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Time and Location

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-50
100% Web Based

Instructor Information

Jeong Hyun Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Louisiana State University
E-mail: kim1@lsu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Why are some states democracies, and others not? Why do democracies use different electoral rules, and what are their consequences? Why do some people vote, and others not? Comparative Politics is a subfield of political science that addresses these questions and more in different contexts around the world. This course introduces fundamental concepts, theories, and questions of the study of comparative politics. We will learn a number of topics central to understanding the political systems and political events around the world: democratization, voting and elections, political parties, representation, and political violence. This course will give students a basic understanding of how politics operates in the political systems around the world, and how historical, cultural, economic, and institutional differences across countries affect politics and policymaking.

Course Structure

1. This course will be delivered 100% online. There are two components of the course. First, all lectures will be pre-recorded by the instructor and will be posted on Moodle in the format of narrated PowerPoint slides. Second, there will be Zoom synchronous sessions. These synchronous sessions consist of class discussions and group activities

Teaching Assistant

Harriet Sellers

Ph.D. Student, Department of Political Science, Louisiana State University

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Learning Objectives

- ◁ Understand the fundamental concepts and theories in the study of comparative politics.
- ◁ Employ critical thinking and analytical tools to understand political phenomena.
- ◁ Develop skills to think critically and communicate thoughts effectively.

Course Materials

1. There is one required book in the course, available for purchase at the university bookstore. I strongly encourage you to purchase this book: William Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder, 2018. Principles of Comparative Politics, 3rd Edition, CQ Press (ISBN: 978 1506318127).
2. For some weeks, there will be additional readings beyond the textbook. I will post these reading materials on Moodle.

Course Policies

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their postbaccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Global Learning.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the LSU Code of Student Conduct [Link]. I strongly encourage you to review these policies. All violations of these policies should be reported to the Dean of Students. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Special Accommodations

For students who have special needs or who require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made. To request

