

## **Course syllabus developed with funding from:**

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**PSC 216: Non-Western Comparative Government**  
**Department of Historical and Policy Studies**  
**Oakton Community College**  
**Spring 2017**

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**Office hours by appointment**

<u>Course Prefix</u>	<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Lab</u>
PSC	216	Non-Western Comparative Government	3	3	0

**Course Prerequisite:** None

**Course Description**

Using Russia as a backdrop, the course will provide a comparative examination of the political systems of selected non-Western countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan), including institutions, electoral systems, political parties, governance, and major historical events. Utilizing political analytical techniques, the course will also provide a survey of social and cultural issues (women, religion, minorities), address each country's broader geopolitical issues, economic development, and foreign policies, as well as, highlighting the important role these five political actors play in Central Asia. IAI S5 905

**Required & Recommended Textbook**

Allworth, Edwin. 2002. *Central Asia: 130 Years of Russian Dominance, A Historical Overview*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Duke University Press.

Bregel, Yuri. 2003. *An Historical Atlas of Central Asia*. Brill.

Davis, Elizabeth, Van.Wie. and Azizian, Rouben. 2007. *Islam, Oil, and Geopolitics in Central Asia after September 11*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Golden, Peter. 2004. *Central Asia in World History*. Oxford University Press.

Liu, Xinru. 2010. *The Silk Road in World History*. Oxford University Press.

Mason, Colin. *A Short History of Asia*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Wegren, Stephen K, ed. 2013. *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfection, Future Uncertain*. Rowman & Littlefield.

## **Recommended Sources**

**CIA World Factbook**<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

### ***The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics***

Stokes, Susan C. and Carles Boix, eds.

Oxford Handbooks Online 2009, ISBN: 9780199566020

Available at:

[http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/oso/public/content/oho\\_politics/9780199566020/toc.html](http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/oso/public/content/oho_politics/9780199566020/toc.html)

### ***International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences***

Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes, eds.

Elsevier 2001, ISBN: 978-0-08-043076-8

Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com> (via institutional subscription)

### ***SAGE Doing Research in Political Science (2nd Edition)***

[Paul Pennings](#) & [Hans Keman](#) & [Jan Kleinnijenhuis](#), eds.

2006 Online ISBN: 9781849209038

Available at: <http://srmo.sagepub.com> (via institutional subscription)

### **The SAGE Handbook of Comparative Politics**

[Todd Landman](#) & [Neil Robinson](#)

SAGE 2009, ISBN: 9780857021083

Available at: <http://knowledge.sagepub.com> (via institutional subscription)

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

Grades will be based on **six** components: Total points = 600

1. Three exams worth 350 points. First two exams worth 100 each and one exam (Final) worth 150 points. = 59% of grade
2. 12 Quizzes: worth 100 points, (10 points each and based on 10 only as **the two lowest scores will be eliminated**) = 17% of grade
3. Class Presentation worth 50 points = 8% of grade
4. Paper worth 50 points = 8% of grade
5. Attendance: worth 25 points = 4% of grade
6. Participation: worth 25 points = 4% of grade

**Extra credit assignments might be offered throughout this class as deemed necessary by the professor. Extra credit assignments will: a) not exceed two, b) are optional and c) worth only 10 points each.**

This distribution is based on the total points acquired throughout the course and corresponds to the final letter grade.

**540 points & higher = 90% = A**

**480 points & higher = 80% = B**

**420 points & higher = 70% = C**

**360 points & higher = 60% = D**

**ANYTHING BELOW 360 points = F**

Grade distribution: 90+ = A, 80 – 89.9 = B, 70 – 79.9 = C, 60-69.9 = D, and less than 60 = F

In the final evaluation, if your point total falls a bit shy of a higher grade, extra consideration will be given to your attendance, timeliness, classroom participation, and the overall quality of your work.

