

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies  
IRLS300  
Comparative Political Systems  
Credit Hours: 3  
Length of Course: 8 Weeks  
Prerequisite: NONE**

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### Instructor Information

***Instructor:***

***Biography:***

**Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the**

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**classroom.**

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## Course Description (Catalog)

### **IRLS300 Comparative Political Systems (3 Credit Hours)**

This course introduces major theoretical approaches to the comparative study of politics. The student applies these approaches to government institutions, the policy-making process, political participation, economic structures and social change for both state and non-state actors.

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## Course Scope

As a 300-level course, this course provides a higher level of knowledge building on the material taught at the 200 level. The purpose and scope of this course is to enable the student to build a deeper understanding of the discipline.

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## Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

**CO-1:** Explain the construction of Comparative Politics as a discipline.

**CO-2:** Describe various types of political institutions.

**CO-3:** Compare theories of democracy.

**CO-4:** Examine the relationship between political and economic structures.

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**CO-5:** Analyze the roles played by political actors, including parties in a political system.

**CO-6:** Assess the various challenges facing developing and newly industrializing states.

**CO-7:** Differentiate among the competing forces of globalization.

**CO-8:** Deconstruct the underlying causes of revolutions.

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### Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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### Course Resources

- Required Course Textbook

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph. 2013. *Introduction to Comparative Politics*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Wadsworth. Electronic copy available from VitalSource.

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<https://apus.adobeconnect.com/a795569749/ugedmap1/>

<http://apus.campusguides.com/bookstore/undergraduate>

- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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## Evaluation Procedures

### **Forum discussions – 25 percent**

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

### **Midterm assignment - 25 percent**

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

### **Progress assignment - 25 percent**

Specialized Exercise. 6 pages including research and analysis.

### **Final assignment – 25 percent**

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This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	25
Midterm Assignment	25
Progress Assignment	25
Final Assignment	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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## 8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	<b>Introduction to Themes in Comparative Analysis</b>	<b>CO1:</b> Explain the construction of Comparative Politics as a discipline.	Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph 2013, <i>Introduction to Comparative Politics</i> , ch. 1 (hereafter “Kesselman”)	Week One Forum Discussion

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			Week One Lesson Notes	
2	<b><i>My Way or the Highway!</i></b> <b>- Political Ideologies</b>	<b>CO5:</b> Analyze the roles played by political actors, including parties in a political system.	Kesselman, ch. 7 (United States)  Fukuyama 2012  Week Two Lesson Notes - political parties	Week Two Forum Discussion
3	<b><i>The One-eyed Man is King in the Land of the Blind – Consolidated Democracies</i></b>	<b>CO3:</b> Compare theories of democracy.	Kesselman, ch. 3 and 5 (France, Japan)  Friedman 2011  Week Three Lesson Notes – characteristics of democracies	Week Three Forum Discussion  Midterm Assignment
4	<b><i>Two Brains Are Better Than One? – Alternatives to Democracies: Authoritarian</i></b>	<b>CO2:</b> Describe various types of political institutions.	Kesselman, ch. 8 (Russian Federation)  Pruzan-Jørgensen	Week Four Forum Discussion

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	<b>Regimes</b>		2010  Week Four Lesson Notes - military in authoritarian societies and other groups	
5	<b><i>The Devil You Know: Transitions to Democracy – Revolution and Change</i></b>	<b>CO8:</b> Deconstruct the underlying causes of revolutions.	Kesselman, ch. 13 (Iran)  Frazer and Hutchings 2011  Week Five Lesson Notes – revolution model of political change	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	<b><i>Let Them Eat Cake! – Political Economy: Modernization and Development</i></b>	<b>CO4:</b> Examine the relationship between political and economic structures.	Kesselman, ch. 9 and 14 (Brazil, China)  Cao 2009  Sachs 2010  Week Six Lesson Notes - political economy and development	Week Six Forum Discussion  Progress Assignment
7	<b><i>This Land is Your Land, This Land is</i></b>	<b>CO6:</b> Assess the various challenges facing developing	Kesselman, ch. 10 and 12 (Mexico,	Week Seven Forum Discussion

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	<b><i>My Land – Culture, Ethnicity, Immigration, and Nationalism</i></b>	and newly industrializing states.	Nigeria) Mavroudi 2010  Week Seven Lesson Notes - development and gender issues	
8	<b><i>Parting is Such Sweet, Sweet Sorrow! – Globalization and the Decline of the State</i></b>	<b>CO7:</b> Differentiate among the competing forces of globalization.	Kesselman, ch. 4 (Germany)  Video on globalization  Week Eight Lesson Notes - the role of the state in globalization	Week Eight Forum Discussion  Final Assignment

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## Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

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### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

### **Deductions:**

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 percent per day on that week's forum grade.

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 percent per day on that assignment.

### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

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- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

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## Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more.

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Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

**Request a Library Guide for your course**  
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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**Turnitin.com**

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. Turnitin is embedded in the Assignments area of the classroom and will generate a report for each of your major assignments – the midterm, the progress assignment, and the final assignment. You do not need an access code – it works automatically in Assignments.