

# **POLS3339 Comparative Political Systems (Online)**

Spring 2022

Professor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi

E-Mail: [thiroi@utep.edu](mailto:thiroi@utep.edu)

Format: Asynchronous online instruction via Blackboard through MyUTEP portal

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays at 10:00-11:00 am via Zoom—by appointment only.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

We live in an era in which our socioeconomic welfare and security challenges depend critically on the policies and political processes in other countries. This course is designed to introduce you to the major theoretical and conceptual domains of inquiry in comparative politics that will help you better understand the world. We will study how politics and political systems work across different countries and in different times. We will learn tools that comparative political scientists use to answer important questions, such as why authoritarian leaders persist in some countries, why democracy is fragile or strong in different countries, and how electoral systems affect the patterns of political competition and types of political leaders elected. To better understand the world, you also need to have good knowledge of other countries. Thus, in this course you will also increase your substantive knowledge of various countries in the world with many country examples.

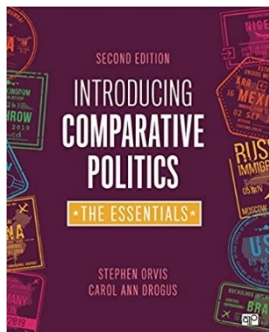
## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

With the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand and use various concepts and terms in comparative political science, such as political regime, democratization, collective action problems, and political representation;
2. Understand and evaluate major theories in comparative political science;
3. Explain sources of political regime change, political stability and instability, and conflict;
4. Identify and analyze alternative political institutions, including the ways in which leaders are selected and power is distributed and constrained;
5. Evaluate the performance of a given state in terms of its policy-making capacity, economic development, political stability, social equality, and political participation; and
6. Compare and contrast countries using comparative politics frameworks with respect to their functioning and consequences, and evaluate how the United States compares to other countries.

This course helps you develop the following UTEP Edge areas: critical thinking, global awareness, problem solving, and social responsibility.

## REQUIRED COURSE TEXT



Stephen Orvis and Carol Ann Drogus. 2020. *Introducing Comparative Politics: The Essentials*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) Washington, DC: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1544379043.

This book is available at the UTEP Bookstore. You can also purchase your copy online. Please allow yourself sufficient time to obtain the text so that you will have your copy by the time the course begins.

## A SPECIAL NOTE ON THIS COURSE

This course is delivered **100% online** in a modular format. Online classes have an advantage of greater flexibility for students, especially when they are delivered asynchronously like this course. However, they also require you to be your own boss; they require a high degree of self-discipline. You must be diligent to complete the readings, lectures, class discussions, exams, and other assignments in time. There are more deadlines to meet. Let's forget about the misconception that online courses are easier; they are at least as challenging as face-to-face classes, if not more demanding. Regular semester-long face-to-face courses meet three hours per week, and students in upper-division courses usually study 2-3 hours for every one hour of class time. So please be prepared to devote at least 9-12 hours on average each week to this course.

This course is delivered **asynchronously** to maximize flexibility for you. That means you can choose to study whenever you would like as it fits your schedule within specified time frames. I recommend that you create your own weekly schedule for this course, keeping in mind average weekly expected time necessary to complete each module. Some students require more time than average. Please consider various factors affecting you and plan accordingly.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION AND ASSISTANCE

If you have a question regarding or need help with technological issues, contact UTEP's [Technology Help Desk](#) (see the section on UTEP Technology Support Help Desk).

If you have a question regarding a course material or assignment, please post it on the **Help Board** on the course's Blackboard homepage. Please make sure that your question is not addressed by the syllabus. If it is, I will simply refer you to the syllabus.

If you need to contact me regarding your personal matters (e.g., your performance, request for a make-up exam due to documented, severe, and unexpected illness, etc.), **UTEP email is the best way to reach me**. I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24-48 hours of receipt during weekdays. I will try to respond to weekend messages by Monday. Please use your UTEP email address when you email me. **Your email should include the course number in the subject line and your name and UTEP ID number in the body of your email.**

I have also set up **virtual office hours** via Zoom. I will be available during my virtual office hours **by appointment**. Please be aware that meetings during virtual office hours are not private. Anyone who logs in to virtual office hours can see and hear our interactions. Please notify me if you would like to have a private virtual meeting.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT**

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine and wear masks. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

### **LEARNING MODULES**

This course is designed using a modular format—where each two weeks is "packaged" into a particular module so that all the materials, readings, submission areas, and discussion posts for a given module are in one area in the course's Blackboard page. I strongly recommend, especially under the current circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, that you start working on the materials as soon as each module opens and try to complete all the work early. This will give you sufficient time to deal with many unexpected challenges, such as health and internet issues, without getting behind.

