

Introduction to Comparative Politics
Poli 2053
1230-120pm MWF
284 Lockett Hall

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Course Description

This General Education course is designed to introduce students to the subfield in Political Science of Comparative Politics. This field examines the domestic political institutions that make up the governments of the world. This course will introduce students to several useful tools and concepts that can be used to examine the governments of foreign countries. These tools will also be applied in several national case studies, allowing the students to see those concepts in action throughout the world today. Students should also gain an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance and an understanding of the diversity of cultures across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks. As this is an introductory course, no prior Political Science instruction is necessary to succeed.

Course Requirements

The graded work for this class falls into 5 categories: Exams, Quizzes, Papers, Participation and LDAGs.

- 1) Exams: There will be two exams given in this class: March 4th and 6th in class and Tuesday May 5th at 1230pm. The midterm will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The final will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The format will be multiple choice, short answer, and an essay.
- 2) Quizzes: There will be one quiz each week. These will be taken through Tophat. These quizzes will cover current events and material from the reading for the week. Current events questions will be drawn from bbcnews.com and reuters.com. These quizzes will make up 15 percent of your final grade.
- 3) Plan of Government Paper: The paper for this class will require you to read a work of fiction from a list to be provided later and create a plan of government for the government featured in that book. This will allow students to demonstrate understanding of the concepts of constitutional engineering and the relationship between institutions and culture in a context that is not reliant on the constraints of the modern world. This paper will be worth 15 percent of the final grade.

- 4) Participation: Participation will be measured through participation in the class twitter feed. Students will be required to tweet approximately once a week @LSUPoli2053. Participation will make up 10 percent of

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all incidents of suspected plagiarism will be

Plagiarism policy found at <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/plagiarism.htm>

Schedule

Week 1:Jan 14-16: Introduction, What is Comparative Politics, What is the State?

Readings: Red : Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2:Jan 19 (No Class) -23: Leadership Selection

Readings : Red : p 147-155, p 168-172

Week 3:Jan 26-30: Democracies

Readings : Red: Chapters 5 and 8

Week 4 :Feb 2-6: Non-