

Poli 2053-001
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2011

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Harry W. Mookena

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30

Office: 200 Stubbs Hall

MWTF 11:30-12:30

across the countries of the world. In particular, we will provide a foundation for understanding the concepts on which political systems operate, the forces that account for change and continuity and the basis for comparing political performance in the first, second and third worlds.

It is expected that by the end of the semester, students must have developed the analytical skills for explaining the differences and similarities existing in the select countries discussed in class. POLI 2053 is a pre-requisite for POLI 2054. develop critical understanding of the political phenomena.

The University strives toward the following objectives for general education courses:

- Ability to think, describe, interpret and analyze the world.
- The need to gain critical perspectives of the governments and institutions across various political systems.

Books: There is one major text required for this course:

G. Bingham Powell: Comparative Politics Today
New York: Pearson Longman, 2012

You are also required to read selected articles from the New York Times. See the syllabus for the two-country paper.

Student Responsibilities:

assignments in order to enhance your ability to participate in class discussions. There is a grade for class participation.

Examinations, Paper, and Grades: There will be an early take home exam, an in-class midterm exam, a brief comparative survey of recent events in TWO countries (not discussed in lectures) of your choice and a take-home final. Details of these assignments will be determined according to this format:

Class Participation	10 pts.
Early Exam (take home)	10 pts. (due Sept 07)
Midterm Exam (in class)	20 pts. (Oct. 05)
Two-Country paper	10 pts. (Nov. 16)
NYT Multiple Choice Tests	10 pts. (Oct. 05/Nov. 30)
Final (take home)	40 pts. (Return Fri. Dec. 02)
	100 pts.

1-100-00 2-050-50 3-550-60 4-550-60 5-550-60 6-550-60 7-550-60

Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments

Aug 24

Course Intro: The Study of Politics

The Value of Comparative Politics

The Value of Comparative Politics

Comparative Methods and Problems: GBP: Chapter 1 & 2

Aug 31

Characteristics of Political Systems:

Defined by their Context

Driven By Constitutions and Ideologies

Sustained by their Economies; GBP: Chapter 3 & 4

Sept. 07

Institutional Approach

Legislature, Executive, Judiciary

Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals

GBP: Chapter 5, 6, & 7

Sept 07

Return Take Home (In class)

Sept. 14-28

Politics in Capitalist Democracies:

Their Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

Sept 14; Great Britain - Chapter 8 Sept. 21; France - Chapter 9

Sept 28; Germany - Chapter 10 Sept. 28; Japan - Chapter 11

Oct. 05

Midterm Exam (In Class)

Also **first** NYT multiple choice test

Oct. 12

Overview of Communism and the Third World

Oct. 19-26

Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

Oct. 19; Russia: Chapter 12 Oct. 26; China: Chapter 13

Nov 02-16

Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

India: Chapter 17; Nov. 02

Mexico: Chapter 14; Nov. 09

Iran/Nigeria: Chapter 16 & 18; Nov. 16

Nov. 16

Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due!

Nov. 23

No Class

Nov. 30

Course Evaluation/Final NYT Multiple Choice Test

Review Session

Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades

Final Dec. 02 (Fri)

Return Take Home Final between 10:00 - 12:00 (200 Seals II-III)