### **GRADING**

Your course grade will be based on the following.

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Maximum Eligible Points</b>	<b>% of Course Grade</b>
Reading quizzes (incl. syllabus quiz); # of questions varies by module	First 100 out of 120 total	15%
Module quizzes (incl. lectures, videos & readings); # of questions varies by week	First 140 out of 150 total	30%
Weekly discussion posts (each assignment consists of an original	700, 100 pts each; must complete the first one (self-introduction) and choose 6	25%

post and a minimum of two responses)	out of the 9 remaining discussion post assignments	
Course exam	100	30%

Using the table above, you can assess how well you are doing in the class. For example, to find out your performance in the weekly reading quizzes, let's say you earned a total of 90 points throughout the course of the semester. Your performance in this category is calculated by 90 points/100 maximum eligible points, and multiply it by 100 to make it a percentage. Your performance is at 90% of the total reading quiz grade. You can similarly calculate your performance in the other categories. Your course grade will be based on your performance in each category, weighted by its percentage contribution to the course grade.

Course Grade Scale	
90 ≤	A
80 ≤ & < 90	B
70 ≤ & < 80	C
60 ≤ & < 70	D
<60	F

For fairness with other students, I do not give individual-specific extra credit. However, the course has a built-in structure to give you enough opportunities to do well (see the description of the weekly reading and module quizzes). If you would like my feedback on how to improve your performance, please contact me sooner than later, and definitely do not wait until the end of the course.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Reading Assignments and Reading Quizzes

Each module has assigned readings. You should start off each module by reading the assigned chapters of the textbook. You can find the schedule of reading assignments at the end of this syllabus. You should carefully do the readings by taking notes, and by reading more than once if necessary. When you are ready to take the module's reading quiz, you should log in and take the quiz. The reading quizzes contain 10-20 multiple choice questions. The number of questions vary depending on the volume of assigned readings and content. These quizzes are individual assessments, and the quiz questions will be selected randomly from a large pool of questions.

Reading quizzes are open notes (hard copy only). It is NOT open book. You have on average only two minutes per question. That is, if there are 10 questions, for example, you have up to 20 minutes to finish the entire quiz. Thus, you will need to prepare yourself well before taking the quiz; you will not have time to hunt for the answers while taking the quiz. Please note that once started, you cannot pause or stop the quiz. Therefore, please make sure that you are ready to take the quiz before you start and allow yourself sufficient time to complete it.

You need to enable Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor (webcam) to take the quiz, which will prevent you from accessing notes stored in your computer or online. The Respondus monitor

video should show your surroundings. It should show no unauthorized materials (such as phones, tablet computers, textbook etc.), no interaction with other people, and your uninterrupted presence (you are not allowed to leave your seat) during the quizzes and the course exam.

Your textbook makes various student resources available for no additional fee. You may find it useful to utilize the eFlashcards and take practice quizzes before taking the course's reading quizzes. The textbook's companion website is found at <https://edge.sagepub.com/orvisessentials2e>.

There are 120 reading quiz questions in total. You earn one point for each correct answer up to a total of 100 points. In other words, 100 points will be enough to earn the highest grade on the quiz requirement. Therefore, even if you do not do perfectly on each and every quiz, as long as you do well most of the time, you will still have a chance to earn a highest quiz grade.

Reading quizzes allow you up to two attempts before the end of the module. This will permit you to "retake" the quiz before the deadline if, for unforeseen technological or other problems, your quiz is disrupted, or your first attempt score is below your expectation. Quiz questions are randomly selected from a large pool of questions, so you are likely to see different questions in your second attempt. Blackboard automatically records the last graded attempt as your quiz grade. My advice for you is to study module materials early and take quizzes early, and "retake" the quiz only if you could not complete the first attempt or if you have studied enough to do better in your second attempt.

