

Andy Baker
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Lecture: MW 10:10AM – 11:00AM in Math 100
Baker's office hours: M 11:15-12:15 and W 11:15-12:15 or by appt. in Ketchum 224

TEXTBOOKS: Two books are required reading for this course. They are as follows:

- There are two other article-length readings that are required; those are available in .pdf format on the Canvas site for the course.

Third, students will be graded for their attendance (5%) and performance (10%) in recitation sections. Regarding the attendance portion, teaching assistants (TAs) will keep track of recitation attendance, and you will be allowed three “freebie” absences. Beyond three recitation absences, the attendance grade will be lowered from

100 by ten percentage points *per absence*. Students with nine or more recitation absences (i.e., three freebies plus six other absences) cannot pass the course; they will receive an “F” in the course. The performance component of the grade is based on student engagement and participation as well as other assignments given at the TA’s discretion.

Fourth, there will be a group-based role-playing simulation exercise carried out in recitation sections. Students will write a short paper (4%) in preparation for the simulation and submit it electronically. Again, papers submitted after the specified time will have ten percentage points subtracted from their final score each day they are late. Students will also be assigned a grade (1%) based on the results of the simulation.

Finally, student scores on the daily iClickers questions in lecture will be graded (10%). Each student receives five freebie clicker days, to be used for absences or poor clicker performance. Clickers are NOT used in recitation sections.

No extra credit projects are allowed or available for this course. Final grades are determined using the following percentage scale: A=94.0-100, A-=90.0-94.0, B+=87.0-90.0, B=84.0-87.0, B-=80.0-84.0, C+=77.0-80.0, C=74.0-77.0, C-=70.0-74.0, D+=67.0-70.0, D=64.0-67.0, D-=60.0-64.0, F=<60.0. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE TRUE CUT-OFFS AND THERE IS NO ROUNDING. ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY ESTIMATE OF YOUR CURRENT OVERALL GRADE IN CANVAS IS JUST AN ESTIMATE AND NOT OFFICIAL.

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in the class and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (e.g., published and/or online text, work by current or former students) as your own. Cheating on iClicker entries is also academic dishonesty.

Professor Baker retains the right to make changes to this syllabus, although I will do so only if relevant circumstances arise.

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MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES

This class will use “Classroom capture” technology, which will record the lectures and make them available to students soon after each one. Please note that the availability and quality of these recordings cannot be guaranteed! Film clips and movies do not show up well, and other technical problems may arise. Students are still responsible for lecture material even if technical problems arise with classroom capture, and students who do not attend the live lecture will not receive clicker points for that day. Classroom capture is not available for recitation sections.

I prefer to be contacted by university email (andy.baker@colorado.edu). (Do not message me or your TAs through the Canvas app; a Canvas message is likely to be missed.) If you email me, I will typically respond within 48 hours and during normal business hours. I am unlikely to respond on weekends and during evenings. Note that, because TAs have fewer students than me, they might often give you a faster response—for most questions, your TA should be the first person you ask. I will typically give course updates using the “Announcements” tab on the course Canvas site, although important documents and announcements will also be emailed to everyone. Aside from this syllabus, all course handouts are emailed to students and posted to Canvas. They are not printed, copied, and handed out. Finally, I prefer to go by “Professor Baker,” and I use the pronouns he/him.

In class, please turn off your cell phones. Also, please do not read newspapers, bring your non-service dog(s), or chat with your neighbor.

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TO REPEAT

- YOU CANNOT PASS THIS CLASS IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND RECITATION SECTIONS! NINE RECITATION ABSENCES AND YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” IN THE CLASS.
- YOU WILL ONLY SUBMIT ELECTRONIC COPIES OF YOUR PAPER ASSIGNMENTS. LATE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE PENALIZED.

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1 : August 22 and 24

Course Guidelines and Themes

Suggested discussion topics:

Icebreakers. Getting to know one another.

UNIT 1: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND REGIMES

Week 2: August 29 and 31

The State

Read by August 29:

- Chapter 1 “Introduction” in *Cases and Concepts*
- Chapter 2 “States” in *Cases and Concepts*

Suggested discussion topics: Can the study of politics be a science? What is the state? What is a regime? Why did modern states originate? Why are some states weak and others strong?

Week 3: September 7
Democracies

Read by September 6:
• Chapter 6 “Democratic Regimes” in *Cases and Concepts*

NO CLASS OR SECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 5

Suggested discussion topics: What is democracy? Why are some countries democracies and others non-democracies?

Week 4: September 12 and 14
Presidential/Parliamentary Systems
Electoral Systems

Read by September 12:
• Chapter “United States” in *Cases and Concepts*
• Chapter “United Kingdom” in *Cases and Concepts*
• Article “The Case for a Multi-Party U.S. Parliament?” by Allen in Canvas

Suggested discussion topics: What are different ways to organize a democracy? What are the consequences of presidential and parliamentary systems? Why do different electoral systems matter?
Meet with your simulation parties!

Week 5: September 19 and 21
Nondemocracies

Read by September 21:
• Chapter 8 “Nondemocratic Regimes” in *Cases and Concepts*
• Start reading *Spin Dictators* (Chapters 1 and 2)

SHORT PAPER DUE TO CANVAS ON SEPTEMBER 19 AT 9:00AM

Suggested discussion topics: *Simulation of a parliamentary system!*

Week 6: September 26 and 28
Examples of Nondemocracy

Read by September 26:
• Chapter “Russia” in *Cases and Concepts*
• Chapter “China” in *Cases and Concepts*
• Continue reading *Spin Dictators* (Chapters 3 through 5)

Suggested discussion topics: How do China and Russia exemplify non-democratic political regimes? How have dictatorships changed since the 20th century? Discuss *Spin Dictators*

Week 7: October 3 and 5
Regime Change
Catch-up and Review

Read by October 3:
• Finish reading *Spin Dictators* (Chapters 6 and 7; Chapter 8 not required)

Suggested discussion topics: *Midterm review*

Week 8a: October 10

MIDTERM 1 IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 IN CLASS

UNIT 2: POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 8b: October 12
Types of Political-Economic Systems
Redistribution

Read by October 12:
• Chapter 4 “Political Economy” in *Cases and Concepts*

Suggested discussion topics: What are different ways in which states intervene in markets? Why do some countries tax and redistribute more than others?

Week 9: October 17 and 19
Global Development and

Read by October 17:
• Chapter 10 “Developing Countries” in *Cases and Concepts*

Underdevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article “Rents and Economic Development” by Acemoglu and Robinson in Canvas
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	Why are some countries rich and others poor?
Week 10: October 24 and 26 Global Development and Underdevelopment Examples	<u>Read by October 24:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter “Mexico” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i> Chapter “Nigeria” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	How do Mexico and Nigeria exemplify development and underdevelopment? How do they exemplify different explanations for underdevelopment?
Week 11: October 31 and Nov 2 Economic Globalization Catch-up and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11 “Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i> <u>Complete quiz by November 4:</u>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	<i>Midterm review</i>
Week 12a: November 7	MIDTERM 2 IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7 IN CLASS
Week 12b: November 9 Ethnicity, Race, and Politics	<u>UNIT 3: IDENTITY AND POLITICS</u> <u>Read by November 7:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 “Nations and Society” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What are different forms of group identity? How are they relevant to politics?
Week 13: November 14 and 16 Ethnicity, Race, and Politics Example	<u>Read by November 14:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter “South Africa” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	
Week 15: November 28 and 30 Religion and Politics Gender and Politics	<u>Read by November 28:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter “India” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	Are some religions more amenable to democracy than others? Why does gender inequality vary so much around the world?
	RESEARCH PAPER DUE TO CANVAS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 9:00AM
Week 16: December 5 and 7 Political Violence	<u>Read by December 5:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 “Political Violence” in <i>Cases and Concepts</i>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What are different forms of political violence? What are their causes?
Final Exam	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:30 – 10:00PM IN MATH 100 If you have three or more final exams on Sunday, December 11, please check the university’s final exam policy before reaching out to me: https://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy .

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CLICKERS GUIDELINES

Five percent of students’ final grades will be your iClicker score (henceforth just “clicker/s”), which is based on points accumulated via clickers during each lecture throughout the semester. STUDENTS SHOULD BRING CLICKERS TO EVERY LECTURE! (Again, clickers are not needed in recitation sections.) Most lectures will have somewhere between two and ten clicker questions. Clicker questions are either (1) one-point,

At the end of the semester, students' five worst clicker days will be discarded, and the clicker grade will be based on the percentage accumulated over all remaining days. These five freebies should be used wisely! Days for which you receive a clicker score of 0 for any reason will be counted against the five freebies. These include any kind of absence (including sickness and religious holidays), technical difficulties with a clicker (dead batteries, unregistered clicker, broken clicker), or a forgotten clicker. If you have a prolonged illness or family situation (e.g., three weeks or more), please let me know, but for standard short-term problems and absences you will use the freebies. Also, written answers cannot be accepted in lieu of actual clicker entries, and I cannot lend out clickers. Requests to receive missing clicker points because you can show your lecture notes will be declined. Students who arrive late or leave early to class will also miss clicker points. Most lectures will begin with a clicker question, often on the assigned readings for that day or on the previous lecture, and most will also end with one.

Students must also enter the correct frequency code AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS! You can do this with 3 button clicks. First, hold down the “ON/OFF” switch for a few seconds until the light starts blinking. Second, enter the letters A and B in sequence. (Sometimes the last two button clicks are done automatically for you.)

IF YOU NOTICE DURING THE SEMESTER THAT, EVEN AFTER REGISTERING YOUR CLICKER, YOUR SCORES IN CANVAS ARE ALL ZEROES, THE EASY SOLUTION IS TO EMAIL ME WITH THE SERIAL ID NUMBER LOCATED ON THE STICKER OF YOUR CLICKER. ALSO, YOU ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO PERIODICALLY CHECK YOUR CLICKER SCORES FOR THIS CLASS IN CANVAS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

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Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior](#) policy, the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask-optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you

should stay home and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination and harassment, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these policies, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of any issues related to these policies regardless of when or where they occurred to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and resolution options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.