## **Exams and Quizzes**

### **Quizzes**

Will be taken in class prior to starting the lecture for that chapter, and are intended to make you read the chapter. **There is NO MAKEUP for a missed quiz under any circumstances.** Quizzes will consist of 5-10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions.

**Since adherence to the class/reading schedule is not an exact science, you will be notified in advance of the date of the quiz in the event of a change.**

### **Exams**

Exams will cover all chapters finished at that point and will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false, short essay questions, and definitions ( **exam format subject to change as deemed necessary by the professor**). All material for the exams will be based on class lectures, power point slides and the required textbook. Students are strongly advised to take class notes, in addition to reading the assigned textbook chapters and any extra handouts given in class. A study guide will be provided prior to each exam.

**Any kind of cheating during the exams will result in an automatic “F” grade.**

### **Exam Makeup Policy: Important**

If there is an extreme emergency that prevents you from taking any of the three exams at the scheduled time, you must contact me immediately via email **ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE EXAM DATE** ( i.e., Exam is scheduled for January 28 you must email me by January 21). Emailing me the day of the exam (before or after) or a few days prior will result in **No makeup being given.** Also, please note that a different version of the original exam might be used for your makeup. Furthermore, **All excuses for makeup exams have to be accompanied by documentations (i.e., a doctor’s note if you were sick, or any other legal document).** And be handed to ME in class **ONE WEEK** prior to the exam date. A makeup exam will take place within one week of the original exam date in the testing center on the date assigned by the professor only. **NO makeup will given if such arrangements are NOT made.**

### **Paper**

One written assignments is required in this class based on three options. Paper must to be handed in on the due date. **Assignments handed in PAST the due date (late) will be accepted with a 50% reduction in points.** Plagiarism in regard to written assignments will also result in an “F” grade.

**Written Assignment Instructions:**

Two options are offered for this assignment. **Failure to meet the components of any of these options will result in a reduction of points. All topics, and movie choices must first be submitted and approved by the professor.**

**Option A: Movie Review**

1. Choose any political movie that pertains to the subject matter of this course.[2 points]
2. Paper must be a minimum of 5 pages long, double spaced and using a 12 font [5 points].
3. Paper must have a cover page which includes: your name, course number, type of paper and title and my name (Dr. Sherbini)[3 points]
4. In your paper you must answer the following questions which **are also to be used as your headings/ titles [5 points]**:
  1. Why did you choose this movie in particular? [5 points]
  2. What is the main idea(s) of the movie ( not a summary of the movie).[5 points]
  3. How does the movie relate to the subject matter/material learned in class?[10 points]
  4. What part(s) of the movie did you like and why?[5 points]
  5. What parts of the movie did you not like and why? [5 points]
  6. What is YOUR opinion of the movie and its message (i.e., was it bias)?[5 points]

**Option B: Research Paper**

1. Choose any topic that pertains to the subject matter of this course.[2 points]
2. Paper must be a minimum of 5 pages long (excluding a work cited page) double spaced and using a 12 font.[3 points]
3. Paper must have a cover page which includes: your name, Course number, Type of paper and title and my name (Dr. Sherbini).[2 points]
4. **Paper must have a thesis statement outlining the purpose of your paper (i.e., what you intend to discuss).[10 points]**
5. You must have at least three sources for your information.[3 points]
6. Proper in-text citations must be used throughout the paper (APA, or MLA)[10 points]
7. In your paper you must answer the following questions which are also to be used as your headings.
  1. Why did you choose this topic?[10 points]
  - 2.How does the topic relate to the subject matter/material learned in class?[10 points]

**Presentation**

Each student will be partnered with a classmate and required to give a 20 minute presentation on a topic related to the subject matter of the course. **All presentations will take place in the last 30 minutes of class on the assigned date.** A presentation schedule will be provided

**Presentation Instructions:**

1. Each presentation will be 20 minutes which includes a 5 minutes Q & A at the end of

each one.

