

Poli 2053-001
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2011
Wednesday 5:00-8:00 213 Tureaud

Instructor: Dr. Harry M. Mokeba
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall
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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30
MWF 11:30-12:30
MW 3:00-5:00

Objective: The course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary for examining politics across the countries of the world. In particular, we will provide a foundation for understanding the concepts on which political systems operate, the forces that account for change and continuity and the basis for comparing political performance in the first, second and third worlds.

It is expected that by the end of the semester, students must have developed the analytical skills for explaining the differences and similarities existing in the select countries discussed in class. POLI 2053 is a general education course designed to improve broad knowledge, stimulate life-long learning and develop critical understanding of the political phenomena.

The University strives toward the following objectives for general education courses:

- Ability to think, describe, interpret and analyze the world.
- Facility to make sense of the world that impact on our own local system.
- The need to gain critical perspectives of the governments and institutions across various political systems.

Books: There is one major text required for this course.

G. Bingham Powell: Comparative Politics Today
New York: Pearson Longman, 2012

You are also required to read assigned articles from the New York Times for the multiple choice tests and the two-country paper.

Student Responsibility: You are required to attend all class sessions and keep up with reading assignments in order to enhance your ability to participate in class discussions. There is a grade for class participation.

Examinations, Paper, and Grades: There will be an early take home exam, an in-class midterm exam, a brief comparative survey of recent events in **TWO** countries (not discussed in lectures) of your choice and a take-home final. Details of these assignments will be determined according to this formula.

Class Participation	10 pts.
Early Exam (take home)	10 pts. (due Sept 07)
Midterm Exam (in class)	20 pts. (Oct. 05)
Two Country paper	10 pts. (Nov. 16)
NYT Multiple Choice Tests	10 pts. (Oct. 05/Nov. 30)
Final (take home)	<u>40 pts.</u> (Return Fri. Dec. 02)
	100 pts.

A: 100-88 B: 87.9-78; C: 77.9-68; D: 67.9-60; F: Below 60

Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments

- Aug 24 **Course Intro:** The Study of Politics
 The Value of Comparative Politics
 Comparative Methods and Problems; GBP: Chapter 1 & 2
- Aug 31 **Characteristics of Political Systems:**
 Defined by their Context
 Driven By Constitutions and Ideologies
 Sustained by their Economies; GBP: Chapter 3 & 4
- Sept. 07 **Institutional Approach**
 Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
 Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
 GBP: Chapter 5, 6, & 7
- Sept. 07 **Return Take Home (In class)**
- Sept. 14-28 **Politics in Capitalist Democracies:**
 Their Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Sept 14; Great Britain - Chapter 8 Sept. 21; France - Chapter 9
 Sept 28; Germany – Chapter 10 Sept. 28; Japan - Chapter 11
- Oct. 05 **Midterm Exam (In Class)**
 Also **first** NYT multiple choice test
- Oct. 12 **Overview of Communism and the Third World**
- Oct. 19-26 **Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**
 Oct. 19; Russia: Chapter 12 Oct. 26; China: Chapter 13
- Nov 02-16 **Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**
 India: Chapter 17; Nov. 02
 Mexico: Chapter 14; Nov. 09
 Iran/Nigeria: Chapter 16 & 18; Nov. 16
- Nov. 16 **Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due!**
- Nov. 23 **No Class**
- Nov. 30 **Course Evaluation/Final NYT Multiple Choice Test**
 Review Session
 Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades
- Final Dec. 02 (Fri) **Return Take Home Final between 10:00am & 12:00 noon (209 Stubbs Hall)**