



# Section Syllabus [Poli Sci 250:60/62]—Introduction to Comparative Politics

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## Contact Information

4 pm - 4:50 pm, 5 pm - 5:50 pm

TA: Alisher Juzgenbayev

Email: [juzgenbayev@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:juzgenbayev@u.northwestern.edu)

## Office Hours

Thursdays: 11:30 am - 13:30 am (Scott Hall #214, or Google Meets)

- Office hours belong to you. At these times, I will be in my office ready to discuss class (or things pertaining to collegiate life more generally) to the very best of my ability.
- I ask you to schedule an appointment via the QR Code Below. You can request an appointment whenever convenient for you (up to 5 minutes in advance). The appointment system is mostly to avoid overcrowding in the limited space of the Scott Hall, and for you to make effective use of your time. It is not required for you to sign up via link: feel free to show up without scheduling during that time. If this time does not work for you, I will try my absolute best to meet with you during another time. **You can also choose whether to chat in person, or meet via Google Meets.**
- Coming to office hours is a great way to a) help me get to know you better as a student and a person and b) demonstrate effort and engagement with the class.

## Key Dates and Times

**Thursday, October 10th**—Short Exercise 1 Due

**Thursday, October 24th**—Midterm Exam

**Tuesday, November 12th, 5 pm**—Short Exercise 2 Due

**Tuesday, November 26th**—Final Exam

# Rules and Guidelines

## Attendance and Participation

**Participation is 10%** of your grade for the course. For the discussion section, your grade will be based upon your attendance, and your participation in sections. Each student has one unexcused absence allowed without penalty. After that, students must provide a valid excuse for any further absences to avoid impacting their participation grade. In cases of valid excuse, students will have an opportunity to do make up work to compensate for the missed section. This may involve submitting a short-written response to discussion questions or completing an alternative assignment related to that week's material.

Participation in section takes various forms, including speaking in section and collaborating with your peers during in-section activities. Active participation is not only verbal contributions but also attentiveness and engagement with the course. While it helps quite a bit to make verbal contributions, I do understand that students are not always comfortable doing so. Even so, I challenge each student to provide one thoughtful comment per section as an effort to build confidence in making verbal contributions. You may demonstrate engagement by intently listening to the discussion, asking questions about the readings, and taking notes during the section. On the flip side, talking a lot will not ensure a high section grade.

## Classroom Conduct

Comparative politics can be a sensitive topic, as it involves discussion of diverse countries, their historical legacies, cultures, and important events. Students at Northwestern come from various backgrounds, and come to discussions with pre-existing ideas and beliefs about how politics works. While you should never be afraid to disagree with an idea raised during the discussion section, please be mindful that you do so with respect and care. Regardless of how you feel about another's perspective, it is inappropriate to belittle the person with whom you disagree. It is my hope that the discussion section is home to constructive and respectful arguments, which are necessary conditions for a productive (and enjoyable) section.

Types of participation that will harm your grade can include speaking over others, hostile engagement with others, off-topic contributions, being distracted by laptops or phones in sections, or unexplained absences.

You are expected to use devices only for taking notes and looking at course materials. If the internet and social media are too great a temptation, I suggest simply turning your Wi-Fi off during the section. I will be paying attention and will deduct participation points if you are distracted.

## Correspondence

The best way to contact me outside of office hours is via email. I will do my absolute best to respond to each email within a working day. However, if you have a substantive question I would strongly recommend you come during office hours. If you are unable to make office hours for the week, I will do my best to accommodate that by scheduling a meeting at another time.

## Accommodations

Any students with a mental or physical condition requiring special accommodations should speak with me, Andrew Roberts, and the Office of Student Assistance and Support Services (AccessibleNU) at 847-467-5530 as soon as possible. All discussions of this will remain confidential.

## Title IX Statement

Northwestern University is committed to fostering an environment where students are safe and free from sexual misconduct. [Confidential resources](#) are available to those who have experienced sexual misconduct. Faculty, instructors, and TAs are not confidential resources and *are required* to report incidents of sexual misconduct, whether discussed in your assignments or in person, to the Office of Equity, which can provide information about resources and options. I encourage students who have experienced sexual misconduct to talk with someone to get support. For more information, including how to request supportive measures or file a report, see the [Get Help page](#).

