



# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences  
2015-16

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Course Number</b> POL 103	<b>Course Title</b> Comparative Politics		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b> 2016	<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b> 3
<b>Name of Instructor</b> Chad Rector			
<b>Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesday, Friday 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., Rowley Hall, Room G205			
<b>Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesday, May 3, noon – 2:30 p.m., Rowley Hall, Room G205			
<b>Office Hours, Location, Phone</b> Ireton G108. Tuesdays and Fridays 10:20 to 10:50 a.m. and 1:50 to 2:30 p.m. and many other times by appointment via <a href="mailto:cal.chadrector.net">cal.chadrector.net</a>			
<b>E-mail and Web Site</b> <a href="mailto:crector@marymount.edu">crector@marymount.edu</a> instructor: <a href="http://www.chadrector.net">www.chadrector.net</a>   course: <a href="http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/103">http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/103</a>			
<b>Course Description</b> 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. Liberal Arts Core/University Requirements Designation: GP, SS-1. (3)			

### 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. Items submitted for this course may be submitted to TurnItIn.com for analysis.

#### STUDENT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS

Please address any special challenges or needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students seeking

accommodations for a disability must complete the required steps for obtaining a Faculty Contact Sheet from the Office of Student Access Services (SAS). Students are then responsible for meeting with their instructors at the beginning of the semester to review and sign the Faculty Contact Sheet and develop a specific plan for providing the accommodations listed. **Accommodations cannot be granted to students who fail to follow this process.** Appointments with the SAS director can be scheduled through the Starfish "Success Network" tab in Blackboard. For more information, check the SAS website, e-mail [access@marymount.edu](mailto:access@marymount.edu), or call **703-284-1538** to reach the SAS director or an academic support coordinator.

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION POLICY**

When students are absent due to a crisis situation or unexpected, serious illness and unable to contact their individual instructors directly, the Division of Student Affairs can send out an Emergency Notification. To initiate an Emergency Notification, students should contact the **Division of Student Affairs 703-284-1615** or [studentaffairs@marymount.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@marymount.edu). Emergency Notifications are **NOT** appropriate for non-emergency situations (e.g. car problems, planned absences, minor illnesses, or a past absence); are **NOT** a request or mandate to excuse an absence, which is at the sole discretion of the instructor; and are **NOT** a requirement for student absences. If a student contacts instructors about an emergency situation directly, it is not necessary to involve the Division of Student Affairs as arrangements are made to resolve the absence.

For non-emergency absences, students should inform their instructors directly.

### **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.

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

Weather and Emergency closings are announced on Marymount's web site: [www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu), through **MUAlerts**, area radio stations, and TV stations. You may also call the **Weather and Emergency Hotline at (703) 526-6888** for current status. Unless otherwise advised by local media or by official bulletins 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 inclement closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 6:00 AM and by 3:00 PM for evening classes of the working day. Emergency closing could occur at any time making **MUAlerts** the most timely announcement mechanism. **Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.** If the University is closed, course content and assignments will still be covered as directed by the course instructor. Please look for communication from the course instructor (e.g., Blackboard) for information on course work during periods in which the University is closed.

## **1. 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. Liberal Arts Core/University Requirements Designation: GP, SS-1. (3)

## **2. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Course-specific outcomes. After completing this course, students will be able to:

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

Introductory social science (SS1) objectives. After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain broad social science phenomenon including delegation and representation, collective action and regime change, and the use and limits of power and authority,
- Apply analytic concepts and broad theories to specific social phenomena, and
- Critically engage competing explanations for change in the political systems in preparation for upper-division coursework.

Global perspective (GP) objectives. In this course, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the logic of the workings of political institutions outside of the United States,
- Complete a series of short papers that together constitute a "global perspectives project" that demonstrates, through a combination of critical engagement with social science concepts and original research, an understanding of how societies make collective decisions.

## **3. 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 one study-group meetings with me before the end of the semester. All course information is posted on the web site - <http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/103>.

I am available to meet with students in my office in Ireton Hall G108 on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:20 to 10:50 a.m. and 1:50 to 2:30 p.m. and on many other rotating times as well; you should feel free to come by during the T/F times without an appointment if you wish, but at other times it is generally best to make an appointment. Times and appointment slots are listed at [cal.chadrector.net](http://cal.chadrector.net). You must be logged in to gmail or Marymount email. Scroll to the right to see future weeks.

## **4. GRADING POLICY**

Friday, February 12, 2016, is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic record.

Friday, March 18, 2016, is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

Final course grades will be determined on a fixed scale, not on a curve. Each assignment is worth a fixed number of points, listed below; these add up to 100. Each assignment will be returned with a numerical score. Course grades will be based on the total number of points out the 100 possible, with 90-100 an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 and below an F.

