

Country Report and Group Presentation Project

Overview

This project allows you to apply comparative political analysis to a real-world case study. Each group will select one of the eleven countries discussed in our textbook and develop a comprehensive **Country Report** accompanied by an in-class **Group Presentation**. Together, these components will help you demonstrate how theories of political institutions, regime types, and development challenges translate into real political contexts.

Learning Objectives

By completing this project, students will:

1. Apply comparative political theories to analyze a specific country case.
2. Evaluate political institutions, governance, identity politics, and development challenges.
3. Collaborate effectively to conduct research and synthesize findings.
4. Communicate political analysis clearly through written and oral formats.

Assignment Components

1. Written Country Report (Group Paper) – 70% of Project Grade

Each group will submit a written report (8–10 double-spaced pages) analyzing a selected country.

The report should include the following sections:

Section	Description
I. Introduction (½–1 page)	Identify your country, summarize why it is an interesting or important case for comparative analysis, and outline your main research questions.
II. Political Background and Key Events	Provide a concise overview of the country's political history and current regime type. Highlight major turning points, transitions, or crises shaping its present political landscape.
III. Institutions and Governance	Describe the structure of government (executive, legislative, judiciary) and evaluate how institutional design affects accountability, representation, and stability.
IV. Political Participation and Identity	Analyze the role of political parties, civil society, and identity politics (e.g., ethnicity, religion, gender). Discuss how these dynamics influence policymaking or inclusion.
V. Development Challenges	Identify 1–2 key challenges—such as corruption, inequality, authoritarian resurgence, gender-based violence, or refugee management—and propose evidence-based policy solutions.
VI. Comparative Reflection	Connect your findings to at least one other country discussed in class or the textbook. What similarities or differences stand out?

Section	Description
VII. References	Use at least five scholarly or reputable sources (academic articles, government reports, or credible news). Follow APA or APSA citation style consistently.

Formatting Guidelines

- 8–10 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1-inch margins.
- Submit as a **single group file (.docx or .pdf)** via Canvas by the posted deadline.
- Include all group members' names on the cover page.

2. Group Presentation – 30% of Project Grade

Each group will deliver a **10–12 minute in-class presentation** summarizing their findings. The presentation should be clear, analytical, and engaging. You may use PowerPoint, Canva, or Prezi slides.

Presentation Requirements

- Identify the country and explain why it is an instructive case.
- Highlight key findings from your written report.
- Incorporate visuals (charts, maps, or infographics).
- Conclude with a short discussion question for classmates.
- All group members must contribute to the presentation.

Submission: Upload your presentation slides (PDF or PPTX) to Canvas before class on your assigned presentation date.

Group Instructions

- Groups of **4–5 students** will be formed by Week 5.
- Each group will sign up for a **country** via the Canvas discussion board (first come, first served).
- Assign **roles** within your group early (e.g., researcher, writer, editor, presenter, visual designer).
- Meet regularly (in person or virtually) to ensure balanced participation.
- Keep a brief record of each member's contributions.
- If a group experiences collaboration difficulties, notify the instructor promptly.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Needs Improvement (D or below)
Research & Evidence (25%)	Uses 5+ credible sources; demonstrates deep understanding of context and scholarly debates.	Uses several credible sources; mostly accurate and well contextualized.	Limited use of sources; some factual or analytical gaps.	Insufficient research; relies on unverified or superficial sources.
Analysis & Argument (25%)	Strong analytical insight; connects theory and evidence effectively; clear comparative perspective.	Good analysis; some theoretical connections; minor gaps in depth.	Descriptive rather than analytical; limited theoretical engagement.	Minimal analysis; lacks clear argument or theoretical grounding.
Organization & Clarity (15%)	Well-structured, logical flow, clear transitions and writing style.	Mostly well organized; minor clarity issues.	Some disorganization or unclear sections.	Disjointed, confusing, or incomplete.
Presentation Quality (20%)	Engaging, professional slides; clear delivery; balanced participation; effective visuals.	Good organization and delivery; minor issues with timing or balance.	Uneven delivery or cluttered visuals; limited engagement.	Poor preparation; unclear or uncoordinated presentation.
Team Collaboration (10%)	Equal participation; demonstrates teamwork and mutual accountability.	Generally cooperative; minor imbalance in contributions.	Uneven effort across members.	Serious imbalance or lack of collaboration.
Mechanics & Formatting (5%)	Flawless citations and formatting.	Minor citation or formatting errors.	Several citation inconsistencies.	Frequent errors; missing references or formatting.

Submission & Late Policy

- The **written report** is due **Friday, December 3rd, by 5:00 PM** via Canvas.
- Presentations will take place **during the final two weeks of class**.
- Late submissions will incur a **5-point deduction per day (for up to 2 days)**; after that, submissions will not be accepted.
- Group grades may be adjusted individually if peer evaluations indicate unequal contribution.

Academic Integrity

All group members are responsible for ensuring that the report and presentation reflect original work. Plagiarism or use of AI-generated text without attribution violates the University's Academic Integrity policy and will result in a zero on the assignment and a formal report to the Dean of Students.