POL 103  
Politics of the World’s Nations  
MWF 1:20-2:30  
208, Barstow Building

Instructor: Dr. Won Deuk Cho  
Office: 206A, BA Building  
Email: wcho@carrollu.edu  
Office Hours: MF 9:15-10:15 am, 12:00-1:00 pm or by appointment

**Course Description:**
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main issues of comparative politics, one of the four major sub-fields of political science. Comparative politics examines the world's different political systems by comparing and contrasting various aspects of them, and by seeking generalizations about them. In this course we will examine a broad spectrum of countries taken from several different regions of the world. In employing this comparative approach we will focus on issues such as government structures and institutions, democratization, political economy, political violence, national identity, and how these phenomena vary across different regions and countries.

**Course Objectives:**
At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the various theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches used by comparative politics scholars to describe and predict political events and outcomes.  
   Assessment: Class discussion, Assignment, Exams.
2. Recognize and be able to describe of the various political institutions, both formal and informal, found across different regions and countries.  
   Assessment: Class Discussion, Exams.
3. Understand and explain, by providing examples of, those influential periods of history and events which impact and shape contemporary global politics.

**Required Texts:**
The following materials are **required** and will be used extensively through the course:  

Other, shorter readings listed below are on **MY COURSE**.

The required books are available at the university bookstore. All students will be expected to have the materials in a timely fashion so to be able to read, discuss, and complete course assignments.

**Coursework and Grading:**

**Examinations (300 points):** There will be three exams for this course. These exams will require students to incorporate classroom lectures, discussions and the assigned
readings in developing their answers. Students will be expected to utilize appropriate concepts, ideas, and terms learned about comparative politics during the semester. NOT Cumulative!

**Country News Journal Project (100 points):** At beginning of the semester each student will draw a country from a list generated by the instructor. For the country drawn, the student will be required to develop a country journal where they find **three news stories** every week dealing with the domestic political environment of that country and providing a brief electronically **ten times** over the course of the semester.

**Country Policy Paper (50 points):** Utilizing their country journal, each student will write a 6 to 8 page reaction paper highlighting what issues pose the biggest political challenges for their country and, in using what they have learned from the class, discuss possible policy solutions that could be implemented to solve or alleviate these problems.

**Class Participation (50 points):** Class participation is more than attendance. Students must keep in mind that active and thoughtful participation is dependent on reading the assigned material before coming to class. Students will be called upon and expected to respond demonstrating that they have read and understood the material assigned.

Grading Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country news journal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country policy paper</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>89-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>79-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER POLICIES AND IMPORTANT ISSUES**

1. **Academic Honesty.** Anyone caught cheating on any test, assignment points will be given an F for the course. Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating. To avoid the nasty consequences of cheating, follow these simple rules. If you use more than three of someone else’s words in the exact order of the original source, put quotation marks around it and say where you got it. If you use someone else’s ideas, give the original source the credit. If you use someone else’s paper, old test or old assignment, don’t turn it in. Instead, tear it up and do your own work before you find yourself deeply regretting your decision.

2. **Participation.** Come to class, ask questions in class, and offer your opinions in class. If speaking up in class makes you nervous, don’t feel bad. Most people have a very hard time
at first, but it gets easier. College is a great time to practice. If you are terrified of being called on, come see me individually, and I will try not to call on you until you are more comfortable later in the semester.

3. Averting Trouble. If you find yourself having trouble in the class, come see me as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the less likely that the situation can be resolved in a positive way before the end of the semester.

4. Announcements. Students are responsible for announcements made in class and decisions made by the class, even if they are not present the day the announcement or decision is made.

5. Absence. If a student is missing from class, the absence is considered unexcused unless 1) arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the absence (this means more than just announcing you will be gone) or 2) the absence was caused by a documented emergency.

6. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave class immediately. Disruptive behavior consists of, among other things, frequent talking with other students during lectures and presentations, doing homework for other classes or reading for other classes while in class, and electronic noises.

7. Turn off all phones and other electronic devices prior to entering the classroom. If you have an electronic device that emits noise during class (even an audible “vibration”), you will be asked to leave, no excuses and no exceptions. Feel free to miss a class or two if you have an emergency and need to be in telephone contact with others. If it is impossible for you to attend class periods without your cell phone on you should not take this course and you should reconsider education as a priority in your life. **If I see anyone texting during class, you will be asked to leave.**

8. Turning in assignments. Assignments are due at the specified time. After that they will be penalized a full letter grade for each day they are late. Students are required to retain a copy either on disk or as hard copy for all written assignments. If asked, students should be able to produce this backup copy promptly. This policy is intended to eliminate conflicts over whether a paper was misplaced or not turned in. All papers and other assignments that are to be turned in are to be turned in in hard copy, not electronically unless so specified.

