# **Oppdatert emnebeskrivelse for STV2370 – Chaos politics? Theory Meets Reality in Comparative Politics**

Course content

Why do people waste their vote across the world? Why do ethnic groups kill each other in some places and not others? Why does the same policy seem great in one place and fail miserably in another? Many of the political events and developments taking place in the world may seem strange, politics can seem chaotic and unpredictable.

Comparative politics offers a rich tradition of empirical and theoretical insights that can help us make sense of the political world. In this course, we will look at puzzles from real-world politics and seek explanations for them in the comparative politics literature. The goal is to understand more about why things happen the way they do, but also when and why theories are useful, and how they may need to be modified to become more useful.

Our areas of focus are voting behavior, protests and violence, and the effects of institutions and policies. The course is about theory and theory development in comparative politics, but it also has a strong empirical component. Examples are taken from across the world, with a focus on developing democracies.

Learning outcome

**Knowledge**

You will:

* be familiar with central theories in comparative politics
* know empirical examples that both support and contradict these theories
* understand concepts related to theory development such a deterministic and probabilistic theories, assumptions, and scope conditions

**Skills**

You will:

* be able to think critically about theoretical explanations
* recognize assumptions in theoretical explanations
* understand empirical consequences of theoretical explanations
* know how to apply theories to new contexts
* be more confident in thinking about how theories can be modified

**Competence**

You will:

* improve your systematic and critical thinking
* gain experience in writing academic texts

## Admission

Students who are admitted to study programmes at UiO must each semester register which courses and exams they wish to sign up for [in Studentweb](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/registrations/course-registration/).

If you are not already enrolled as a student at UiO, please see our information about [admission requirements and procedures](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/).

This course is not available for single course students.

## Prerequisites

### **Recommended previous knowledge**

STV1300 – Introduction to Comparative Politics or other introductory courses in comparative politics.

## Teaching

Lectures and seminars.

#### Compulsory activities

* Attend the first seminar
* Present a short outline for your term paper
* Write and present your term paper
* Comment on other students' papers

The seminars are taught in English, and the papers handed in must be written in English.

See the [seminar guidelines](http://www.sv.uio.no/english/studies/admin/seminar%20guidlines%20isv.html)for more information about the seminars.

See the [rules for reassignment of seminar groups](https://www.uio.no/english/studies/registrations/semester-registration/seminargroup-sv.html) and [the guidelines for compulsory activities](https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/compulsory-activities/index.html).

#### Absence from compulsory activities

If you are ill or have another valid reason for being absent from compulsory activities, your absence may be approved or the compulsory activity may be postponed.

* [Report absence from or the need for a postponed deadline on a compulsory activity](https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/compulsory-activities/sv-absence-from-compulsory-tuition-activities.html)

## Examination

* 3-hour written exam
* term paper

You must pass the compulsory activities in order to sit the exam

The term paper must

* have a word count of 2500-3000 words
* meet the [formal requirements for submission of the course paper](http://www.sv.uio.no/english/studies/resources/submission-written-assignments/isv.html)

One overall grade is given, and both parts of the exam most be completed the same semester.

### **Written examination**

The written examination is conducted in the digital examination system Inspera. You will need to familiarize yourself with the digital examination arrangements in Inspera.

[Read more about written examinations using Inspera.](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/inspera/)

### **Submit assignments in Inspera**

You submit your assignment in the digital examination system Inspera. [Read more about how to submit assignments in Inspera.](https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/submissions/)

### **Use of sources and citation**

You should familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to [the use of sources and citations](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/). If you violate the rules, you may be suspected of [cheating/attempted cheating](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/).

### **Language of examination**

The examination text is given in English, and you submit your response in English.

### **Grading scale**

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grading-system/).

### **Explanations and appeals**

* [Explanation of grades and appeals](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/explanation-appeal/)

### **Resit an examination**

* [Illness at exams / postponed exams](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/illness-postponed/)
* [Resitting an examination](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/new-exam/)

### **Special examination arrangements**

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/special-arrangements/).

## Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.