



# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Course Number</b> POL 225	<b>Course Title</b> Comparative Government		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b> x	<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>Year</b> 2012-2013
<b>Name of Instructor</b> Chad Rector			
<b>Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Mondays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Gailhac Hall, Room G205			
<b>Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Monday May 6, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., Rowley G205			
<b>Office Hours, Location, Phone</b> Ireton G108, Mon/Thu 10-10:50 and 1-1:50 and many other times, see below			
<b>E-mail</b> crector@marymount.edu   worldpolitics.marymount.edu/380   www.chadrector.net/m			

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### Academic Integrity

By accepting this syllabus, you pledge to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Marymount University Community. You agree to observe these principles yourself and to defend them against abuse by others.

### Special Needs and Accommodations

Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester. If you seek accommodation based on disabilities, you should provide a Faculty Contact Sheet obtained through the Office of Student Access Services, located in Rowley Hall.

### Access to Student Work

Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will be submitted anonymously.

### Student Copyright Authorization

For the benefit of current and future students, work in this course may be used for educational critique, demonstrations, samples, presentations, and verification. Outside of these uses, work shall not be sold, copied, broadcast, or distributed for profit without student consent.

### University Policy on Snow Closings

Snow closings are generally announced on area radio stations. For bulletins concerning Marymount snow or weather closings, call (703) 526-6888. Unless otherwise advised by radio announcement or by official bulletins on the number listed above, students are expected to report for class as near normal time as possible on days when weather conditions are adverse. Decisions as to snow closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 5:00 AM of the working day. Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.

## BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

An introduction to the workings of politics inside countries other than the United States and an examination of the main conceptual approaches to understanding authority, institutions, and political change.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key recurring patterns in comparative politics,
2. Interpret new or ongoing political events and transformations abroad in light of general theories of comparative government, and
3. Research and write competently in preparation for upper-division coursework.

## TEACHING METHOD

Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion; student participation is a requirement. I expect you to form study groups that meet regularly. A requirement of the course is that you attend at least one one-on-one meeting with me and at least two study-group meetings with me before the end of the semester.

Talk with me in person in my office, Ireton G108:

- During my fixed office hours (on days the University holds classes). No need to make an appointment during these times:
  - Mondays 10:00 to 10:50 and 1:00 to 1:50
  - Thursdays, 10:00 to 10:50 and 1:00 to 1:50
- Or, during my rotating office hours, in which I am available at least four hours a week on different days. Make an appointment by choosing one of the open slots [on this calendar](#). (Linked to QR code on right. You must be logged in to gmail or Marymount email. Scroll to the right to see future weeks.)



Feel free to email me with questions or concerns.

## GRADING POLICY

February 8 is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic record. March 15 is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

Course grades will be based on a weighted average of the following:

- Three exams. 15% each, 45% total. February 28, April 11, and May 6. Each exam consists of two parts: 5 short-answer identification questions worth 2% each (choose 5 out of 8) and 1 short essay question worth 5% (choose 1 out of 2). Students who miss exams will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process.
- Four short papers due February 3, February 17, March 26, and April 23. 10% each. Each student's highest-scoring paper will count for double. 50% total. The specific assignments will be posted online three weeks before each due date. Papers will be at least 2 pages long, double-spaced, with standard font and margins. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. Papers are due at midnight the evening of the due date, and will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late.
- Class participation. 5%. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings and apply them to contemporary issues. You may also earn extra credit for sustained contributions to discussion.

Extra credit:

- Extra credit games. We will play several games in class over the semester. Students who are in class will receive extra credit points which can significantly improve final course grade, depending on how they do in the game. Games will not be announced ahead of time, cannot be made up, and will not be held on recognized religious holidays.
- DC event. 5% for a first DC event and 3% for a second; 1% for an event on campus. Attend an event in the DC area on any subject related to world politics, broadly defined, and write a blog post summarizing your experience. Specific instructions about attending and reporting on events are at [worldpolitics.marymount.edu/blog](http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/blog). Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. You will receive 5 extra credit points for one event and post, and 3 points for a second. Students enrolled in POL 355 and/or POL 380 the same semester as 225 must choose which course to apply the points toward, since an event may only count for one of the courses. All events must be completed by Tuesday April 30 and blog posts submitted for final approval by Friday May 3. (Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.) Students may get an additional 1% for attending and summarizing one relevant event on campus, such as the Interfaith Forum (March 20).

