

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Political Science 124 – Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Analysis of the political systems of selected developed, transitional and developing countries of the world in order to understand the importance of political development, political institutions, political culture, political actors, political processes, and political change for the dynamics of today's global society.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Introduction to Comparative Politics
 - a. Why compare?
 - b. How to compare: theory and method (include institutional, cultural and rational choice theories)
- 2) What to Compare
 - a. Nations/states/nation-states
 - b. Political systems (include democratic [presidential and parliamentary], authoritarian, totalitarian and theocratic)
 - c. Economic systems
 - d. Electoral systems (include single-member-district and proportional representation)
 - e. Party systems (including religious political parties) and their relation to electoral systems
- 3) Country Studies
 - a. Advanced industrial/liberal democracies (examples: United States, nations of Western Europe, Japan)
 - b. Transitional (examples: Russia, nations of Eastern Europe, China, Iran)
 - c. Developing
 1. Newly industrializing countries (NICs) (examples: Mexico, India, Indonesia)
 2. Less developed countries (LDCs) (examples: Nigeria, Guatemala, Bangladesh)

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Utilize the comparative method of learning to identify the types of political systems and explain the specific political and social problems selected countries face.
- 2) Compare and contrast the differences between states and nations, including concepts such as ethnic identity, national identity, patriotism, and citizenship.
- 3) Define and provide examples of concepts used in comparative political analysis such as political culture, ideology, political socialization and political development.
- 4) Analyze the social, cultural (including religious) and economic factors underlying political systems.
- 5) Differentiate between the formal and informal bases of political power in selected political systems.
- 6) Identify and describe patterns of change in the political cultures and institutions of developed and developing countries.
- 7) Define political economy and describe the interaction between domestic and international market forces and national politics.

- 8) Identify the various types of globalization (social, political, economic) and describe how the institutions of globalization impact both the domestic and international actions of nation-states.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Participation in class conversations, role playing, simulations, or debates about students' engagement with course content and course assessments.
- 2) Formative and summative writing prompts, quizzes, or exams that prepare students to confidently engage in course content.
- 3) Written assignments, such as students' reflections on course content.
- 4) Analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles.
- 5) Research papers or projects that are scaffolded over the course, so students have time to engage with challenging course content.
- 6) Oral presentations to give students the opportunity to practice their communication skills and share their research papers or projects with peers.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom
- 2) Preferred: Technology Enabled Active Learning classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Small and large group discussions
- 3) Individual and group projects
- 4) Individual, small, and large-scale simulations
- 5) Guest speakers
- 6) Learning management systems for:
 - a. Individual and group assignments
 - b. Class discussions
 - c. Formative and summative quizzes
 - d. Individual reflections

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Individual and group assignments can include:
 - a. Analysis and interpretation of chapters in assigned text
 - b. Analysis of current events
 - c. Analysis of diversity, equity, and inclusion and its relation to course content
 - d. Analysis of peer-review journal articles
 - e. Public policy-related project

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Bozonelos, Dino, Julia Wendt, Charlotte Lee, Jessica Scarffe, Masahiro Omae, Josh Franco, Byran Martin, and Stefan Veldhuis. 2023. Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics. 1st edition.
 - b. O'Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2023. Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics. 3rd ed. W.W. Norton.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the concepts of states, nations, society, economy, violence, and regimes and their utility in a comparative context.
- 2) Summarize the historical roots and contemporary evolution of comparative government and politics.
- 3) Apply normative and positive approaches to the study of comparative government and politics.
- 4) Analyze existing applications of political science to topics such as comparative institutions, behavior, institutional change, and comparative public policy.
- 5) Evaluate the similarities, differences, and relationships between democratic regimes, developed democracies, nondemocratic regimes, communism and post communism, and developing countries.