

COURSE OUTLINE

Revision: Jihad Othman, March 2008

DEPARTMENT:	Academic Programs
CURRICULUM:	Social Science (Political Science)
COURSE TITLE:	Comparative Political Systems
COURSE NUMBER:	POLS 220Z
TYPE OF COURSE:	Academic Transfer
COURSE LENGTH:	1 quarter
CREDIT HOURS:	5
LECTURE HOURS:	55
CLASS SIZE:	25
PREREQUISITES:	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to comparative politics and government as well as it gives them a taste of color and variety of politics around the world. The course is designed also to illustrate the similarities and differences among countries by focusing in depth on a specific institution, issue, or problem, and then be posing questions aimed at encouraging students to actively compare, and to search out the answers that comparisons provide.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

1. Communication - Read and listen actively to learn and communicate. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.
2. Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively. Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values.

POLS 220Z Comparative Political Systems
March 2008

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED: (cont.)

3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - Think critically in evaluating information, solving problems and making decisions.
4. Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools for personal, academic and career tasks.
5. Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change. Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art. Take pride in one's work. Be aware of civic and environmental issues.
6. Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information from a variety of sources and contexts, including technology. Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To become familiar with the structure and operation of certain major political systems.
2. To understand the scope of governmental action of each system through the study of their history and analyzing it in terms of the existing alternatives and limitations.
3. To help the students understand that political systems are part of a larger social system which actually generates the condition, attitudes and demands that constitute the basic working materials of politics.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Approx. Hours

- I. Comparative Political Analysis
 - a) Why Do We Study Politics?
 - b) The Nature of Comparative Political Analysis
 - c) The Concept of Political Development
- II. Constitutions and Ideologies.
 - a) Constitutions as Political Structures
 - b) What Do Constitutions Do?
 - c) The Importance of Constitutions
 - d) Constitutions in a Comparative Perspective

POLS 220Z Comparative Political Systems
March 2008

TOPICAL OUTLINE (cont.):

- III. Political Development and Political Economics
 - a) Politics and Economics
 - b) Institutions and Economic Development
 - c) The Future for Developing Nations

- IV. Legislatures and Legislative Structures
 - a) One House or Two Houses
 - b) Relations Between Houses
 - c) Sizes of Legislatures
 - d) Political Parties in Legislatures
 - e) Legislatures and Representation
 - f) Legislatures and Executives

- V. The Executive
 - a) The Executive Role
 - b) The Presidential Executive
 - c) The Parliamentary Executive
 - d) The Executive Function
 - e) Presidential and Parliamentary Systems

- VI. Judicial and Legal Order
 - a) The Idea of Law and Legal Sources of Law
 - b) Judicial Functions
 - c) Structures in Legal Systems
 - d) Courts in Comparative Perspective

- VII. Interest Groups and Political Parties.
 - a) Elections and Voting
 - b) Interest Groups
 - c) Political Parties
 - d) Political Participation and Voting Behavior
 - e) Group, Parties, Elections, and Voting

- VIII. The British Political System
 - a) The British Constitution
 - b) The British Executive
 - c) The British Parliament
 - d) Political Parties and Voting
 - e) The Civil Service

POLS 220Z Comparative Political Systems
March 2008

TOPICAL OUTLINE (cont.):

- IX. The French Political System
 - a) The Constitutional System of the Fifth Republic
 - b) Unitary Government in France
 - c) Executive Structures
 - d) The Legislature and the Constitutional Council
 - e) Party Politics and the Electoral Process

- X. The German Political System
 - a) The German Constitutional Framework
 - b) Federalism in Germany
 - c) Executive Structures
 - d) The Legislative Structures
 - e) Political Parties and the Electoral Process

- XI. The Russian Political System
 - a) The Russian Constitution
 - b) Structures of the Government
 - c) The Russian Political Parties
 - d) The Russian System in Perspective

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SLO #	Included in Course Objective Number	SSCC Student Learning Outcomes
SLO 1.1	1	Communication - Read and listen actively
SLO 1.2	1	Communication - Speak and write effectively
SLO 2.1		Computation - Use mathematical operations
SLO 2.2		Computation - Apply quantitative skills
SLO 2.3		Computation - Identify, interpret, and utilize higher level mathematical and cognitive skills
SLO 3.1	2	Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively
SLO 3.2		Human Relations - Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values
SLO 4.1	1	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving -
SLO 5.1		Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools
SLO 6.1	3	Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change
SLO 6.2		Personal Responsibility - Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art
SLO 6.3		Personal Responsibility - Take pride in one's work
SLO 6.4		Personal Responsibility - Manage personal health and safety
SLO 6.5	3	Personal Responsibility - Be aware of civic and environmental issues
SLO 7.1		Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information
SLO 7.2		Information Literacy - Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society

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