Some additional mandatory course requirements do not count for any points:

- Assignments for study group and one-on-one meetings. You must meet with me in my office at least once one-on-one during the semester and at least twice as part of a study group. At these meetings, you must bring a completed assignment. I will post specifics for the assignments in advance. If the assignment is incomplete, you will need to meet with me again to complete it properly. Failure to complete any one of these assignments will result in automatic failure of the course.
  - One-on-one meeting: an outline of a short paper you plan to write for one of the paper assignments, including source references, a thesis statement, and a summary of each contributing fact and idea. You must schedule this one-on-one meeting with me prior to the due date for any one of the first three paper assignments.
  - First group meeting: a complete outline of a chapter from the textbook. This must be completed by February 25.
  - Second group meeting: a complete set of notes from one class session. This must be completed by April 8.
- Class attendance. Any student who misses 7 or more class sessions will automatically fail the course. Students will not be penalized for missing a class for a recognized religious holiday.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

All readings are from the textbook, *Comparative Politics* by David Samuels. Assigned readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Following the Marymount calendar, class will meet on Tuesday April 2 (all Monday classes will meet that day); on April 2 our class will meet together with IS 200 in Rowley G127.

### Part 1: Basic Institutions and Processes

Monday, January 14 – Introduction and overview

Thursday, January 17 – Theory and evidence  
Reading: Chapter 1

Thursday, January 24 – The study of international affairs

Monday, January 28 – Violence and Order  
Reading: Start Chapter 2

Thursday, January 31 – States  
Reading: Finish Chapter 2

(Sunday, February 3: Paper #1 due: State and Society in Cuba)

Monday, February 4 – Learning Social Science

Thursday, February 7 – Representation  
Reading: Start Chapter 3

Monday, February 11 - Institutions

Thursday, February 14 - Voting  
Reading: Finish Chapter 3

(Sunday, February 17: Paper #2 due: Ecuadorian/Italian elections)

Monday, February 18 - Coercion  
Reading: Start Chapter 4

Thursday, February 21 - Authoritarianism  
Reading: Finish Chapter 4

Monday, February 25 - Review

Thursday, February 28 - First Exam

Spring Break

Part 2: State and Society

Monday, March 11 - Regime Change  
Reading: Start Chapter 5

Thursday, March 14 - Social activism and mobilization  
Reading: Finish Chapter 5

Monday, March 18 - Identity  
Reading: Start Chapter 6

Thursday, March 21 - Politics and identity claims  
Reading: Finish Chapter 6

Monday, March 25 - Identity and representation

(Tuesday, March 26: Paper #3 due: Scotland/Quebec regionalism)

Easter Break

Tuesday, April 2 – Gender and Politics  
Reading: Chapter 8  
Class meets concurrent with IS 200, Approaches to Gender and Society  
in Rowley Hall G127, at the usual time, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 4 - Religion and Politics  
Reading: Chapter 7

Monday, April 8 - Review

Thursday, April 11 - Second Exam

### Part 3: Large-scale change

Monday, April 15 - Collective action  
Reading: Chapter 10

Thursday, April 18 - Political Violence  
Reading: Chapter 10

Monday, April 22 - Development  
Reading: Start Chapter 11

(Tuesday, April 23: Paper #4 due: Syrian Civil War)

Thursday, April 25 - Politics and Economics  
Reading: Finish Chapter 11

Monday, April 29 - Redistribution  
Reading: Chapter 12

Thursday, May 2 - Review

Monday, May 6, 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Third Exam

### REQUIRED TEXT

Samuels, David. 2013. *Comparative Politics*. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-321-44974-0.