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

- Three exams. 15% each, 45% total. 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.
- Three short papers. 15% each, 45% total. The specific assignments will be posted online three weeks before each due date. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late for the first five days after the deadline; any paper late more than five days may be turned in for up to half credit at any time before the final exam.
- Five quizzes. 2% each, 10% total. Short, 2-question pop quizzes on assigned readings from the textbook. Quizzes will not be announced in advance, may not be made up, and will not be held on recognized religious holidays.

There are substantial opportunities for 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 event and 3% for a second. 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 here. See examples here. 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. All events must be completed by the day of the final exam. Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.
- Class participation. Students who consistently contribute in a thoughtful and constructive way to class discussions may be awarded up to 5% in extra credit.

Some additional course requirements are mandatory but 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 once as part of a study group. I will provide ample opportunity for students to set times for these meetings. 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 the first paper assignment.
  - Group meeting: a complete outline of a topic. This must be prior to the first exam.
- 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.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Students who miss an exam will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. Students will not be penalized for missing a class assignment for a recognized religious holiday. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

I may, at my discretion, check any written assignments for plagiarism at any time during or after the semester, using electronic or other means. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. By accepting this syllabus and enrolling in the course, students acknowledge that they have reviewed the University's standards of academic integrity.

I do not, in general, grant extensions on major assignments. If you think you have gotten an extension from me but you do not have something in writing from me that specifically says that, then you probably haven't. Like, if you tell me in person that your paper is going to be late, and I say "okay" or I give you advice on how to complete it, that isn't me giving you an extension – that's me saying that I understand that your paper is going to be late. It is only an "extension" (a promise from me that you may turn in a paper late without being penalized) if I have said so, explicitly, in an email message.

There is no such thing as an "excused" absence. If you tell me that you are going to miss a class and I say "okay" or something polite like that, the absence will still count toward one of the 7. If you feel like you have a legitimate reason why you will miss 7 or more class sessions during the semester I suppose you could try talking it through with me.

## 5. CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed before the class session under which they are listed. "Chapter" refers to a chapter in the assigned textbook. Readings outside the textbook are linked below.

Part 1: The balance of coercion and consent

Tuesday, January 12  
Introduction and overview ([slides](#))

Friday, January 15  
Theory and evidence ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 1

Tuesday, January 19  
Violence and Order ([slides](#))  
Reading: Start Chapter 2

Friday, January 22  
States ([slides](#))  
Reading: Finish Chapter 2

Tuesday, January 26  
Democratic institutions ([slides](#))  
Reading: Start Chapter 3

Friday, January 29  
Parliamentary democracy ([slides](#))

Paper #1 due Sunday January 31

Tuesday, February 2  
Parties and voting ([slides](#))  
Reading: Finish Chapter 3

Friday, February 5  
Coercion ([slides](#))  
Reading: Start Chapter 4

Tuesday, February 9  
Authoritarianism ([slides](#))  
Reading: Finish Chapter 4

Friday, February 12  
Review

Tuesday, February 16  
First Exam

## Part 2: State and Society

Friday, February 19  
Regime Change  
Reading: Start Chapter 5

Tuesday, February 23  
Social activism and mobilization ([slides](#))  
Reading: Finish Chapter 5

Friday, February 26  
Identity ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 6

Paper #2 due Saturday February 27

Tuesday, March 1  
Religion, gender, and politics ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapters 7 and 8

Friday, March 4  
Collective action ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 9

Spring Break

Tuesday, March 15  
Violence ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 10

Friday, March 18  
Review

Paper #3 due Sunday March 20

Tuesday, March 22  
Second Exam

Easter Break

Tuesday, March 29 - no class

## Part 3: Political Economy

Friday, April 1  
Globalization

Tuesday, April 5  
Development ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 11

Friday, April 8  
Paths to development ([slides](#))

Tuesday, April 12  
Economic convergence ([slides](#))

Friday, April 15  
Redistribution ([slides](#))  
Reading: Chapter 12

Tuesday, April 19  
Immigration  
Reading: Chapter 13 and [The Case for Getting Rid of Borders—Completely](#)

Friday, April 22  
Poverty ([slides](#))

Tuesday, April 26  
Health care ([slides](#))  
Reading: [Everything you need to know about Obamacare](#) (all 32 "cards," not just the first one), [What American Healthcare can learn from Germany](#), and [Everything you ever wanted to know about Canadian health care in one post](#).

Friday, April 29  
Review

Tuesday, May 3, noon  
Third Exam

## 6. REQUIRED TEXT

The assigned book is Samuels, David. 2013. Comparative Politics. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-321-44974-0