## **2. Module Lectures and Module Quizzes**

Each module has lectures with appropriate auxiliary materials, such as videos and online exercises. Please read and complete these tasks carefully, by taking notes where necessary. Take the module quiz at the end of each module. The module quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions and cover the content of the lectures and auxiliary materials as well as their theoretical and empirical implications and applications. The number of questions in the module quizzes vary. These quizzes are individual assessments, and the quiz questions will be selected randomly from a large pool of questions.

Module quizzes are open notes (hard copy only). It is NOT open book. You have on average only two minutes per question (see the example under reading quizzes). Thus, you will need to prepare yourself well before taking the quiz; you will not have time to hunt for the answers while taking the quiz. Please note that once started, you cannot pause or stop the quiz. Therefore, please make sure that you are ready to take the quiz before you start and allow yourself sufficient time to complete it.

You need to enable Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor (webcam) to take the quiz, which will prevent you from accessing notes stored in your computer or online. The Respondus monitor video should show your surroundings. It should show no unauthorized materials (such as phones, tablet computers, textbook etc.), no interaction with other people, and your uninterrupted presence (you are not allowed to leave your seat) during the quizzes and final exam.

There are 150 module quiz questions in total. You earn one point for each correct answer up to a total of 140 points. In other words, 140 points will be enough to earn the highest grade on the

module quiz requirement. Therefore, even if you do not do perfectly on each and every quiz, as long as you do well most of the time, you will still have a chance to earn a highest quiz grade.

Module quizzes allow you up to two attempts before the end of the module. This will permit you to “retake” the quiz before the deadline if, for unforeseen technological or other problems, your quiz is disrupted, or your first attempt score is below your expectation. Quiz questions are randomly selected from a large pool of questions, so you are likely to see different questions in your second attempt. Blackboard automatically records the last graded attempt as your quiz grade. My advice for you is to study module materials early and take quizzes early, and “retake” the quiz only if you could not complete the first attempt or if you have studied enough to do better in your second attempt.

### **3. Class Participation and Discussion Posts**

Each module will include at least one discussion topic. For each discussion topic, you will submit an original discussion post in response to the discussion topic and respond to the original discussion posts of at least two (2) other students. Unless otherwise instructed, your original discussion post should be at least 150 words and should not exceed 400 words. Your response posts should be between 50 and 150 words each. To receive credit for your participation, **you should submit your original discussion post by second Wednesday of each module at 11:59 pm, and respond to at least two other students’ original posts by the close of the module.** Each of your original discussion posts will receive up to 80 points, and your two responses to other students’ posts up to 10 points each, depending on the quality of your posts. If you post your response to more than two original posts (which I encourage you to do), I will consider the best two for your grade.

The course will provide a total of ten (10) discussion post assignment opportunities. Everyone is required to complete the first one (introduction). You need to complete six (6) out of the nine remaining discussion post assignments of your choice. If you complete more than six elective discussion posts, I will consider the best six scores for your grade.

The discussion posts are intended to foster mutual learning in the class. Before posting a discussion, you should read the assigned readings and mini-lectures and complete any other auxiliary learning materials for the module.

I expect everyone to actively participate in the online class discussion and do so in a positive and appropriate way (see the “Effective Electronic Communication (Netiquette)” section below). To receive full credit, you must effectively address the discussion topic by demonstrating the knowledge from the module’s materials, and where needed, by using evidence to support your argument. You also need to follow the word count requirements and “netiquette” rules. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in lower grades, and depending on the severity of the problem, no credit for the post.

**Remember:**

- Netiquette rules.
- Be sure to read everyone's posts before posting your own. Avoid repetition of what someone else has already said. Add something new to the discussion. If your post is inspired by your classmates' earlier posts, make sure to give due credit to them.
- No credit will be received for yes/no answers. Posts should justify positions and provide specific examples. Students must demonstrate that they have read the assignment and their classmates' comments carefully and thoughtfully.
- Be sure to post in a timely fashion to receive credit for the discussion. Pay close attention to the deadlines.
- The content of your post must be your original. If you use information or ideas that are not your own, provide complete bibliographic information for your sources.

