

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Audubon 110 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:40-1:30

primarily thematic. Representing such a diverse field of study in one course is practically impossible. The objective is to acquire a basic knowledge of the basic concepts and structures and processes operate around the world and how they affect society, culture, and the economy.

General Education Credit

POL 2050 is a general education course that is designed to provide fundamental knowledge of the political and social institutions in the world. As advised by the University, "In addition to the acquisition of basic knowledge, the course will also focus on developing competencies in critical thinking, writing, and communication, which continue through their study in upper level elective courses and courses in the major field of study." Therefore, this course is developed to improve the student's ability to identify and analyze important social phenomena through the coursework which employs basic theories and empirical methods, and will help students develop the requisite interests and motivation to understand different cultures among nations and participate effectively in the political life of communities.

Requirements

Required Text: Gramant, Daniele. 2011. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199574971.

The student's grade will be determined in the following manner:

6 In-class Quizzes: 30%

The term Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Grade Scale: A=100-90, B=89-80, C=79-70, D=69-60, F=59-0

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011(7:30am-9:30am).

### Student Responsibility

There are no makeup exams except under extreme circumstances. These circumstances must be documented, and I must have access to these documents. Examinations that are not taken or assignments that are not turned in will receive an 'F.'

You are responsible for attendance at all class meetings. Class discussion will often involve critical examinations of the assigned readings, not mere recitation of the text. Class lectures and assignments will be given during class meetings. If you are absent from class, you will be responsible for catching up on the class period you missed. If you did not attend the first day of class and/or added the class late, all class policies apply equally to you. It is your responsibility to catch up on the class periods you missed.

Laptops are NOT allowed. As an introductory level political science course, there is no need for advanced software or the Internet usage during class meetings of this course. Therefore, you may not use a laptop computer or a cell phone during the class at all times. Students with special needs of using such devices must have the instructor's permission to proceed.

If the readings or class discussion are unclear for you, please ask questions. I am eager to help. Questions will be posted on Moodle.

### TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

8/22 Introduction /Call

8/24 What is Comparative Politics?

8/26 What is Comparative Politics (continued)?

8/28 Political Science Research

8/31 Theoretical Perspectives (continued)

9/3

9/5 Labor Day Holiday

9/12 State (continued)

9/9 Nation

~~9/10 Nation (continued)~~

~~9/14 Nation-state Case Study~~

~~9/16 Regimes and Institutions~~

9/19 Democracy

~~9/21 Democracy (continued)~~

~~9/23 Authoritarian Regimes~~

~~9/26 Authoritarian Regimes (continued)~~

9/28 Other Regimes

~~9/30 Movie TBD~~

10/3 Democracy Case Study

~~10/5 Authoritarianism Case Study~~

**10/7 Midterm Exam**

10/10 Legislatures

10/12 Legislatures (continued)

~~10/14 Fall Holiday~~

10/17 Elections and Electoral Systems

10/19 Elections case study

~~10/21 Elections case study (continued)~~

10/28 Movie TBD

~~10/31 Party Systems (continued)~~

~~11/2 Political Culture~~

11/4 Political Culture (continued)

~~11/7 Government and Bureaucracy~~

11/9 Government and Bureaucracy (continued)

~~11/11 Regions~~

11/14 Regions Case Study

~~11/16 Regions Case Study~~

11/18 Social Movement

11/21 Social Movement (continued)

*11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday*

11/28 Modernization and Globalization

~~11/30 Modernization and Globalization (continued)~~

12/2 Final Review

~~12/11 Final Review~~