

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Global Advocacy

Semester: Spring 2016
Jan 13 to Apr 20, 2016

Comparative Political Management Environments

PSAD 6260.10
3 Credits

Syllabus version: 2.0
Syllabus date: 1/11/2016

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
805 21st St NW Room 447

BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Instructor

M. Robert Carr

Contact Information

Phone Number: +1-202-251-7755 (best to text first)

Email Address: bcarr@gwu.edu

Communication

I may be reached either by text or email. I prefer text messages, particularly for expected absences or delays for scheduled events and assignments. Text messages are usually answered quickly. Emails will be answered usually within 24 hours. I use email sorting rules based on the gwu.edu domain name. Please do not use alternate email domain names for a critical communication. I may or may not see them. I am available for face-to-face meetings by appointment, preferably one hour before class.

Blackboard Site

A Blackboard course site has been set up for this course. Each student is expected to check the site throughout the semester, as Blackboard will be the primary venue for outside classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Students can access the course site at <https://blackboard.gwu.edu>. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or helpdesk.gwu.edu.

Academic Integrity

All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

Support for Students with Disabilities

GW's Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations. Additional information is available at www.gwu.edu/~dss.

In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class

If we experience some an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we have to leave here, we will meet in **the parking lot whose entrance is in the SE corner of the intersection of North Capital and E St NE** in order to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University's operating status: <http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

Attendance Policy

Unless otherwise excused in advance, class attendance is mandatory. I expect to be notified via text (preferable) or email at least by the day of the class session. Punctuality is important as well. Similarly I expect to be notified via text if your arrival will be delayed. Finally, I will excuse the occasional early departure, if I am alerted in advance as to the cause.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW's online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting any/all of the following:

Hon. Mark Kennedy
Acting Director, Advocacy in the Global Environment Program
markkennedy@gwu.edu | +1 (202) 994-2482

Dr. Jack Prostko
Associate Dean for Learning and Faculty Development
College of Professional Studies
jackp@gwu.edu +1 202-994-3592

Ms. Suzanne Farrand
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM
sfarrand@gwu.edu | +1 202-994-9309

THE COURSE

Course Description and Overview [Needs more/revision]

As the name of the course implies, this is a comparative study of the institutions of states and the EU. We will also consider other international organizations as time permits.

We will go beyond the formal structures to examine internal practices by some of the principal actors and participants.

Course Learning Objectives [Needs more/revision]

1. To gain the perspective and professionally distinguish between the different types and groupings of governance used by states.
2. To be able to independently assess the conduct of politics, policy and procedure in each environment.
3. To better assist those who must deal with the dilemmas posed by choosing or defending in one environment over another.
4. To be able to translate actions in one environment to those in another environment.
5. To offer advice and counsel to those who must advocate in multiple global environments.

Course Requirements

- Students will be required to attend class discussions as well as occasional discussion board postings throughout the course. Students will be occasionally required to respond to postings of a peer.
- Student will be required to complete two major writing assignments. The first writing assignment is in the format of a journal describing the candidate experience. The second writing assignment will be in the format of a journal describing the officeholder experience.
- In addition, each student must submit up to six short, one page essays on discrete elements of running for and serving in Congress. The latter will not be graded and will synchronize with the two main papers required for the course.
- There will be a final, take-home exam.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Learning Objective(s) Addressed	Due Date	Weight
Memo/Essay #1	1 and 2		25%
Memo/Essay #2	1, 2, 3, 4 and 5		25%
Attendance and Participation	all		25%
Final Exam	all		25%
Total			100%

Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:

Grade*	Grading Standard
A 94-100	Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work.
A- 90-93	Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work.
B+ 87-89	Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work.
B 83-86	Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a “B” is viewed as unacceptable.
B- 80-82	You’ve completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements.
C+ 77-79	Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern.
C 73-76	Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern.
C- 70-72 (lowest grade to pass)	Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc.
F Below 70	Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment.

*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

Required Text and Learning Materials

Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics* 3rd ed., Oxford University Press (Oxford: 2014)

Patrick O’Neil et al, *Cases in Comparative Politics* 5th ed., W.W. Norton (New York: 2015)

John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union* 6th ed. Palgrave MacMillan, (New York: 2014).

THE COURSE CALENDAR

The following course schedule is tentative. The topics in the schedule are goals. Like mileposts they may not be reached or may be exceeded because of pacing that cannot be predetermined. Also, from time to time there may be guest lecturers whose schedules must be accommodated. Additionally, I will opportunistically seek to use current events as teaching opportunities. Obviously these externalities cannot be scheduled.

Therefore, I reserve the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar posted to Blackboard and/or posted via revisions to the syllabus, also posted on Blackboard.

Week 1 (1/13/2016)

Topic and content: Class organization, brief overview and introduction to concepts.

Readings: none

Assignment(s) Due Today: Please email a short bio or résumé to bcarr@gwu.edu. Be prepared to advise me (in private) of special needs that you now have or expect to have. For example, if you have a disability, a known scheduling conflict or any other matter that is appropriate at the beginning of the course, now is the time.

Week 2 (1/20/2016)

Topic and Content: Structural Rules - Constitutions

Readings:

Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics* 3rd ed., Introduction, Ch 4, 5, 6, and 9.

Patrick O'Neil et al, *Cases in Comparative Politics* 5th ed., Introduction, Ch 2 (UK) and 3 (US).

Week 3 (1/27/2016)

Topic and content: Institutions - Legislatures

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 7.

O'Neil, Ch 4 (France).

Week 4 (2/3/2016)

Topic and content: Institutions - Executive core

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 8.

O'Neil, Ch 5 (Germany).

Week 5 (2/10/2016)

Topic and content: Institutions - Executive bureaucracy

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 8 (yes, again, but there is likely to be an additional reading assignment here).

O'Neil, Ch 6 (Japan).

Week 6 (2/17/2016)

Topic and content: Elections and electoral systems

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 10.

O'Neil, Ch 7 (Russia).

Week 7 (2/24/2016)

Topic and content: Parties and party systems

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 12 and 13.

O'Neil, Ch 8 (China).

Week 8 (3/2/2016)

Topic and content: Subunits: federal, local and regions

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 11 and 15.

O'Neil, Ch 9 (India).

Week 9 (3/9/2016)

Topic and content: Policy-making

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 20 - 22.

O'Neil, Ch 10 (Iran).

McCormick, *Understanding the European Union* 6th ed., Ch 1 - 3.

Week 10 (3/23/2016)

Topic and content: Non-public actors.

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 14, 16 and 19.

O'Neil, Ch 11 (Mexico).

McCormick, Ch 4 - 7.

Week 11 (3/30/2016)

Topic and content: Supra-national structures, the EU

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 23.

O'Neil, Ch 12 (Brazil).

Week 12 (4/8/2016)

Topic and content: Globalized structures

Readings:

Caramani, Ch 24.

O'Neil, Ch 13 (South Africa) and Ch 14 (Nigeria).

Week 13 (4/13/2016)

Topic and content: Class presentations

Week 14 (4/20/2016)

Topic and content: Review and close

Copyright Statement

Unless explicitly allowed by the instructor, course materials, class discussions, and examinations are created for and expected to be used by class participants only. The recording and rebroadcasting of such material, by any means, is forbidden.