

Policy 100

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to improve your knowledge about government and politics in the ~tree groups of countries' (western, post-communist, and developing countries).The course's approach is not country-to-country description. Rather, it seeks to familiarize you with some of the most important concepts by means of which different types of political system and government can be compared.

The course has two major goals:

- To familiarize students with a range of political institutions, processes, ideas and issues in countries other than the United States.
- To Introduce students to W~liti9al science as a field of study. Many of the concept ~', themes and puzzles discussed in this course reappear in more advance undergraduate courses on particular countries or regions in the world.

The topics to be covered are listed in this syllabus. Every effort will be made to coordinate the lectures and the reading materials. But this will not always be possible. Students should remember that in examinations they are responsible for ALL the readings to the point in the course where the examination is held regardless of whether or not the lectures have kept pace with the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

The examinations will cover both lectures and the textbook. It is thus strongly advised that students do all the readings and attend class regularly.

The course's grade will be based on two written examinations (one midterm and one final), plus a short paper assignment. The schedules for examination follow the ones described in the Master Schedule.

Make-ups for missed examinations will be permitted only if I am notified in person or via telephone call prior to the time the examinations are scheduled.

REQUIRED READINGS

For this course, only one textbook is used: Jackson and Jackson, "A Comparative Introduction to Political Science," Prentice Hall, 1997. This book can be purchased at SBX.

TOPICS

1. Introduction: What is politics? (Chapter 1)
2. State, nation and nationalism (Chapter 3 & 4)
3. Forms of government: democracy and authoritarianism (Chapter 5)
4. Political cultures and ideologies (Chapter 6-9)
5. Constitution and political institutions (Chapter 10-13)
6. Political parties and interest groups (Chapter 16-17)
7. Elections and voting behaviour (Chapter 18-19)
8. Political change (Chapter 20)
9. International politics (Chapter 21)

Our class schedule follows these topics. For 10 weeks, we are going to discuss 9 different topics so our schedule is to discuss more or less one topic per week, from the first topic to the last.

