

Syllabus for: Comparative Politics

Semester & Year:	Spring 2015
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 20 E7062
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0
Day/Time:	M/W 11:40-1:05
Location:	HUM 115
Instructor's Name:	Joe Brookshire
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: before and after class Phone: 707-476-3070 Email: jbrookshire@redwoods.edu
Course Description: A course examining the similarities and differences among political systems. Students will be introduced to diverse theoretical approaches and concepts in Comparative Politics in order to understand the political, economic, and social development of a variety of states.	
Student Learning Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Outline historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences of various states on different continents.2. Analyze how historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences influence national policies and governmental systems.3. Diagram the political processes in different states.4. Describe and apply some basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.5. Detail the variation of political institutions (e.g. electoral, judicial, administrative, and party systems) and the range of political behavior countries can choose between.	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.	
The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf	
Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

Spring 2015

POLSC 20 E 7062

M/W 11:40 – 1:05 HUM 115

Comparative Politics

3 Units

Joe Brookshire

joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu

Office hours: before and after class

Welcome to Comparative Politics: POLSC 20. This course serves as an introduction to the study of domestic politics around the world. It covers the broad spectrum of theoretic approaches, societal components (such as nationalism, ethnicity, and ideology), overviews of different institutional structures (states, societies, democracies, and nondemocratic regimes) and a great deal of specific actual cases in which the patterns and methods of comparison apply. Examples of these cases would include federalism, separation of powers, legislative organization, executive powers, political participation, voting, and public opinion.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Outline historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences of various states on different continents.
2. Analyze how historical, cultural, environmental, and economic differences influence national policies and governmental systems.
3. Diagram the political processes in different states.
4. Describe and apply some basic ideas and theoretical approaches used in comparative political studies.
5. Detail the variation of political institutions (e.g. electoral, judicial, administrative, and party systems) and the range of political behavior countries can choose between.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations, and activities.

Texts: The American Anomaly, 3rd edition, by Raymond A. Smith ISBN **978-0-415-81433-1** Routledge Pub.
Handouts distributed in class:

The Study of Comparative Politics, Frank L. Wilson

Iran: Theocracy or Military Dictatorship? CQ Press

Institutions of Mexico, Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

Institutions of China, Andrew Mertha

Russia: Semipresidentialism in a New Democracy with Weak Institutions, CQ Press

France, Patrick H. O'Neil

Germany, The Governmental Setting, Stella Z. Theodoulou

Expectations:

1. On-time attendance is expected throughout the semester. Students missing one third of classes will be automatically dropped. Active note taking is necessary as class discussions connect themes to specific content.
2. Cheating, plagiarism, and improper academic behavior will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper will automatically fail that component of the course and may be subject to additional college-level sanctions.
3. Students are expected to take all exams, and all but two quizzes on the schedule dates. Several presentations are expected, each to be accompanied by an outline or synopsis to be submitted beforehand.
4. I ask all of us to honor the rights of free speech. Furthermore I ask each one of us to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, see <http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf>

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading:

1. Frequent Quizzes – 25% Quizzes, given frequently, are based on the text, lectures, discussions, activities, videos, other readings - in short, everything that we cover in class. They are usually short essay, identification questions. They can be multiple choice, true/false, or a mix of these. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester. There are no make-ups.. All quizzes are given at the beginning of class. They will take only a short amount of time. Late arrivals will miss the quiz.

2. Exams Three comprehensive exams are given.

First Exam – 10%. The first Exam will consist of an essay dealing with an element of Comparative Politics analysis that we have covered. Notice the date: **Wednesday, March 9.**

Second Exam – 10% The Second Exam is an essay in which specific content of the course is to be applied in order to illustrate broader themes of Comparative Politics. **Wednesday, April 15.**

Final – 10% The format is similar to the Second Exam. Make note of the time and date of the final. Make sure that you reserve **Monday, May 11 at 10:45** for our final.

3. Presentations and Summaries – 45% Students will present three reports (10% each) that illustrate particular aspects of comparative politics. Written summaries (5% each) are expected prior to each presentation. See handout for details of expectations and dates.

Scales: Comparative Politics uses the following grading scale:

92. - 100 = A	87 .- 89.4 = B+	77 - 79.4 = C+	
89.5 - 91.9 = A-	82 - 86.9 = B	72 - 76.9 = C	59.5 - 69.4 = D
	79.5. - 81.9 = B-	69.5 - 71.9 = C-	Below 59.5 = F

Extra Credit – Independent extra credit assignments are not available for this class. However, points earned in activities go toward raising your midterm or final scores.

Schedule: Classes will be held every day as scheduled except for holidays January 19 and February 16. We'll try to follow the schedule below. However, if any adjustments during the semester need to be made, then please make note of any changes announced in class and/or posted on MyCR.

Monday	Wednesday Student Presentations (TBA):
Monday, Jan. 19 <i>No Class</i>	Jan. 21 Comparisons
Monday, Jan. 26 Quiz Chapter 1 Constitutions	Jan. 28 Quiz Chapter 2 Federalism
Monday, Feb. 2 Federalism	Feb. 4 Quiz Chapter 3 Separation of Powers
Monday, Feb. 9 Separation of Powers	Feb. 11 Separation of Powers
Monday, Feb. 16 <i>No Class</i>	Feb. 18 Separation of Powers,
Monday, Feb. 23 Quiz Chapter 4	Feb. 25 Comparisons
Monday, Mar. 2 Executive Powers	Mar. 4 Executive Powers
Monday, Mar. 9 Quiz Chapter 5 Legislatures	Mar. 11 Legislatures First Exam
Spring Break	
Monday, Mar. 23 Legislatures	Mar. 25 Quiz Chapter 6 Judiciary & Political Participation
Monday, Mar. 30 Judiciary & Political Participation	Apr. 1 Judiciary & Political Participation
Monday, Apr. 6 Quiz Chapters 7 & 8 < <	Apr. 8 < >Voting & Elections
Monday, Apr. 13 Quiz Chapter 9 < <	Apr. 15 < >Political Parties Second Exam
Monday, Apr. 20 Quiz Chapter 10 < <	Apr. 22 < >Public Opinion, Political Values
Monday, Apr. 27 Quiz Chapter 11 < <	Apr. 29 < >Domestic Policy
Monday, May 4 Quiz Chapter 12	May 6 Summary
Monday May 11 Final: 10:45 !	

Thank you for your presence, your interest, and your contributions to this class.