**4. Course Exam**

The course exam will be cumulative, testing you on all of the course materials. The course schedule indicates the dates and times during which the exam is open. You can log in to take the exam at any time during these hours and will have up to two (2) consecutive hours to finish it. Once you start, you cannot pause it or return to take it again. Therefore, please make sure that you allow yourself sufficient time to complete the exam. The exam will include multiple-choice and short essay questions. Multiple choice questions are drawn from the pool of module quizzes. You will choose two (2) short essay questions out of three potential questions, randomly drawn from the pool of short essay questions. **The course exam must be taken closed book and closed notes.**

The exam is to be taken individually—it is not allowed to discuss or share the exam questions with anyone else. The random drawing of exam questions from a large pool makes it extremely unlikely that any two students in the class will have an identical set of questions. Please refer to the section on “Academic Integrity” below to review the university and instructor policies on cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

You need to enable Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor (webcam) to take the exam, which will prevent you from accessing notes stored in your computer or online. The Respondus monitor video should show your surroundings. It should show no unauthorized materials (such as phones, tablet computers, textbook etc.), no interaction with other people, and your uninterrupted presence (you are not allowed to leave your seat) during the course exam.

**USING LOCKDOWN BROWSER AND A WEBCAM FOR ONLINE EXAMS AND QUIZZES**

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor (a webcam) for the quizzes and the course exam. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. The Respondus Lockdown Browser tool in Blackboard is a custom browser that prevents students from printing, copying, and accessing other applications or websites during proctored online exams. It locks down the testing environment within the learning management system so that during tests students are unable to go to other URLs, access other applications, capture screen content, or print. Respondus Monitor requires students to use a

webcam and microphone with LockDown Browser. As soon as the exam is complete, the instructor can view the recordings from the student's test session. Respondus Monitor requires students to present their picture ID cards and show the surroundings before starting tests. Please be sure to provide complete images of your surroundings.

Please see “Using LockDown Browser and Monitor” provided separately on the course’s Blackboard page on how to install and use the software. You can also find installation instruction on UTEP’s [Technology Support website](#). Take an ungraded practice test after you install it to familiarize yourself and to make sure that it works on your device.

**DUE DATES, MAKE-UP POLICY, ETC.**

**Each module has two weeks to complete the work. Each module will open on Monday at 12:01 am of the first week and close on Sunday at 11:59 pm of the second week. The exception is Module 1, which opens on Tuesday, January 18** when the Spring semester begins. All course deadlines and time references indicated in the syllabus, course calendar, and learning modules are in Mountain Standard Time (MST). Since you have two weeks to complete each module, due dates are firm. I am unable to extend deadlines or make exceptions for technology issues due to your personal computer or internet problems. However, I have made modifications regarding the reading and module quiz policy in consideration of the unique challenges that we are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic (‘instant retake’ opportunities by allowing up to two attempts per quiz). My general advice for you is: Do not wait until the last minute to complete module assignments, quizzes, and the course exam. Non-emergency doctors’ appointments, work, and the like also do not serve as a valid justification for requesting a deadline extension or a make-up exam.

**Make-up exam and deadline extension requests will be considered only in the case of a documented emergency**, such as medical emergency involving treatment in an emergency room and death in your immediate family. **To request a make-up exam or deadline extension, please make the request in writing with proper documentation** indicating the nature of the emergency, the name(s), the time away (start and end dates and times), and the contact information of the issuer of the document. If you are unable to make this request in writing prior to the due date, please do so within two days of your return. Note that a make-up exam and quizzes may be in a different format than the original exam or quizzes and may require more intensive preparation.

If you cannot provide proper documentation, please do not make those requests. The structure of the course makes it possible for you to pass the class, or even earn a high course grade, even if you miss one of the assignments (except the course exam) as long as you do well on all other assignments.

