

Created by: Wesley D. Nishiyama
Reviewed by: Tina Mendoza
Reviewed by: Michelle Oja
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Political Science (POSC) 1503 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 Units) CSU

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours of lecture. 96 Outside of class hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description:

Introduction to Comparative Politics compares the interest, identity, and institutions of the people of (at least six) different nation states. This analysis will consider regime types, political institutions, electoral systems, immigration, democratic development, political violence, political economy, and globalization. This course will meet one of the Political Core requirements for the Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer.

Textbook:

O'Neil, Patrick H. 2023. Essentials of Comparative Politics, 8th Edition

Additional Instructional Material: May also include supplementary material.

Course SLO's:

1. Summarize the important studies in comparative politics
2. Compare the institutions, political cultures, economies, political behaviors, and citizen participation in at least three democratic and three non-democratic countries and in non-developed, developing, and developed countries, using the dominant theories and methodologies in the field of comparative politics
3. Analyze contemporary problems, i.e., political violence, food insecurity, immigration, social and economic instability, human rights violations in context of the ideas and theories presented in class
4. Discuss the role democratic and authoritarian regimes play in the lives of citizens
5. Recognize reliable sources such as websites, journal articles, and reports in the media.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

Course Objectives:

Upon successfully completing the course, the student will:

1. Understand the interest, identity, and institutions and their consequences of at least six countries from different parts of the world
2. Survey different types of democracies (presidential and parliamentary) and non-democratic systems (authoritarianism)
3. Consider developing countries, immigration, and dependency
4. Examine political economy and globalization.

Course Scope and Content:

At least six nation states (i.e., The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Iran, India, China, South Africa, etc.) will be compared using the subjects of each unit. Each country may be analyzed separately using each of the units, or each of the units can be considered separately treating six or more countries together.

Unit I – Comparative History of six nation states

- A – Social/Religious/Economic foundations
- C – Political Culture/s
- D – Ideological Origins
- E – Development of Political Institutions

Unit II – Regime types and their Political Institutions of the same six nation states

- A – Authoritarian Regimes
 - i – Traditional Authoritarians
 - ii – Bureaucratic Authoritarians
 - iii – Charismatic Authoritarians
- B – Democratic Regimes
 - i – Presidential Democracies and their institutions (formal and informal)
 - ii – Parliamentary Democracies
 - iii – Representation
 - iv – Elections and Participation
 - v – The Media

Unit III – Stability and Change of the same six nation states

- A – Executive and the transition of power
- B – Party stability and change
 - i – The Party Electorate
 - ii – The Party in Government
 - iii – Leadership
- C – Economy
- D – Geo-politics



Unit IV - Political Economy and Globalization of the same six nation states

- A – State and the Economy
- B – Society and the Economy

Unit V - Political Challenges of the same six nation states

- A – Political Violence and Domestic Terrorism
- B – Political Exclusion
- C – Political Polarization
- D – Migration and Refugees
- E – Population - Increase or Decrease, and the change in the Average Age

Unit VI – The Nation State in the Post-modern World

- A – Globalization
- B – Technologies: Information, Communication, Transportation, Health, Industry
- C – Migration for Education, Employment, Business

The student will spend 6 hours a week outside the classroom:

1. Studying
2. Reading the assigned text and taking notes
3. Complete written assignments
4. Participate in on-line discussions
5. Attend cultural events
6. View assigned movies, videos, and documentaries

Method of Instruction:

1. Class lectures
2. In-class simulations
3. Group debates and discussions
4. Movie clips

Method of Evaluations:

1. In class or take-home examinations
2. Quizzes
3. Written assignments
4. In-class simulations
5. Presentations and debates
6. In-class and/or online participation

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220700: Political Science
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	IG4H: IGETC Area 4H LAHI: Local Course American History LES: Local Ethnic Studies LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci
Disciplines List:	Political Science