



## **POLI 135 - Comparative Government Course Outline**

**Approval Date:**

**Effective Date:** 08/11/2013

### **SECTION A**

**Unique ID Number** CCC000214009

**Discipline(s)** Political Science

**Division** Social Sciences

**Subject Area** Political Science

**Subject Code** POLI

**Course Number** 135

**Course Title** Comparative Government

**TOP Code/SAM Code** 2207.00 - Political Science and Government, General /  
E - Non-Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum** Updating to meet PEP requirements.

**Units** 3

**Cross List** N/A

**Typical Course Weeks**

**Total Instructional Hours**

#### **Contact Hours**

**Lecture** 54.00

**Lab** 0.00

**Activity** 0.00

**Work Experience** 0.00

**Outside of Class Hours** 108.00

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**Total Contact Hours** 54

**Total Student Hours** 162

**Open Entry/Open Exit** No

**Maximum Enrollment** 50

**Grading Option** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Distance Education Mode of Instruction**

## SECTION B

### General Education Information:

## SECTION C

### Course Description

**Repeatability** May be repeated 0 times

**Catalog Description** This course presents various analytical methods used to compare political systems. Several countries are examined in a comparative fashion focusing on similarities and differences in interests, institutions, and processes. Country studies vary.

**Schedule Description**

## SECTION D

### Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended:** *None*

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

## SECTION E

### Course Outline Information

#### 1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Critically analyze several countries in a comparative fashion.
- B. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of cross-national claims.
- C. Produce valid generalizations about political institutions and processes.

#### 2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the role of the state.
- B. Compare political systems, both in theory and with actual country examples.
- C. Explain the impact of the regional, economic, historical, and cultural factors on political institutions and behavior.
- D. Analyze political systems by using the comparative method.
- E. Distinguish among regime types and their central features.
- F.

#### 3. Course Content

- A. Introduce different regime types and their resulting institutions in political systems.
- B. Discuss theory regarding the stability of regimes and transitions from one regime type to another.
- C. Include actual country examples of each regime type in terms of institutions, processes, political culture, historical context, and role of the people.
- D. Discuss the role of the state and popular participation in political and economic development within countries.
- E. Introduce the use of the comparative method by utilizing diverse historical, regional, cultural, political, and economic case studies.
- F.

#### 4. Methods of Instruction:

**Directed Study:**

**Discussion:**

**Lecture:**

**Projects:**

**Visiting Lecturers:**

**5. Methods of Evaluation:** Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

**Typical classroom assessment techniques**

Exams/Tests --

Quizzes --

Research Projects --

Papers --

Projects --

Simulation --

Class Participation --

Final Exam --

Mid Term --

Additional assessment information:

Grade will be based on

1. Midterm and Final exams using both objective and subjective formats.

- Example: Compare and contrast 18th century political revolutions from 19th century political revolutions.

2. Term research project.

- Example: using the Most-Similar Systems research design or the Most-Different Systems research design, compare and contrast countries using institutions or policies as a unit of analysis.

Letter Grade or P/NP

**6. Assignments:** State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Supplemental readings and assignments from periodical sources:

"Latin America's Left Turn." Jorge Casteneda. Foreign Affairs. May/June 2006.

"Zimbabwe After Mugabe." Gideon Maltz. Current History. May 2006.

B. Writing Assignments

Use analytical frameworks to compare and contrast empirical data.

- Example: Using the axes of democracy and capitalism, draw a 4-quadrant box and identify at least two countries that fit into each.

Hypothesis generation and testing.

- Example: Create a hypothesis about culture and gun control laws and test that hypothesis using 10 randomly chosen countries.

C. Other Assignments

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**7. Required Materials**

**A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.**

Book #1:

Author: McCormick, J

Title: Comparative Politics in Transition  
Publisher: Wadsworth  
Date of Publication: 2006  
Edition: 6th

Book #2:

Author: O'Neil, P  
Title: Essentials of Comparative Politics  
Publisher: WW Norton  
Date of Publication: 2012  
Edition: 4th

Book #3:

Author: Mahler, G  
Title: Principles of Comparative Politics  
Publisher: Pearson  
Date of Publication: 2012  
Edition: 1st

Book #4:

Author: Hauss, C. and Haussman M  
Title: Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges  
Publisher: Wadsworth  
Date of Publication: 2013  
Edition: 8th

Book #5:

Author: Barrington, L  
Title: Comparative Politics: Structures and Choices  
Publisher: Cengage  
Date of Publication: 2013  
Edition: 2nd

**B. Other required materials/supplies.**

- FOR CURRENT TEXT SEE TEXTBOOK ADOPTION FORMS ON FILE IN OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION