios and discussions in small groups. The instructor will select the relevant activity according to the week's theme.
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For op-eds, students are expected to critically engage with the material and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments.

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For role-playing scenarios, students take on the roles of key political actors or institutions and negotiate or argue policy decisions based on the country's system.

For small group discussions, students are expected to analyze one country's political system and comparing it to another.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

W	Date	Topic
1	Feb 17-19	Introduction
2	Feb 24-26	Political Systems and Institutions I: Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop and John McCormick, <i>Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction</i> . MacMillan 11th Edition (2019). Chapter 7: Constitutions and Courts Chapter 8: Executives
3	Marc 3-5	Political Systems and Institutions I: Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop and John McCormick, <i>Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction</i> . MacMillan 11th Edition (2019). Chapter 9: Legislatures Chapter 10: Bureaucracies
4	Marc 10-12	Political Institutions and Institutions III: Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop and John McCormick, <i>Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction</i> . MacMillan 11th Edition (2019). Chapter 11: Sub-national Governments Chapter 15: Elections Chapter 18: Interest Groups
5	Mar 17-19	Spring Break
6	Mar 24-26	The Making of American State Alexander Hamilton, James Madison & John Jay, <i>The Federalist Papers</i> (1787-88), https://news.freelysocial.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/The-Federalist-Papers.pdf Greene, Jack P. (2000) "The American Revolution", <i>The American Historical Review</i> , Vol. 105, No. 1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 93- 102 Charles Hauss, "The United States," in <i>Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges</i> , Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.48-67 (Chapter 3). Austin Ranney and Thad Kousser, "Politics in the United States," in <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View</i> , Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), 2008, pp.712-754 (Chapter 19).
7	Mar 31-Apr 2	American Presidentialism Linz, Juan J. (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 1(1), 51-69.

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Charles Hauss, "The United States," in *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.48-67 (Chapter 3).

Austin Ranney and Thad Kousser, "Politics in the United States," in *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), 2008, pp.712-754 (Chapter 19).

8	Apr 7	Mid-term	No class on April 9
9	Apr 14-16	The Making of State in Great Britain	
		Pincus, S. (2003) The Glorious Revolution, <i>History Compass</i> 1, BI 003, 1–6. Charles Hauss, "Great Britain," in <i>Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges</i>, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.68-103 (Chapter 4). Richard Rose, "Politics in England," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strom (Eds.), <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View</i>, 2008, pp.152-201 (Chapter 8).	
10	Apr 21-23	British Parliamentary System	
		Lijphart, Arend. (1999) Chapter 2: The Westminster Model of Democracy, in <i>Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries</i>, pp. 9-29. Charles Hauss, "Great Britain," in <i>Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges</i>, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.68-103 (Chapter 4). Richard Rose, "Politics in England," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strom (Eds.), <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View</i>, 2008, pp.152-201 (Chapter 8).	
11	Apr 28-30	The Making of State in France from the Revolution to Fifth Republic	
		Sée, Henri (1991) "The Economic and Social Origins of the French Revolution", <i>The Economic History Review</i>, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Jan., 1931), pp. 1-15. Charles Hauss, "France," in <i>Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges</i>, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.104-139 (Chapter 5). Martin A. Schain, "Politics in France," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View</i>, 2008, pp. 202-255 (Chapter 9).	
12	May 5-7	Semi-Presidential System in France	
		Duverger, Maurice. (1980). "A New Political System Model: Semi-Presidential Government", <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>, 8(2), 165-187. Charles Hauss, "France," in <i>Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges</i>, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.104-139 (Chapter 5). Martin A. Schain, "Politics in France," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), <i>Comparative Politics Today: A World View</i>, 2008, pp. 202-255 (Chapter 9).	
13	May 12-14	Transition to Post-Soviet State in Russia	

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Archie Brown, Chapter 29 "What Caused the Collapse of Communism?", in *The Rise and Fall of Communism* (Harper Collins, 2009), 587-602.

Thomas F. Remington, "Politics in Russia," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 2008, pp.358-405 (Chapter 12).

Charles Hauss, "Russia," in *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.220-259 (Chapter 9).

14	May 19-21	Semi-Presidential System of Russian Federation
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Sarah Whitmore, "'Parliamentary Oversight in Putin's Neo-Patrimonial State: Watchdogs or Show-Dogs?'" *Europe-Asia Studies* 62 (August 2010), 999–1025.

Thomas F. Remington, "Politics in Russia," in Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom (Eds.), *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 2008, pp.358-405 (Chapter 12).

Charles Hauss, "Russia," in *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, Charles Hauss, USA: Wadsworth, 2009, pp.220-259 (Chapter 9).

15	May 26-28	National Holiday
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16	June 2-4	Final Review
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