

**POLI 4305, 10422, Comparative Government and Politics  
Spring 2020**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

This Course meets **Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-215pm in FH-208** with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Attendance will be taken. For any extenuating circumstances such as medical procedures that prevent attendance, please notify me to discuss possible accommodations.

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. John Koehler

**Office:** Heritage Hall 204Q

**Phone:** 254-501-5845

**Email:** [j.koehler@tamuct.edu](mailto:j.koehler@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours**

By appointment only

**Student-instructor interaction**

University email is the preferred method of communication. Every attempt will be made to respond to emails within 24 hours, however longer response times may take place over weekends and holidays. Students are welcome to come unannounced during office hours but appointments or notice is appreciated.

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Course Overview and description

Examine the relationship of government and politics of the major world powers, including topics from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

### Course Objective or Goal

#### Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to

1. Articulate and apply several models of Comparative Politics including ELV Theory, Modernization Theory, Selectorate Theory, and others.
2. Describe how states become democracies or dictatorships
3. Recognize characteristics and problems with dictatorships and democracies
4. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary global issues including trade, production, banking, and development.
5. Identify and understand the role of international organizations and non-state actors.

### Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2019. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

Assignment	Points	Percentage		
Discussion Board	100	10		
Quizzes	50	5		
Research Paper	200	20		
Midterm	250	25		
Attendance and participation	100	10		
Final Exam	300	30		
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>		
895+ = A	795-894=B	695-794=C	595-694=D	594 or lower = F

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion boards will open once a week on Canvas. They will require responses to particular questions related to readings or current events. Comments must be meaningful, useful, and most importantly, respectful. Expectations for the paper are provided below. Short quizzes will be given both online and in class. Their purpose is to ensure that students are retaining important concepts and to assist students in preparing for the exams. The attendance score will be reduced by 1 percentage point for each unexcused absence. Exams will contain a mixture of question types such as short answer and multiple choice questions,

the final exam is cumulative.

- **Research Paper: 20% of final grade. Worth 200 pts**
  - **20pts Bibliography**
  - **40 pts Grammar and Formatting**
  - **140pts Content**

Each student will be responsible for completing one research paper of **5-7 pages**. Formatting guidelines are as follows: double-spaced lines, one-inch margins (i.e., top, bottom, left, and right), and Times New Roman font. A bibliography must be included and follow American Political Science Association Style for citations. Papers will be graded based on grammar, content, and clarity.

**Papers must be submitted in hard copy by the start of class on Apr 16.** Any papers turned in after this time will be considered late. Each day late will result in the loss a full letter grade.

### Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas within a couple of days of each assignment.

### COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

#### Complete Course Calendar

	Title	Readings	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan 14, 16</b>	Intro to Comparative Politics	Ch 1	
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Jan 21, 23</b>	The Scientific Method	Ch 2	
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Jan 28, 30</b>	Theories on Politics	Ch 3	
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Feb 4, 6</b>	Origins of the Modern State	Ch 4	
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb 11, 13</b>	Economic Determinants of Government	Ch 5	
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Feb 18, 20</b>	Cultural Determinants of Government	Ch 6	

<b>Week 7</b> <b>Feb 25, 27</b>	Democratic Transitions	Ch 7	
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Mar 4, 6</b>	Varieties of Dictatorship	Ch 8	<b>Midterm Exam Thurs</b>
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Mar 10, 12</b>	Spring Break Mar 9-13 No Class		
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Mar 17, 19</b>	Varieties of Dictatorship	Ch 8 Con't	
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Mar 24, 26</b>	Problems with groups	Ch 9	
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Mar 30, 2</b>	Democracies	Ch 10	
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Apr 7, 9</b>	Elections	Ch 11	
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Apr 14, 16</b>	Party Systems	Ch 12	<b>Paper due</b>
<b>Week 15</b> <b>Apr 22, 23</b>	Institutional Veto Players	Ch 13	
<b>Week 16</b> <b>Apr 28, 30</b>	Consequences of Democracy	Ch 14	
<b>Week 17</b> <b>May 4, 7</b>	<b>Final Exam May 7</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>

### Important University Dates

January 13, 2020	Add, Drop and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
January 13, 2020	Classes Begin for Spring Semester
January 15, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
January 20, 2020	Martin Luther King, Jr Day (University Closed)
January 21, 2020	Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with No Record

January 29, 2020	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with No Record
February 21, 2020	Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
March 1, 2020	Deadline for Teacher Education and Professional Certification Applications
March 6, 2020	Classes end for 1st 8-Weeks
March 9-12, 2020	Spring Break (No Classes - Administrative Offices Open)
March 13, 2020	Spring Break (University Closed)
March 10, 2020	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)
March 15, 2020	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
March 16, 2020	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
March 16, 2020	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
March 16, 2020	Class Schedule Published for Summer Semester
March 18, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
March 23, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
March 27, 2020	Deadline for Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation
March 30, 2020	Registration Opens for Seniors, Post-Bacc, and Graduate Students for Summer Semester
April 3, 2020	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
April 6, 2020	Registration opens for all students for the Summer and Fall Semesters
April 24, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
May 8, 2020	Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Spring Graduation (5pm)
May 8, 2020	Deadline for Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office. \$20 Late Application Fee.
May 8, 2020	Deadline to Withdraw from the University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
May 8, 2020	Spring Semester Ends
May 9, 2020	Spring Commencement Ceremony
May 11, 2020	Classes Begin for Minimester
May 12, 2020	Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no**

longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing

grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Writing Center**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.



## **University Library**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

## **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

## **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

### **Excused Absences, Make-Up Work, and Late Work**

Late work will reduced one letter grade for each day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor's convenience.