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Reading quizzes (incl. syllabus quiz)	By the close of each module (Second Sundays at 11:59 pm)
Module quizzes (incl. lectures, videos & readings)	By the close of each module (second Sundays at 11:59 pm)



Discussion posts	Submit your original posts by second Wednesday at 11:59 pm of each module. Respond to at least two other students' original posts by the close of each module on Sunday at 11:59 pm.
Course exam	Two consecutive hours of your choice between Monday, May 9 at 12:00 am and Tuesday, May 10 at 11:59 pm

## **EFFECTIVE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION (NETIQUETTE)**

All students are expected to adhere to professionalism and demonstrate mutual respect at all times in their communication with fellow students and the professor. You need to take greater care in electronic communication. Without the aid of body language and voice tones, your words are more prone to misinterpretation, and you may offend someone unintentionally. You should avoid unnecessary provocations or arguments. No personal attack is permitted. Always be courteous and respectful when communicating with fellow students and the professor and proofread your post to ensure that it is written professionally and without any hint of incitement or insult.

**No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.** Inappropriate student behavior will be reported to and handled by the University. The professor retains the discretion to drop students from the course for any inappropriate behavior.

Please keep in mind the following netiquette rules:

- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the professor will be reading your posts.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the professor at all times. No harassment, flaming, or inappropriate posts will be tolerated.
- Do not use inappropriate language, all capital letters, or language short cuts. Online entries should be written in standard English with edited spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

Here are some **useful tips for effective online communication and interaction.**

**Language:** Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be misinterpreted. Avoid the use of strong or offensive language and the excessive use of exclamation points. If you feel particularly strongly about a point, it may be best to write it first as a draft and then review it before posting it in order to remove any strong language.

**Be Forgiving:** If someone states something that you find offensive, mention this directly to the professor. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion is also new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may quite possibly have been unintended and can best be cleared up by the professor.

**This is Permanent:** Think carefully about the content of your post before contributing it. Once sent to the group, there is no taking it back. Poor writing does not reflect well on you, and your audience might not be able to decode misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences. It is a good practice to compose and check your comments in a word-processor before posting them.

**Test for Clarity:** Your text may often appear perfectly clear to you as you compose them but turn out to be obtuse to your reader. One way to test for clarity is to read your text aloud to see if it flows smoothly. If you can read it to another person before posting it, it is even better.

**Remember Your Place:** A Web-based classroom is still a classroom, and comments that would be inappropriate in a regular classroom are likely to be inappropriate in a Web-based course as well. Treat your professor and your fellow students with respect.

**Follow the Parameters/ Stick to the Point:** Follow the posting requirements and parameters set up by your professor. Contributions to a discussion should have a clear subject header, and you need to stick to the subject. Don't waste others' time by going off on irrelevant tangents.

**Read First, Write Later:** Don't add your comments to a discussion before reading the comments of other students unless the assignment specifically asks you to. Doing so is tantamount to ignoring your fellow students and is rude. Comments related to the content of previous messages should be posted under them to keep related topics organized, and you should specify the person and the particular point you are following up on.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is NEVER tolerated by UTEP or the Department of Political Science. All cases are reported to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action. All work submitted must be original and your own; students may not submit graded work from another course. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. **Cheating** may involve communicating with another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Falsifying research data, reports, or academic work offered for credit is also a form of cheating. **Collusion** involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. One example of collusion is preparing a discussion post for another person or having someone prepare a discussion post for you. **Plagiarism** involves the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not. For example, if you copy parts of or whole papers off the Internet without proper citation of the sources, it is a form of plagiarism. Lack of proper citation of sources is considered plagiarism even if borrowed ideas are paraphrased.

## **COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE REQUIREMENTS**

Students also need be well aware of the copyright and fair use requirements. The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are

individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. Students who wish to use any portion of the course materials for purposes other than the work in this course shall make a formal written request to obtain an explicit written authorization for requested use. Unauthorized use or dissemination of the course materials is strictly prohibited.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

## **SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT**

As you prepare to take this online course, it is essential that you check computer requirements and keep all software up to date in order to access course content. Please check if you meet the following software and technology requirements, and update and/or obtain them as needed.

### ***High speed internet access***

#### ***Supported Browsers***

- For a PC: Firefox, Internet Explorer (Do NOT use IE7), and Chrome
- For a Mac: Safari, Firefox, and Chrome

Blackboard will work most efficiently when you

- Allow pop-ups
- Regularly clear your browser cache

#### ***Plug-ins***

Cookies, pop-ups and Java are all required in order for your learning management system to function correctly.

