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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

**School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS501
Comparative Political Systems
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NSEC500**

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Instructor Information

Instructor: [insert name with credentials]

Biography: [insert APUS biography link]

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

After the class is over, instructor contact information: [insert mycampus address]

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course examines a broad range of governments utilizing the comparative method of analysis. Students will study democracies, monarchies, dictatorships and authoritarian forms of government. Students will participate in various class projects emphasizing contemporary problems of the various forms of governments of nation states today. This will take into consideration cultural differences and similarities, human nature, and the approaches of individual governments different from that of the American norm in carrying out their basic responsibility to maintain and strengthen society by equal justice for all of its citizens.

Course Scope

As part of the core requirement, this course introduces the student to critical elements of the discipline. Students will participate in weekly Discussion Forums that correlate to weekly readings. Students will write an analytical research paper and a comprehensive final assignment.

Course Objectives

- CO1:** Evaluate theories, approaches, and methods in comparative politics.
- CO2:** Appraise the efficacy of various systems of government.
- CO3:** Analyze the impact of cultural and historical experiences on a governance system.
- CO4:** Construct an interpretation of executive, judicial, and legislative structures

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within selected states.

CO5: Distinguish processes of public policymaking from a comparative theory perspective.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials 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.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

The **required** text for this course is:

While most readings are scholarly journal articles available in the classroom, some review readings will be included from Caramani, Daniele, ed. 2011. *Comparative Politics* 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Required Readings

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- External websites and other assigned readings are 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.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 20 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. Initial posts should be no fewer than 350 words; follow-up posts should be no fewer than 150 words. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Multimedia presentation – 15 percent

Students will do a ten to fifteen minute audio or audio/video presentation on the process of democratization. You can focus on one state or you can do a comparison of more than one state. Make sure to draw on the theory we have studied thus far

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and to discuss the development of democratic institutions.

Research Paper – 35 percent

This paper takes the form of a political risk analysis of 6 – 10 pages.

Final Assignment – 30 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 4 questions, 2-3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Assignments	Percentage
Presentation	15 percent
Research Paper	35 percent
Discussion Forums	20 percent
Final Assignment	30 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1	Theories and Methods of Comparative Politics	CO6: Evaluate methodologies used in comparative politics..	Chapters 1, 2, 3 – Caramani pp. 23-63 Blondel, Jean. 2005. Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 2001. Lijphart, Arend. 1971. Loewenberg, Gerhard. 2006. Michael Bernhard 2009 Almond, Gabriel A. 1956. The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics. A Symposium. Collier, David and James E. Mahoney, Jr. 1993	Week One Forum Discussion
2	Development and Dependency	CO2: Analyze the impact of the globalized	Almond, Gabriel A. 1956.	Week Two Forum

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		<p>economic system on individual states.</p> <p>CO3: Analyze the impact of cultural and historical experiences on governance systems.</p>	<p>Tilly, Charles. 1973.</p> <p>Carporaso, James A. 1980.</p> <p>Burkhart, Ross E. and Michael Lewis-Beck. 1994.</p>	Discussion
3	Democratization	<p>CO3: Analyze the impact of cultural and historical experiences on governance systems.</p> <p>CO1: Evaluate theories used in the sub field of comparative politics.</p>	<p>Barbara Geddes. 1999</p> <p>Leonardo A. Villalón 2010</p>	<p>Week Three Forum</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Media Assignment</p>
4	The State	<p>CO1: Evaluate theories used in the sub field of comparative politics.</p> <p>CO4: Construct an interpretation of executive, judicial, and</p>	<p>Bendix, John et al. 1992. "Going Beyond the State?"</p> <p>Mitchell, Timothy. 1991. "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist</p>	<p>Week Four Forum</p> <p>Discussion</p>

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		legislative structures within selected states	Approaches and Their Critics." Bringing the State Back in Skocpol, Theda. 2007. Bringing the State Back In: Retrospect and Prospect	
5	Regions and cultures	CO2: Appraise the efficacy of various systems of government.	Kuntz, Phillipp and Thompson, Mark. R. 2009. More than Just the Final Straw : Stolen Elections as Revolutionary Triggers. <i>Comparative Politics</i> , Weidmann, Nils B. 2011. "Violence "from above" or "from below"?" Skocpol, Theda. 1979. States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China Humphreys, Macartam and	Week Five Forum Discussion

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			Jeremy Weinstein, 2008. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War"	
6	Public policies	CO5: Distinguish processes of public policymaking from a comparative theory perspective.	<p>Dalton, Russell. J. and Doh Chull Shin. 2011.</p> <p>Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Differences: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi."</p> <p>Kim, