COURSE OUTLINE
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

POLS 120

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
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A. TITLE: Introduction to Comparative Politics

B. COURSE NUMBER: POLS 120

C. CREDIT HOURS: 3

D. WRITING INTENSIVE: Optional

E. COURSE LENGTH: 15 weeks per semester

F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Spring

G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY: 3 per week

H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course presents a comparative analysis of key political institutions, operations, leadership, policy-making process, and change. It evaluates political systems in selected countries, including democratic, socialist, authoritarian, and totalitarian states, and compares political processes and systems in the developing and developed world.

I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES: None

J. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

| A. Be able to define and explain the definition, formation, and importance of the modern state. | 2. Crit. Thinking |
| | 3. Prof. Competence |
| B. Be able to define and explain the various forms of democratic regimes. | 2. Crit. Thinking |
| | 3. Prof. Competence |
| C. Be able to define and explain the various forms of nondemocratic regimes. | 2. Crit. Thinking |
| | 3. Prof. Competence |
| D. Be able to analyze political economy and economic-political institutions and their importance in comparative politics. | 2. Crit. Thinking |
| | 3. Prof. Competence |
| E. Be able to analyze the theoretical causes and consequences of political violence. | 2. Crit. Thinking |
| | 3. Prof. Competence |

K. TEXTS: To be determined by instructor
L. REFERENCES:


M. EQUIPMENT: Smart classroom (computer/projector at the minimum)

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Determined by instructor. Options include, but are not limited to: examinations, weekly/regular assignments and/or quizzes, final exam, and research paper.

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: Attached

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: Not applicable
I. Introduction
   A. What is the comparative politics?
      1. Methods
      2. Introduction to Concepts
   B. States
      1. Definitions
      2. Political Organization
      3. Development of the Modern State
      4. Comparing State Power
         i. Legitimacy
         ii. Centralization/Decentralization
         iii. Power and Capacity
   C. Nations and Society
      1. Identity
         i. Ethnic
         ii. National
      2. Citizenship
      3. Ethnic & National Conflict
      4. Political Attitudes & Ideology
      5. Religion and Fundamentalism
      6. Political Culture
   D. Comparative Political Economy
      1. Concepts
         i. Markets & Property
         ii. Public Goods
         iii. Social Expenditures
         iv. Taxation
         v. Money, Inflation & Economic Growth
         vi. Regulation
         vii. Trade
      2. Political-Economic Systems
         i. Liberalism
         ii. Social Democracy
         iii. Communism
         iv. Mercantilism
      3. Political-Economic Systems and the State
         i. Wealth, Inequality, and Poverty
         ii. Human Development Index
   E. Democratic Regimes
      1. Definition
      2. Origins
      3. Contemporary Democratization
         i. Modernization
         ii. Ethics
iii. Society  
iv. International Relations  
v. Culture

4. Institutions of the Democratic State  
i. Executives  
ii. Legislatures  
iii. Judiciaries

5. Models of Democracy  
i. Parliamentary Systems  
ii. Presidential Systems  
iii. Semi-Presidential Systems

6. Political Parties & Electoral Systems  

7. Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

F. Nondemocratic Regimes  
1. Definition  
2. Totalitarianism  
3. Origins & Sources of Nondemocratic Rule  
i. Modernization  
ii. Elites  
iii. Society  
v. Culture

4. Nondemocratic Political Control  
i. Coercion & Surveillance  
ii. Corporatism & Clientelism  
iii. The Cult of Personality

5. Models of Nondemocratic Rule  
i. Personal and Monarchical Rule  
ii. Military Rule  
iii. One-Party Rule  
iv. Theocracy  
v. Liberal and Hybrid Regimes

G. Political Violence  
1. Definition & Explanations  
i. Institutional Explanations  
ii. Ideational Explanations  
iii. Individual Explanations

2. Forms of Political Violence  
i. Revolution  
ii. Terrorism

3. Context: Faith, Terrorism, and Revolution  
4. Countering Political Violence

H. Advanced Democracies  
1. Definition  
2. Advanced Political Institutions and Sovereignty  
3. Societal Institutions  
i. Diversity and Identity
4. Economic Institutions
   i. Postindustrialism
   ii. Maintaining the Welfare State

I. Communism & Postcommunism
   1. Communism & Equality
   2. Revolution
   3. Communism in Practice
   4. Communist Political Economy
   5. Societal Institutions in Communism
   6. Collapse of Communism
      i. Democratic Transition
         1. Political Institutions
         2. Economic Institutions
         3. Societal Institutions

J. Developing and Industrializing Countries
   1. Freedom & Equality
   2. Imperialism & Colonialism
   3. Institutions of Imperialism
   4. Post-Imperial Challenges
      i. State-Building
      ii. Social Identities
      iii. Economic Growth

K. Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics
   1. Definition & Development
   2. Institutions and Globalization
   3. Political Globalization
   4. Economic Globalization
   5. Societal Globalization