

**California Maritime Academy**  
**ABS School of Maritime Policy and Management**  
**GMA 215, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2014**

<b><i>Instructor:</i></b>	Matthew Atkinson
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<b><i>Office Hours:</i></b>	Monday and Friday 1 to 2:20
<b><i>Class Days/Time:</i></b>	Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 4:15
<b><i>Classroom:</i></b>	Classroom Building Room 102

### **Moodle**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Moodle, which is the course management software used for Cal Maritime courses. You are responsible for regularly checking Moodle for course updates. To access Moodle, go the CMA homepage and sign in with your CMA user ID (all lowercase) and password. Click on the Moodle icon and you will see this course along with the other courses you are presently enrolled.

### **Course Description**

The course provides an introduction to important themes of comparative political analysis, in order to identify and explain differences in political systems and political life across different states and regions of the world. The course focuses on the development of the fundamental elements of modern political systems: state, nation, market, civil society, democracy, and authoritarianism. Throughout, close attention will be paid to interactions between these elements - for example, between states and markets, or between civil society and authoritarian regimes. The course also focuses on the role of institutions, such as political parties and constitutional structures, in shaping these interactions.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLO1 Apply the comparative method to the analysis of social science research questions

SLO2 Discuss the causes and consequences of democracy

SLO3 Differentiate between the major varieties of democratic political institutions and their economic and social consequences

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder, *Principles of Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. CQ Press 2012. ISBN 1608716791.

- The textbook is available at the Cal Maritime bookstore and from Amazon.
- You may use the first edition of this textbook (ISBN 0872892891).

### Other Readings

All other readings will be made available on the course Moodle page.

### Classroom Protocol

- Treat instructor and other students with respect
- Abide by the relevant university policies regarding dress and conduct
- Students may not use cellphones or music players during class
- **Laptops may only be used in the area of the classroom designated by the instructor as the "laptop area" and laptops may only be used for activities *directly* relevant to what's going on in the classroom.** I reserve the right to ban the use of laptops in the classroom if students don't abide by these restrictions.

### Dropping and Adding Classes

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available on the campus website and at:

[http://www.csum.edu/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=9ac74015-15c2-4840-8626-04098ba4fcc9&groupId=72269](http://www.csum.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=9ac74015-15c2-4840-8626-04098ba4fcc9&groupId=72269)

Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

# University Policies

## Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at [https://www.csum.edu/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=ae78af01-0291-4d0f-ad97-060861e514d2&groupId=42499](https://www.csum.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ae78af01-0291-4d0f-ad97-060861e514d2&groupId=42499). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at Cal Maritime and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

## Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

California Maritime Academy is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who believe they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) in the Center for Engagement, Teaching and Learning ([disabilityservices@csum.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@csum.edu), 707-654-1283), preferably within the first two weeks of class. The DSO is located in Laboratory Building Room 110. For more information, see our website: <http://www.csum.edu/web/faculty-and-staff/office-of-disability-services>.

Services provided through the CETL/DOS include:

- Extended time for tests
- Tutoring
- Assistive Technologies/Software
- Proctored tests
- Access to course notes (when available)
- Low-distraction test environment

NOTE: Students requesting disability accommodations for testing must give a minimum of 5 business days notice to the instructor, and if testing in the CETL, to the CETL as well. For clarification, contact Dr. McClendon <mailto:vmcclendon@csum.edu>

## Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are detailed below. Please see the postings outside the labs to see when classes are scheduled for these locations. Otherwise, hours are listed as below.

Lab Name	Location	Hours
Classroom Computer Lab	Classroom Building Room 105	24/7 Access via Portpass.
Lab 101	Laboratory Building Room 101	Open while building is open.
CETL	Laboratory Building Room 114	Open while building is open.

## GMA 215 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2014, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in lecture or via email at least one week in advance. PCP = *Principles of Comparative Politics*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Sept 2 Sept 4	Introduction to the course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended reading: PCP Chapter 1</li> </ul> The Comparative Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 2</li> </ul>
2	Sept 9 Sept 11	Politics and Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 3</li> </ul> Institutions
3	Sept 16 Sept 16 & 18	<b>Short essay #1 assigned</b> The state, political regimes, and state policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 4</li> <li>PCP Chapter 5 (some parts of this chapter may be designated as recommended rather than required)</li> </ul>
4	Sept 23 Sept 23 Sept 25	<b>Short essay #1 due</b> Determinants of Democracy: Economic Determinants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 6</li> </ul> Determinants of Democracy: Cultural Determinants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 7</li> </ul>
5	Sept 30 Oct 2	Democratic Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 8</li> </ul> <b>Midterm #1</b>
6	Oct 7 & 9	Does democracy make a difference: Economic and social considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP Chapter 9</li> </ul>
7	Oct 14 & 16	Group Decision Making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 11 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 10</li> </ul>
8	Oct 21 Oct 21 & 23	<b>Short essay #2 assigned</b> Constitutions and the design of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 12 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 11</li> </ul>
9	Oct 28 Oct 28 & 30	<b>Short essay #2 due</b> Elections and Electoral Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 13 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 12</li> </ul>
10	Nov 4 & 6	Social cleavages and party systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 14 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 13</li> </ul>
11	Nov 11 Nov 13	Holiday <b>Midterm #2</b>
12	Nov 18 Nov 20	Modern political ideologies Institutional veto players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 15 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 14</li> </ul>
13	Nov 25 Nov 27	Consequences of democratic political institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Chapter 16 or PCP 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Chapter 15</li> </ul> Holiday
14	Dec 2 Dec 4	Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Social movements and Contentious Politics" by W. Phillips Shively (reading posted on Moodle)</li> </ul> Comparative public opinion
15	Dec 9 Dec 11	American exceptionalism? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Why is there no socialism in the United States" by Eric Foner (reading posted on Moodle)</li> </ul> Wrap up course and discuss take-home final

## Assignments and Grading Policy

- Lecture attendance
  - Attendance is required
  - Students with more than 5 unexcused absences will not pass the course
- Exams
  - Midterm #1 (32% of course grade), October 2
  - Midterm #2 (32% of course grade), November 13
    - Testing material covered after Midterm #1
  - Take-home final essays (33% of grade)
    - Two sections
      - Evaluation of material covered since Midterm #2
      - Longer essay incorporating concepts covered throughout course
    - Upload to TurnItIn
- Short writing assignments: Two 750 word essays (about 2.5 pages)
  - Essay assignment #1 (1.5% of course grade)
    - Assigned September 16 and **due by the start of class** on September 23
    - Submit a hard copy at beginning of class and upload to TurnItIn
  - Essay assignment #2 (1.5% of course grade)
    - Assigned October 21 and **due by the start of class** on October 28
    - Submit a hard copy and upload to TurnItIn
  - Note: These essays projects are designed to evaluate whether you can write coherently about the course subject matter and will not require original research. Though the essays are a small part of your course grade, performing very well or very poorly on them would change your grade suffix (e.g., B to B+ or B+ to B).

Late essay assignments will receive reduced credit. Make up midterm exams will be administered only for an excused reason. Excused reason = mandatory Academy business or a **documented excuse** from the student health center.

**Academic dishonesty – plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate collaboration – will result in automatic failure of the course.**

*Grading Scale:*

100% - 90%	=	A
89% - 75%	=	B
74% - 60%	=	C
59% - 50%	=	D
less than 50%	=	F

*(Pluses and minuses will be given on final course grades.)*