Welcome to Politics 2100. This course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics. Students will become acquainted with the manner in which states were created and have evolved. Students will then be introduced to the variety of different states that exist today in both the developed and developing worlds. This course will include a discussion which focuses on the tension between authoritarianism/dictatorship and democracy. Also included in the course will be an examination of the concepts and problems associated with nationalism, rentierism, state collapse and warlord states. In each case, students will be provided with both theoretical explanations of the concepts as well as experiential accounts through academic and journalistic sources.

Course Readings: Students should acquire the following text:


A copy of the O’Neil textbook will available at the short-term reserve desk at the McLaughlin Library. The remaining readings can be accessed through the library’s “course reserve.” Supplementary materials will be available on CourseLink. All readings on the syllabus are subject to examination.

Course Evaluation: Student work will be assessed across several components. First, students will have the opportunity to complete six quizzes based on the readings. Five of these quizzes will count toward your final grade. These short quizzes will be written in five minutes of class on days indicated as “Q-Days” in the syllabus below. In each case, it is incumbent that the student be present in class in order to write the quiz. There is one final make-up quiz at the end of the course for missed quizzes (everyone is entitled to write this final quiz). Second, students will write a mid-term exam. Third, students will prepare and submit a short formal essay. Finally, an exam will be written during the formal examination period.
Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>25 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay</td>
<td>30 per cent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Quizzes</td>
<td>5 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40 per cent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 percent</td>
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</tbody>
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**Essay Assignment**: Students will complete a short paper on a question to be provided by the instructor in the first week of class. If you need guidance in the planning or execution of your essay, please do not hesitate to consult with the teaching assistants or the course instructor. Students should also consult the essay writing guide available on CourseLink. Be advised that plagiarism is taken seriously. Students are expected to know and follow the University of Guelph’s policy on plagiarism and submit their papers in both hard copy and electronically to Turnitin anti-plagiarism software. Plagiarized papers will be referred to the College Dean for consideration. Please consult the course instructor or examine the University policy on plagiarism at [http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism.cfm](http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism.cfm). Students are also expected to know and respect the essay due dates. This course has incentives to encourage students submit their papers in a timely manner; in order to avoid late penalties, students should be in a position to submit their papers on the first due date. Students should not expect to receive extensions beyond these dates.

**How hard is this course?** Students will be expected to know the names of authors and their arguments and to articulate them clearly in exams and essays. For their term papers, students will be expected to show an understanding of key concepts and to be able to express themselves in discussion that is well organized, coherent, and follows accepted rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Do not underestimate the quality of writing expected and the time and care necessary to prepare your essay or study for your exams.

**Course Topics**

1) Introduction  
2) States and State Formation  
3) Nation and States  
4) Money, Markets, and States  
5) Nondemocratic States  
6) Rentier States  
7) Democratic States  
8) Advanced States  
9) Communist and Post-Communist States  
10) Developing States  
11) Developing States  
12) Weak States and New States
13) Violent States
14) Globalization and the State
15) Conclusions