2. Presentations are presented in PowerPoint & each student must have a minimum of 6 slides covering the material he/she wishes to highlight in their presentations.
3. Presentations can include media sources (i.e., YouTube video, graphs, charts etc.). Videos should not exceed 2 or 3 minutes.
4. Each student must use a minimum of 3 sources for information gathered and presented.
5. Each student **MUST** hand in a hardcopy of the sources used before the start of his/her presentation.
6. Information provided in slides must be factual (not anecdotal) and related to the topic presented.
7. Students must make sure they have a good understanding of the topic they are presenting.
8. A sample list of relevant topics will be provided. However, if any student wishes to come up with their own topic, they **MUST** first submit it to the professor for approval.

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP DATES GIVEN FOR ANY MISSED presentation UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES,** unless for medical reasons **ONLY**, whereas a doctor's note has to be presented in order to be given a makeup date.

**Presentation Topics Sample:**

1. Minority Issues
2. Social Media
3. Education System
4. Immigration laws
5. LGBT issues
6. Healthcare
7. Military Spending
8. Women's Issues
9. Human Rights
10. Poverty
11. Privacy Laws
12. Corruption
13. Drugs and the Drug Cartels
14. Sex Trafficking
15. Current Refugee Migration to Europe

**Grading Standard and Explanations**

**A, A- = Superb/ Excellent quality.** You have perfect attendance (missed NO classes or within the two allowed excuses per this syllabus), participated and contributed insightful and useful information to class discussions. Perfect or near perfect scores on all exams & quizzes. Given an outstanding presentation (per the presentation rules rubric) and presented on your scheduled date offering original and insightful analysis of debate topic Your written work has a clear thesis, excellent analysis, and supporting points with no careless errors in spelling and grammar, is well organized and structured and follows all components required. Always prepared or class in terms of readings.

**B, B- = Very Good/ Good quality.** You have near perfect attendance (within the two allowed

excuses per this syllabus), participated and contributed insightful and useful information to class discussions. Your work exceeds basic assignment requirements. Very good and/or good scores on all exams & quizzes. Given a very good presentation (per the presentation rules rubric) and presented on your scheduled date, offering interesting and insightful analysis of topic. Your written work is very good and/or good, clear and organized, with one or two spelling/grammar errors and follows all components required. Always prepared for class in terms of readings.

**C, C- = Satisfactory.** Your attendance is spotty (missed two or more in addition to the allowed two excuses, and with no documentation), your participation in class discussions is generally sporadic, lacks purpose or is unclear. Average scores on all exams & quizzes. Average presentation (per the presentation rules rubric) but still presented on your scheduled date, offering very little or no insightful analysis of topic. Your written work is fair, lacking clear analysis, original interpretation, and organization with several spelling/grammar errors and does not follow all components required. Paper might be submitted late. Not always prepared for class in terms of the readings.

**D, D- = Poor.** Very poor attendance record (missed 3 or more in addition to the allowed two excuses, with no proper documentation) and participation evidently lacking. Poor/ unsatisfactory scores on exams & quizzes. Very poor performance on presentation or missed date (per the presentation rules rubric). Lacks a basic understanding of course material. Your written work lacks any in-depth analysis (is simplistic), with no clarity, organization, or a basic understanding of the subject, in addition to numerous spelling/grammar errors, and fails to follow all/ or most of the components required. Paper might have been late or not submitted at all.

**F = Unsatisfactory.** Missed more than 50% of classes. No Participation in class discussion. Very poor and/or failing scores on all exams & quizzes. Missed presentation scheduled date. Did not submit written assignment. Your work fails to meet most of the requirements of an assignment, or of the course. F- Level students lack any serious interest or engagement in the course.

### Attendance

Attendance will be taken before each class for the purpose of determining whether or not there is a pattern of poor attendance, which could result in being dropped from the class roster by mid-term. Since points will be given for good attendance and participation, each student will be allowed **ONLY 2 unexcused absences throughout the duration of the course. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to pick up class notes, handouts, and graded work.** All students are expected to show up and leave class on time. Arriving more than 5 or 10 minutes after the class has begun or leaving 5 or 10 minutes before it ends will result in NO attendance being taken for you on that date.

### Class Participation

Class participation an integral part of this course. Students are highly encouraged to engage in class discussion. Your input is very important because it demonstrates two things: First, you are up to speed with the readings. Second, you are aware of the issues/current events pertaining to the subject matter of this course. Points will be allocated based on the frequency of your

participation. The more you participate the more points you will earn. Students who do not participate, or do so once or twice throughout the duration of the class, will either receive very few points or NO points at all.

### **Student Responsibilities and Professor Policies**

1. While in class, proper respect for colleagues and the professor are required. This includes refraining from side conversations with fellow classmates, and turning off all devices; especially **cell phones**. **5 points will be deducted from any student seen using their phones, if your phone ring and/or texting. The same policy applies for use of laptops in the classroom.** Internet searches on your laptops during class are strictly prohibited. 5 points will be deducted if this occurs.
2. Students are required to prepare for class lectures by reading all of the assigned reading material beforehand and to actively participate in classroom discussions (since points are given for that purpose). **The Professor IS NOT responsible for reading the material to students** and you are required to respond to questions regarding the text when called upon (and you will be called upon...BY NAME).
3. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to class without first getting approval from the professor (at least three business days ahead of the requested visit). **I reserve the absolute right of refusal** with respect to permitting students' guests to enter the classroom. "Visitors" include, but is not limited to, family, friends, or any other party known by you who is not registered for the course.
4. **The Professor is under no obligation to accommodate a student's work schedule/personal conflicts of a non-emergency nature** (foreseeable or otherwise). Per my syllabus, you are allowed two undocumented excuses throughout the duration of the course. If you exceed this rule by missing a third class with No legitimate documentation you will forfeit your entire points for attendance (25 points). **NO EXCEPTRIONS** under any circumstances.
5. **Use of recording devices ( includes cell phones): YOU DO NOT HAVE MY PERMISSION TO RECORD CLASSROOM CONVERSATIONS (WHICH INCLUDES THE LECTURES) and /or for any other reasons, or TAKE PICTURES. When directed, you must turn off your recording device at once...WITHOUT QUESTIONS.** Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the classroom and may also result in receiving a failing grade for the course.
6. Students missing the first day in which this syllabus/document is disseminated and explained are responsible for reading it. **It is also agreed that this document represents a binding, actionable accord between student and professor for the duration of the term (and beyond to an extent).** Accordingly, you remain responsible for knowing and acting upon the content of this agreement. You are also advised to periodically review it and to seek clarity when needed.



7. The professor reserves the right to amend this agreement/syllabus as needed...**without notice**. Notification may be in the form of a classroom verbal amendment, so maintain regular attendance if you want to remain “in the know.”
8. In all emails (me to you and *vice versa*), put “PSC 201” in the “Subject” line of your e-mail. This may help our emails get past some spam filters. **Always use my email address when you’re trying to reach me. I will not be responsible for issues or problems arising from your failure to send any email to me at this address.**

#### A Final Comment

*One of the most important topics in Politics is known as “accords and/ or agreements”, some call it “rules or laws”. This school of thought rests on the principle that the existence and enforceability of agreements and such, is essential for an efficient and democratic system. Without them, people don’t know what they can (or can’t) do. This syllabus is, in a sense, an “agreement”. Read it carefully and be sure you understand and are willing to accept its terms. If you do not understand its terms, tell me and I will attempt to clarify those terms.*

***But note that one of the oldest and most fundamental principles of common law states that “Ignorance of the law is no excuse.” In other words, neither a defense nor an appeal may be founded on the argument that “I didn’t know...”***

