

State University of New York
College of Technology at Canton
Canton, New York

COURSE OUTLINE
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

POLS 120

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
May 2015

- 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:

Caramani, Daniele (2014). Comparative Politics (2nd Edition). Oxford University Press.

Kopstein, Jeffrey, Mark Lichbach, and Stephen E. Hanson (2014). Comparative Politics: Interests, Identities, and Institutions in a Changing Global Order. Cambridge University Press.

O'Neil, Patrick H. (2013). Essentials of Comparative Politics (4th Edition). W.W. Norton & Company.

Samuels, David J. (2013). Comparative Politics. Pearson.

Samuels, David J. (2013). Case Studies in Comparative Politics. Pearson.

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

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE
POLS 120: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

- 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
 - iv. International Relations
 - 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