
Introduction to Comparative Politics

POLI 2053

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Jonathan C. Nickens
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Office Hours: M 11:30a-12:30p
or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Louisiana State University
Fall 2021
Section 003
212 Coates Hall
MWF 12:30p-1:20p

Course Overview

Course Description

This course provides a university-level introduction to comparative politics by addressing broad themes related to domestic politics and types of governments in countries around the world. Specific topics include modern state formation, variation in regime type, electoral systems and their effects, as well as other core topics & concerns of the sub-field. In addition, attention will be given toward theories relating to political violence & civil conflicts, and lesser developed countries. While comparative politics covers a wide-ranging area of study, this course is designed to provide the student with a firm grasp and understanding of the sub-field's fundamental issues, while also surveying several other important and emerging topics. Additionally, the course also features detailed examinations of case studies relating to individual countries in order to discuss how theories work and evolve in practice.

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Required Reading

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online for purchase at various online bookstores and websites. Required readings from the textbook are listed in the **Lecture Topics** section of this syllabus.

Newton, Kenneth and Jan W. van Deth (2016). Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World, 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press

2) Several topics and class meetings for this course will require additional or alternate readings not found in the textbook. These materials are listed in the **Lecture Topics** section of this syllabus, and will be uploaded to the course Moodle site in .pdf format for download. It is the student's responsibility to access and read the appropriate materials for the assigned class period. If the documents are unavailable or cannot be accessed for any reason, inform the instructor so that technical issues can be corrected/modified.

instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

Communication and Conduct

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use “texting” language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others0 Tw 1.97 0 Td{om) (s)-1 ()-11
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Lecture 12 Less Industrialized States & Failed States

Required Reading: Wood 2008

Lecture 13 Communism and Politics: Transitions from Autocracy to Democracy

Required Reading: *To Be Determined*

Lecture 14 Looking Toward The Future: Regime Types

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 17

Lecture 15 Collective Action: Individuals and Mass Movements

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 10

NEXT PAGE FOR COURSE CALENDAR --->

Nov 22	Lecture	-
Nov 24	*No Class*	Thanksgiving
Nov 26	*No Class*	Thanksgiving
Nov 29	Lecture	-
Dec 1	Lecture	-
Dec 3	Lecture	Last class meeting
Dec 7 (Tue.)	Examination Period	FINAL EXAM 12:30pm - 2:30pm