

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences
Date of Departmental Approval: October 1, 2009
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Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** GOV101
Course Title: Comparative Politics
2. **Description:** This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts and themes in comparative politics. Using a case studies approach, the course compares and contrasts states according to political ideology, process, socialization, historical evolution, public policy, state institutions, and governmental systems.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
 - Utilizing a case study approach, analyze comparative politics from at least one country from each of the following areas: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
 - Identify transnational political issues and events such as health, trade, the environment, immigration, terrorism, human rights and gender.
 - Distinguish among different political systems and ideologies such as democracy, transitional democracy, communism pre and post, authoritarianism, socialism, and developing nations.
 - Make connections between the type of structure in a particular country and its policy outcomes.
 - Assess the impact of globalization and economic development on state sovereignty and policy.
 - Identify the key theoretical approaches and methods used in comparative politics.
 - Utilize maps and identify locations relevant to the course content outline.
 - The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes may include written assignments, examinations, class discussion, and small group activities.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits.
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** None.
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Grades to be based upon exams, written work, class participation, and attendance.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
 - Theories of comparative politics
 - Case studies of at least one country from each of the following areas: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - Comparative political systems and ideologies (democracy, transitional democracy, communism pre and post, socialism, authoritarianism, developing nations)
 - State institutions and governmental structures
 - Historical perspectives and evolution, political culture, and socialization
 - Nation building including nationalism, power, legitimacy, and sovereignty
 - Globalization
 - Economic development
 - Public policy and policymaking bodies
 - Transnational political issues
 - Alternative approaches to contemporary demands