Course Subject, Number, and Title: Political Science 182: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Honors)

Meeting Time and Location: Fall 2023, Mondays 1:20 PM - 3:15 PM, in Van Vleck B115
Canvas Course URL: https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/370700

Credits: 3
Course Designations and Attributes: Seminar
Breadth - Social Science, Level – Elementary, Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Requisites: Declared in an Honors program. Not open to students with credit for Poli Sci 120
Instructional Mode: In-Person

How Credit Hours are met by the Course:
Traditional Carnegie Definition – This class meets for one 115-minute class period each week over the spring semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, studying, etc.) for about 7 hours out of classroom for every class period. The syllabus includes more information about meeting times and expectations for student work.

Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction: 1) Participation in regularly scheduled learning sessions (in-person class meetings); 2) Personalized comments on individual student assignments (paper proposals, presentation slides, and a final paper)

Instructor Title and Name: Yoshiko M. Herrera, Professor, Department of Political Science
https://polisci.wisc.edu/staff/yoshiko-m-herrera/

Instructor Availability:
Drop-in office hours: Monday 3:20-4:00 or by appointment via Calendly: https://calendly.com/ymherrera/office-hours. Meet in in 316 North Hall, unless you prefer Zoom, in which case sign up on Calendly to reserve time slot and then email me to get a Zoom link. No need to ask permission to drop-in or schedule, but do email me if you need to meet at times other than drop-in times or those available on Calendly.

Instructor Email/Preferred Contact:
yherrera@wisc.edu
Course Description from the Guide [http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/poli_sci/]:
Introduction to Comparative Politics, one of the four sub-fields in Political Science, which involves the comparative analysis of political institutions, processes, and outcomes at the national level. Examines how to usefully compare politics in a variety of countries and makes comparisons explicit and systematic in order to determine how governments work, how power is organized and contested at the national level, and how people can participate and pursue their interests in different political settings. Includes key concepts, theories, methods, and country case studies.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Understand, analyze and evaluate concepts and theories in Comparative Politics.
2. Become acquainted with politics and political institutions in several countries around the world.
3. Identify and understand political science research methods.
4. Develop critical reading, writing, collaboration, and presentation skills.

Additional Course description:
This course is an introduction to some of the key concepts and theoretical approaches in the comparative politics subfield of political science, and to politics in select countries. Comparative politics is the study of politics within countries (whereas international relations is the study of interactions between countries). Prompted by real-world events and puzzles, comparativists investigate broad theoretical questions such as: How and why do countries democratize (or not)? What are different ways that states organize politics, i.e., how do they differ in terms of party systems, electoral rules, presidential powers, etc.? What is the relationship between the economy and the political system?

We will spend about half of the semester focusing on key concepts in comparative politics, and the final half studying those concepts in a sample of countries. The eight countries that we will study in depth are the United Kingdom, India, Mexico, South Africa, Iran, China, Russia and Ukraine. These represent many regions of the world and range from authoritarian regimes to newly democratic states and long-established democracies. The overall objective of the course is to give students grounding in the basic tools of comparative political analysis so that you can better understand world events and politics in countries around the world.

This is an honors course and it will be based on student-centered discussion rather than lectures. Reading is essential for full participation in discussions and students will be asked to explain concepts from the readings in class. In addition, students will work on a series of assignments related to an original final research paper and presentation. Finally, students will write and submit discussion questions each week, take online readings quizzes each week, and take a mid-term exam.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

  - This book can be purchased in 2 ways via the Norton website (or paperback should be available at University Bookstore):
    https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393532890/overview
  - Paperback: 978-0-393-53289-0 ($98.75)
  - Ebook with InQuizitive: 978-0-393-53291-3 ($41.95)
- In addition to this book, all assigned articles are available on the Canvas. Films will also be available online.

GRADING
Summary of course requirements and grading (see details below)

| I. Class Participation (4 x 4%) | 16% |
| II. Discussion Questions (11 x 0.09%) | 1% |
| III. Reading Quizzes (10 x 2.9%) | 29% |
| IV. Mid-term Exam | 20% |
| V. Final Paper (incl. 3 prior paper proposals (1%+4%+5%+20%) | 30% |
| VI. Final Presentation | 4% |
| 100% |

Grade scale:
A  100% to 95%  B  <89% to 83%  C  <77% to 70%  F  <60% to 0%
AB  <95% to 89%  BC  <83% to 77%  D  <70% to 60%

Grades are not curved.

ABSENCE, MAKE-UP, AND LATE-WORK POLICY
Absences will be excused due to religious conflicts, medical issues, or university-related business.

1. Absence must be excused: Contact me by email as soon as possible if you anticipate missing a class or assignment.
2. With an excused absence, missed class participation will be excluded from final grade total.
3. Online quizzes and other assignments must be submitted online by normal due date, unless the reason for the excused absence precludes doing the work by the normal deadline (e.g. medical reason). In this case, an alternative assignment will be accepted up to one week beyond the excused absence period. Any work not turned in one week beyond the excused period will not be accepted.
4. Late assignments will be marked down.
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Political Science department is located in North Hall. This building is not accessible to individuals with mobility disabilities and does not have an elevator or accessible restroom. The department is committed to equal opportunity for all students to attend office hours, advising, and other department-related events. Please contact me if North Hall presents a disability-related barrier to you, and I will work with you to ensure access. If you require a disability-related accommodation for the academic requirements of this course unrelated to North Hall, please see this site: https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/#SyllabusAccommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT
By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary sanctions (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct/) include, but are not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT
Diversity (https://diversity.wisc.edu/) is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND STATEMENTS:
See this link https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/#syllabustext for information on the following:
- Teaching and Learning Data Transparency Statement
- Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures Statement,
- Campus Resources for Academic Success
- Course Evaluations and Digital Course Evaluations
- Students’ Rules, Rights and Responsibilities
- Academic Calendar and Religious Observances
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mondays*</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Thursdays at 11:59 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep-11</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sep-18</td>
<td>What is Comparative Politics? and States</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep-25</td>
<td>Nations and Society and Political Violence</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Oct-2</td>
<td>Democratic Regimes and Non-Democratic Regimes</td>
<td>Oct-5</td>
<td>Proposal 1: topic/concept + country + type of question</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct-9</td>
<td>Political Economy and Communist Countries</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct-16</td>
<td>Developed and Developing countries</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct-23</td>
<td>Online mid-term exam (no in-class meeting)</td>
<td>Oct-26</td>
<td>Proposal 3: data and sources</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct-30</td>
<td>UK &amp; India</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov-6</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Nov-9</td>
<td>Proposal 2: causal research question and hypotheses</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov-13</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov-20</td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov-27</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Dec-4</td>
<td>Russia and Ukraine</td>
<td>Dec-7</td>
<td>Final Paper due</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dec-11</td>
<td>Student Paper Presentations</td>
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* For each course meeting between Sept. 18 and Dec. 4,
  • Discussion questions are due online at 12:00 pm on the day of class
  • An online reading quiz via Canvas will be due before the start of each class.

**Course Readings and Assignments**

**Week 1. Mon., Sept. 11: Introduction to the course**
Introductory discussion of course objectives and assignments

**Week 2. Mon., Sept. 18: What is Comparative Politics? and States**

Week 4. Mon., Oct. 2: Democratic and Nondemocratic Regimes
- Textbook: ch. 6, Democratic Regimes, 152-187.
- Textbook: ch. 8, Nondemocratic Regimes, 360-389.

Proposal 1: concepts + country + question, due Thursday, Oct. 5 at noon on course website

Week 5. Mon., Oct. 9: Political Economy and Communism
- Textbook: ch. 4, Political Economy, 88-123.
- Textbook: ch. 9, Communism and Postcommunism, 390-425.

Week 6. Mon., Oct. 16: Developed and Developing Countries
- Textbook: ch. 7, Developed Democracies, 188-217.
- Textbook: ch. 10, Developing Countries, 482-513.

Proposal 2: Causal research question and hypotheses, due Thur. Oct. 19 at noon on Canvas

Week 7. Mon., Oct. 23: Paper discussion and midterm week
- Midterm exam, online, no assigned readings.

Week 8. Mon., Oct. 30: United Kingdom and India
- Textbook: United Kingdom, 218-249; and India, pp. 514-543.
- Film: *Gandhi* (1982)
Week 9. Mon., Nov. 6: Mexico
• Textbook: Mexico, 570-599.
• Film: The Perfect Dictatorship (2014)

Proposal 3: Annotated bibliography, due Thursday, Nov. 9 at noon on Canvas

Week 10. Mon., Nov. 13: South Africa
• Textbook: South Africa, 628-659.
• Film: Long Night’s Journey into Day (2000)

Week 11. Mon., Nov. 20: Iran
• Textbook: Iran, 544-569.
• Film: Persepolis (2007)

Week 12. Mon., Nov. 27: China
• Textbook: China, 450-481.
• China article TBD
• Film: Last Train Home (2009)
Week 13. Mon., Dec. 4: Russia and Ukraine
• Textbook: Russia, 426-449.
• Russia article TBD
• Ukraine article TBD
• Film: 20 Days in Mariupol

Final Paper due Thursday Dec. 7 at 12:00 pm

Week 14. Mon., Dec. 11: Student Paper Presentations
• In-class student presentations

Presentation slides, due Monday Dec. 11 at noon on Canvas

EXAMS, QUIZZES, PAPERS & OTHER MAJOR GRADED WORK

Discussion Questions and Class Participation

I. Class Participation (4 x 4%=16% of final grade):
• This is a discussion-based online class and active participation is essential. Attending class is the first step and is important, but is not full participation. Active participation means being prepared by doing the reading and thinking about the material so that you can ask and answer questions related to the course material. Students should have the readings nearby and available in order to aid in the online discussion.
• I may call on a few students during each class meeting; you should be prepared to answer questions about each of the assigned readings.
• Students are expected to attend for the full class period; arriving late or leaving the session early will result in a lowered participation grade. If you have a medical reason for needing to leave class, please let me know.

Class participation grades will be given 4 times during the semester, taking into account the previous few weeks of participation.

Grading rubric for each participation grade:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attended each class during evaluation period</td>
<td>65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actively participated by asking questions and participating in group discussions or chats</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seemed in command of readings and material; able to explain concepts</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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II. Discussion questions (11 x .09% = 1% of final grade):
Each week students should post 1 question, of no more than 50 words, for discussion to the course website, by 12:00 pm on Monday. We will discuss a selection of these in class.
• Questions should directly pertain to the course material.
• Discussion questions are credit/no credit. If they are posted on time and contain required content as noted above students will receive credit.

III. Reading Quizzes (10 x 2.9% = 29% of final grade):
• Each week students will complete online reading quizzes, which will be done via the Canvas course website.
• Quizzes related to the textbook will be via InQuizitive and can be taken until the target points are reached. There is no time limit, but the quiz has to be completed before the relevant class.
• Quizzes on other readings and films are timed, 10 minutes, and can be taken anytime within 24 hours before the start of class on Monday, 1:20 pm. Once you begin the quiz you have 10 minutes to complete it. For these supplementary reading quizzes, the lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped.
• Quizzes are open book. The best way to prepare for the quizzes is to do the readings and watch the films, take notes on the main arguments of each article, and take the online practice quizzes for the textbook material.
• The grading rubric for quizzes is based on percent of correct answers, and uses the grade scale noted above.

IV. Midterm Exam (20% of final grade):
• The midterm exam will be held on Monday Oct. 23, online via Canvas.
• The exam is cumulative and will consist of questions similar to those on the weekly quizzes.
• The grading rubric for the mid-term exam is based on percent of correct answers, and uses the grade scale noted above.

V. Final Paper and Paper Proposals (1%+4%+5%+20% (30%) of final grade)
The goal of this assignment is an original research paper that 1) connects the theoretical material from the first half of the course with the case studies, and 2) investigates a causal research question. The paper must be structured to address one of the following two types of questions:
   a) A causal question in the form of “why did X happen,” e.g., What explains the rise of nationalism in India?
   b) A causal question in the form of “what are the effects of X on Y,” e.g., What is the effect of protests on the regime Iran?
Students will work on the paper through a series of structured proposals and a final paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal 1: Topic/concept, country, and type of question</th>
<th>1%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal 2: Causal research question and hypotheses</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal 3: Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total percent of course grade</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Requirements of the paper and all proposals:
- On every document you turn in, include your name, the date, the class name, and a title for the assignment.
- Use 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced
- All parts of paper should be posted as a PDF on the course website.

Examples:
Q1 What explains the rise of Hindu nationalism in India?
- Outcome: rising level Hindu nationalism in India (need data to establish this is happening, give dates, places, etc.)
- Hypotheses:
  H1. Populist rhetoric by elites and media bias led to rising Hindu nationalism;
  H2. Growing economic inequality led to rising Hindu nationalism;
  H3. Past violence in certain places led to rising Hindu nationalism in those places.

Q2 What is the effect of the protests on the regime in Iran?
- Phenomenon of interest: recent protests in Iran (need data to establish this occurred, give dates, places, etc.)
- Hypotheses:
  H1. Protests delegitimize and weaken the regime;
  H2. Protests are small scale and have no significant effect on the regime;
  H3. Protests allow the regime to identify and prosecute the opposition, strengthening the regime.

1. Proposal 1: Topic/concept, country, and type of question (1% of course grade)
   Length: ½ to 1 double-spaced page, due Oct. 5th at 12:00 pm via Canvas
   1. Choose one of the concepts/topics from the textbook, e.g., states, political economy, democracy, nationalism, etc.; could also be a concept within a textbook chapter, e.g., elections, voting, revolutions, etc.
   2. Choose one or more of the eight country cases;
   3. Choose one of the two types of research questions.
   4. Write a paragraph or two describing the topic/concept, country, and possible causal question you plan to study.
5. Develop and include a substantive title that describes the paper.
6. Add a sentence on whether you want to collaborate with another student on the final paper.

2. Proposal 3: Annotated bibliography (4% of course grade)
   Length: 2 to 3 double-spaced pages, due Oct 26th at 11:59 pm via Canvas
   Students should develop a list of at least 2 books and 8 political science journal articles (4 general political science and 4 from area/country specific journals) to be used in your paper. This annotated bibliography must include full citations and 1-2 sentences following each source to explain why it is useful for the paper. The sources should be organized according to the sections of the paper, i.e., the question, the outcome/phenomenon, hypothesis 1, hypothesis 2, etc.
   • 2 books must come from top academic presses: Cambridge University Press, Oxford UP, Cornell UP, Harvard UP, University of Chicago UP, Princeton UP, Stanford UP, Univ of Michigan Press, etc. Ask if you are not sure.
   • 4 general political science journal articles must come from the following list of journals: Annual Review of Political Science, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Journal of Democracy, Journal of Politics, International Organization, Nationalities Papers, Perspectives on Politics, PNAS, Studies in Comparative International Development, World Politics. If you want to use other journals, you must get my permission in advance (send me the citation including the journal name by email).
   • No book reviews, newspaper articles, dissertations, unpublished manuscripts, or websites count toward the 10 sources (see above) for this part of the assignment, though those can be included in the final paper. You can include them here, but they don’t count for the 10 sources.
   • Try using Google Scholar, https://scholar.google.com/ to find sources. Look for “Find it at UW” on the right to download articles. Many books are online in via the library site
   • Use APA citation style: http://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/c.php?g=177820&p=1170265.

3. Proposal 2: Causal research question and hypotheses (5% of course grade)
Develop a specific causal research question and hypotheses. Proposal should explicitly include the following sections:

1. A descriptive title (at the top of the paper)
2. An causal research question (of 1 of the 2 types noted above)
3. A paragraph on the outcome for type 1 question or on the phenomenon of interest which has hypothesized effects for question type 2
4. 2-4 numbered hypotheses, which are possible answers to your question. Each hypothesis might or might not be ultimately be correct, it will depend on what evidence you find. They must be "falsifiable" and formulated to answer your research question
5. A bibliography for any sources cited (does not count as part of page limit)

4. The final paper is due on Dec. 7th at noon (20% of final grade)
   - The final paper should be approximately 12 double-spaced pages, excluding citations.
   - Include a title page with your name, date, and a title; use appropriate style for the title page. Also, include page numbers on the paper.
   - Include a minimum of at least 2 top university press books and 8 academic articles (they can be different from the paper proposal).
   - Sections should be labeled with sub-headings; suggested divisions are below:
     1. Introduction, stating the research question, a summary of possible different explanations (i.e. hypotheses) and a brief summary of the argument (1-2 pp.)
     2. Discussion of the outcome or phenomenon of interests (what happened) and evidence to establish the question (1-2 pp.)
     3. Evidence for and analysis of different hypotheses/explanations, i.e. pros and cons based on evidence for each possible hypothesis (7-9 pp.)
     4. Conclusion (1 p).
     5. Bibliography (not annotated) and any data appendices. Figures/tables don’t count toward page limit.

Grading rubric for the final paper:

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>The paper adheres to requirements on the syllabus; contains title page, all 5 sections with headings, and is within page limit (12 double-spaced)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each element demonstrates thoughtful effort; no typos or errors; correct citation of sources, good word choice and tone</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>The research question is clear and related to the course material</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organized, analytical, discussion of relevant scholarly literature on the research question, which includes at least 10 academic political science sources as noted above</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thoughtful use of evidence to support argument</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</table>

100%
Late assignments will be marked down one grade if posted late by up to 24 hours after the due date/time, and one additional grade down every 24 hours after that.

VI. Final Paper Presentation (4% of final grade):
This is an opportunity for you to share your work from the semester with your fellow students, and to develop presentation skills.
- Presentations will be in class on last day of class; slides are due by noon on Dec 11th.
- Presentations should consist of 5 slides:
  1. Title slide (includes paper title plus full name(s), date, course name & number)
  2. Research question (and data on the outcome and/or background info)
  3. Hypotheses (possible explanations/answers to the question)
  4. Evidence for and against hypotheses
  5. Conclusion and summary of your argument
- Slides should use consistent style.
- You should add images or other relevant visual design elements where appropriate

Grading rubric final paper presentation & slides:

| Content: Captures main points of research paper (question, hypotheses, and findings) | 2 |
| Visual display of information: slide format, graphics, picture placement, text size, etc. | 1.5 |
| Speaking: Engagement with audience & speaking style (audible, clear, eye contact with audience) | 1 |
| Presentation length & errors: Contains 5 slides as noted in syllabus and no major typos or errors | .5 |
| Points (5% of total grade) | 5 |

GROUP WORK:

Students may choose to work in groups of up to 3 students on the proposals, the final paper, and the presentation. If you are interested in working in a group, indicate that in the survey that will be distributed. If you choose to work in a group:
- For the Paper Plans 2 and 3, add an additional section to discuss how work will be divided by each student
- The final paper length will be longer (by 5 pages per additional person, i.e. 17 or 22 pages total); the additional pages will be in the hypothesis and evidence sections.
- Make sure the final paper is integrated, even though the paper has different section, and different people might do more work on one or another of them. Make sure all sections are connected; each group member should read the entire paper to make sure all sections are integrated.
• In a separate document for the final paper, each group member should turn in a one-half page description of their own individual contribution and evaluation of others’ contributions to the research paper.