#### ***Check Your Java***

1. Go to <http://java.com>
2. Click on "Do I Have Java?"
3. Click on "Verify Java Version."

4. Update Java if needed.

You may also need *additional browser plug-ins* to view some content for the course. Common plug-ins include:

- Adobe Reader
- Flash Player
- Windows Media Player
- VLC Player
- QuickTime

### ***Microsoft Office***

UTEP students, faculty, and staff can access most software offered in UTEP student computer labs from their personal computing devices. Students can use a laptop, tablet, or smartphone with an internet connection, and use software on demand. If your computer is not equipped with Microsoft Office, go to [my.apps.utep.edu](http://my.apps.utep.edu) and follow directions. For more information, visit the University's [My.Apps Info Page](#).

### ***UTEP Virtual Private Network:***

UTEP's electronic resources, such as electronic books and articles from the library, are available to registered students when working from outside the campus network. In order to access these resources, you will need to set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that recognizes that you are a UTEP student. Go to the University's [VPN webpage](#) for instructions.

### ***Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor***

You need to install the LockDown Browser and Monitor (a webcam) to take online quizzes and exams. Please see "Using LockDown Browser and Monitor" provided separately on the course's Blackboard page on how to install and use the software. You can also find installation instruction on UTEP's [Technology Support website](#).

### ***UTEP Technology Support Help Desk***

The University's Technology Support Help Desk is located on the third floor of the UTEP library. The Help Desk is your point of contact for any technology related questions. The Help Desk also offers services virtually. To find more about the Help Desk, visit its [website](#).

## Course Schedule

\* This is a tentative schedule. The course schedule may change at the professor's discretion. You will be notified of any changes made to this schedule.

Module	Activities	Assessments	Estimated Average Completion time
<b>Module 1</b> <b>(January 18-30)</b>  <b>Introduction to comparative politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read syllabus</li> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 1 “Introduction”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures and mini-lecture</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Introductory discussion board</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Syllabus quiz  Reading quiz  Discussion posts (2)  Module quiz	7 hours
<b>Module 2</b> <b>(January 31-February 13)</b>  <b>Modern states and varieties of political regimes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 2 “The Modern State”</li> <li>○ Ch. 3 “States, Citizens, and Regimes”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (1)  Module quiz	15 hours
<b>Module 3</b> <b>(February 14-February 27)</b>  <b>Identity, nationalism, and contentious politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 4 “States and Identity”</li> <li>○ Ch. 7 “Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence, and Revolution”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures and mini-lecture</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (1)  Module quiz	15 hours
<b>Module 4</b> <b>(February 28-March 13)</b>  <b>Democratic political institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 5 “Governing Institutions in Democracies”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures</li> <li>• Watch video</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (2)  Module quiz	15 hours

<b>Spring Break March 14-18</b>			
<b>Module 5</b> <b>(March 21-April 3)</b>  <b>Institutions of political representation: electoral systems and political parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 6 “Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (1)  Module quiz	14 hours
<b>Module 6</b> <b>(April 4-April 17)</b>  <b>Authoritarianism and regime change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 8 “Authoritarian Institutions”</li> <li>○ Ch. 9 “Regime Change”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures and mini-lecture</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (1)  Module quiz	15 hours
<b>Module 7</b> <b>(April 18-May 1)</b>  <b>States, development and policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Text               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch. 11 “Political Economy of Development”</li> <li>○ Ch. 12 “Public Policies when Markets Fail: Welfare, Health, and the Environment”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read lectures</li> <li>• Watch videos</li> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>	Reading quiz  Discussion posts (2)  Module quiz	15 hours
<b>Course Exam Prep Week</b> <b>(May 2-8)</b>  <b>Course Exam</b> <b>(May 9-10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam prep &amp; review</li> <li>• The exam is comprehensive. Review all materials.</li> <li>• The exam opens on Monday, May 9 at 12:00 am and closes on Tuesday, May 10 at 11:59 pm</li> </ul>	Course exam	The exam is up to two consecutive hours while it’s open.