COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course offers an interpretive survey of world (or comparative) politics. One of the basic questions it seeks to address is how societies and governments organize to cope with internal diversity and global change. And, as you are no doubt aware, the transformations and challenges the world has experienced--especially in the past two decades or so--are immense. We will attempt to gain a better understanding of how nations grapple with domestic and international diversity in two primary ways. This first is to establish a base of knowledge regarding the problems and issues associated with authoritarianism, democratization, state-building, globalization, etc. The second is through a collaborative learning exercise which will enhance our knowledge of world politics at a more “granular” level. Therefore, it is not too much of an understatement to note that we will have much to consider, discuss, and do in the coming days and weeks!!

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION: Class will meet two days a week from 10:00-11:15 a.m. in PL 222. My office hours are 2:30-3:30 p.m. T/Th, or by appointment. My office is Johns Hall 111B. My office phone is 294-3185; also feel free to contact me by e-mail (Cleve Fraser).

REQUIRED READINGS: The following textbook is required for the course:


Other materials will be posted on this course’s Moodle portal.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade for this course will be determined on the basis of four exercises, dated and weighted as follows:

- Midterm exam I Tuesday, October 3 25%
- Midterm exam II Tuesday, November 7 25%
- Institutions in Action Presentations November 14-December 5 25%
- Final exam Tuesday, December 12 (8:30-11:00 a.m.) 25%

All exams will be short-answer essay. The last two exams will be cumulative, although questions will be skewed toward material not covered on previous exams.

Political Institutions are a central concept and organizing device for Professor O’Neil’s exploration of comparative politics. And both conceptually and practically, O’Neil takes a rather expansive and inclusive view of an institution as “something so embedded in people’s lives as a norm or value that it is not easily dislodged or changed” (O’Neil, 2015: 19). Using this conception of institutions, I will ask each of you to choose a set of institutions associated with a nation-state or a non-governmental actor and to indicate how they were established, how they operate, and how they have influenced—and been influenced by—an increasingly globalized world. More specific information on this assignment will be forthcoming in the near future, and should be considered as an appendix to this document.
I am a technophile by nature—that is, I usually embrace and use the latest electronic gadgets. I suspect that many of you are technophiles too, but during our class time together please insure that all of your electronic communications devices are turned off for the duration of the class. **The owner of a ringing PDA/cell phone will lose two (2) points per occurrence on his/her most proximate assignment.**

With respect to the use of computers for note taking, let me point you to a summary of a recent study which may assist in making an informed decision on whether or not using computers improves a student’s classroom performance. Again, my preference is for old school pen and paper notation, but I recognize that there are valid reasons for employing computers and tablets to record information in this type of setting.

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should contact the SOAR Office in a timely manner **prior** to contacting me. The number is 294-2320. They are located in Room 202, Earle Infirmary.

**COURSE GRADE:** Your written examinations will be assigned both a numeric and alphabetic grade (out of 100 points). Here is the scale: 100-98=A+; 97-92=A; 91-90=A-; 89-88=B+; 87-82=B; 81-80+B-; 79-78=C+; 77-72=C; 71-70=C-; 69-68=D+; 67-62=D; 61-60=D-; 59 and below=F.

Your final grade will be determined by (a) converting your letter grades into the following numerical scale: A+=12; A=11; A-=10; B+=9; B=8; B-=7; C+=6; C=5; C-=4; D+=3; D=2; D-=1; F=0; (b) weighting each score by the percentage that each assignment counts toward your final grade, and then (c) summing the weighted values to arrive at a final score, which ranges from 12 (A+) to 0 (F).

**COURSE OUTLINE:** It will be your responsibility to utilize the time between our sessions to insure that you read and reflect on the material **before** the date which it will be considered. A final note: the instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the syllabus.

- **August 22** Course Introduction
- **August 24** Preliminary Questions in World (Comparative) Politics (Why?)
  
  **Readings:** O’Neil, chapter 1

- **August 29** Preliminary Questions in World Politics (What?)
  
  **Readings:** O’Neil, Chapter 2.

- **August 31** States and Society (How?)
  
  **Readings:** O’Neil, Chapter 3

- **September 5** Political Economy, Part I
  
  **Readings:** O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 98-112)
September 7  Fall Convocation (No Class)

September 12  Political Economy, Part II

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 112-120)

September 14  Political Economy, Part III

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 120-133)

September 19  Democracy and Democratization

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 5 (pp. 136-148)
  Huntington outline (via Moodle)

September 21  Democratic Institutions and Practices

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 5 (pp.148-171)

September 26  The Authoritarian Impulse

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 6 (pp.174-193)

September 28  Types of Authoritarian Systems

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 6 (pp.193-204)

October 3  Midterm Exam 1

October 5  Developed Democracies, Part I

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 8 (pp. 238-260)

October 10  Fall Break (No class)

October 12  Developed Democracies, Part II

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 8 (pp.260-269)

October 17  Socialism and Communism

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 9 (pp. 270-289)

October 19  Issues in the Post-communist Era

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 9 (pp. 289-306)

October 24  Issues of Development

  Readings: O’Neill, Chapter 10 (pp.308-322)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>Issues of Development and Modernization</td>
<td>O’Neil, Chapter 10 (pp. 322-340)</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Globalization, Part I</td>
<td>O’Neil, Chapter 11, (pp.342-361)</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Globalization, Part II</td>
<td>O’Neil, Chapter 11 (pp.361-370)</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Political Violence</td>
<td>O’Neil, Chapter 7</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Institutions in Action Presentations</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
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