9. Taking exams. There are NO make up exams. If you miss the exam, you miss the exam. In the case of the exams (midterm and final), if you miss taking them when they are scheduled, you will fail the class, as I note above, all coursework must be completed to pass the course. Students may not “play the percentages,” leaving some items of required work undone in the hope that their grades on others will still allow them to pass. Any exam not taken or journal not completed will result in a failing grade.

10. Failure to regularly attend class may also result in a failing grade in the class. If you miss more than half the class meetings for the semester, you will fail the class. If you miss a substantial number of class meetings, you may likely fail the class. If there is some reason you are missing a lot of classes, it is wise to let me know as soon as you know. Come to class, come to class prepared, having done the assigned reading and with questions about what you don’t understand.
11. Lectures and discussion will incorporate reading assignments and online assignments. The reading will complement the lectures/discussions and lectures and discussion will highlight important aspects of the readings and assignments. Not all aspects of the readings or assignments will be discussed in class, you are still responsible for doing the readings and completing all the assignments.

MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC HONESTY
The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment and/or failure in the course. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. If you have questions, please ask.

I encourage you to discuss the issues we are considering with your classmates and friends, but you must do your own work on your exams, in your journals, and in other assignments we have for this class that are not group projects.

If you have any questions about what might constitute plagiarism, you should consult with any writing reference source, such as Kate Turabian’s Manual for Writers, the Everyday Writer, the MLA Style Manual, etc. If these guides do not make sense to you, please come and speak with me and we can hopefully clarify any confusion. You can also ask for assistance from writing tutors in the Writing Center/Learning Commons. Asserted ignorance of those rules will not excuse any student who subsequently violates them, so read the rules and review them prior to writing assignments as necessary. The penalty for plagiarism can include Failure in the course and a report placed in your permanent file with the university.

FYI:
Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at mbledsoe@carrollu.edu.

Be Advised
The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program requires.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
Abbreviations:
MC=reading posted on My Course

PART I:
Introduction and Structural/Functional Theoretical Framework

WEEK 1 (Jan. 25, 27) – Course Overview & Issues & Problems in Comparative Politics
Required Readings:  POL103 Syllabus
Comparative Politics Today, chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4.

WEEK 2 (Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3) – System, Process, and Policy
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 5, 6, and 7

PART II: Advanced/Developed Countries

WEEK 3 (Feb. 6, 8, 10) – Britain
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapter 8
Discussion Readings: Moore, “England and the Contributions of Violence to Gradualism” (MC)

WEEK 4 (Feb. 13, 15) – France
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapter 9
Discussion Readings: Reynie, “Heritage Populism and France’s National Front” (MC)
Giry, “France and Its Muslims” (MC)

FEB. 17 – EXAM #1

WEEK 5 (Feb. 20, 22, 24) – Germany
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 10
Discussion Readings: Lochocki, “Will the German Center Hold?” (MC)

WEEK 6 (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3) – Japan
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 11
Discussion Readings: TBA

PART III: Developing Countries

WEEK 7 (Mar. 6, 8, 10) – Russia
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 12
Pavlosky, “Russian Politics Under Putin: The System Will Outlast the Master” (MC)
Lipman, “How Putin Silences Dissent: Inside the Kremlin’s Crackdown” (MC)

Spring Break (Mar. 13, 15, 17) – No Class

WEEK 8 (Mar. 20, 22, 24) – China
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 13

MARCH 27 – EXAM #2

WEEK 9 (Mar. 27, 29, 31) – Mexico
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 14
Discussion Readings:
- Holzner. "Authoritarian Legacies and Democratic Consolidation in Mexico" (MC)
- Flores-Macias. "Mexico's Stalled Reforms" (MC)

WEEK 10 (Apr. 3, 7) – Brazil
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 15
Discussion Readings:
- Timothy J. 2010. “Democratic Brazil as a Late Bloomer: Reevaluating the Regime in the Cardoso- Lula Era” (MC)
- Economist, “Trouble for Temer: Brazil’s president weathers multiple Storms” (MC)

NO CLASS – Apr. 5: International Conference on Korean Studies (UWM)

WEEK 11 (Apr. 10, 12) – Iran
Required Readings: Comparative Politics Today, chapters 16
Discussion Readings:
- Milani, “Iran’s Paradoxical Regime” (MC)
- TBA

April 14 – No class (Good Friday)
WEEK 12 (Apr. 17, 19, 21) – India
   Required Readings:  *Comparative Politics Today*, chapters 17
   Discussion Readings:  TBA

WEEK 13 (Apr. 24, 26, 28) – Nigeria
   Required Readings:  *Comparative Politics Today*, chapters 18
   Discussion Readings:  TBA

WEEK 14 (May 1, 3) – Make up and Exam Review

# Policy Paper due: May 1 in class

## (FINAL) EXAM 3– May 8, Monday, 2:00 pm