

# PO233-30 Core Issues in Comparative Politics

**21/22**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Renske Doorenspleet

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

50% coursework, 50% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Why do political regimes and institutions develop how they do, where they do? Why are some countries democratic and others not? Why do people use political violence in some places and times? What role does culture play in contemporary politics? What effects do different institutional designs have upon political outcomes? Why do different ethnic groups sometimes live together peacefully, and sometimes not? Why does the level of voter turnout vary across countries? Why is nationalism stronger in some places?

This module introduces the core issues, methods, and concepts of comparative politics. It provides a broad range of methods and approaches of comparative political science. The module first addresses what can be understood by comparative political science. It will become clear that there are different opinions on this matter. Then, we will pay attention to the methodological aspects and problems encountered in comparative political science research. We examine issues such as what to compare (and with what), how many cases and variables should be included and which conclusions can be drawn from the results. It will be made clear that different methods and approaches may lead to different results.

In the rest of the module, some core areas of comparative political analysis will be explored. We shall cover the basic concepts and issues of comparative politics, such as regime change, democratization, nationalism, civil war, poverty, political participation, the role of culture, and

ethnic identity. Countries also have different types of political institutions: there are big cross-national differences in types of electoral systems, parties, and legislatures. We will discuss the different characteristics of the types and their impact on the democratic quality, economic and political performance. The module covers developments in different political systems in the contemporary world, so not only in industrialized democracies and post communist regimes, but also in developing countries of the so-called third world.

[Module web page](#)

## Module aims

- to introduce students to the methodological and theoretical foundations of comparative approaches to political science;
- to deepen their knowledge in a number of relevant areas of comparative political research;
- to analyze and compare some of the current political developments in different countries around the world

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

tbc

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- At the end of the module a student should be able to:- Understand the core concepts, theories and methodologies in comparative politics
- Describe national political systems and their essential elements
- Make critical evaluations of differences between national political systems
- Critically apply the theoretical literature to practical examples
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources
- Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to relevant problems
- Evaluate research material in a critical way
- Develop and present his or her own research projects within the discipline of comparative politics

## Indicative reading list

- Caramani, Daniele (2008). Introduction to Comparative Politics, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Hague, R. and M. Harrop (2010). Comparative Government and Politics, An Introduction, London: Palgrave
- Haerpfer, Christian and Patrick Bernhagen, Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel (2009),

Democratization, Oxford: Oxford University Press

- Walliman, N. (2011). Your Research Project. London: Sage

## Subject specific skills

tbc

## Transferable skills

tbc

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	282 hours (94%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

tbc

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group C1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Research Project	50%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Online Examination	50%	No
2 questions over 1.5 hours		

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

PAIS Assessed essay Essay feedback form (Tabula submission)  
Oral Feedback

[Past exam papers for PO233](#)

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)

- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
  - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
  - Year 3 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
  - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
  - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 3 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
  - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
  - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law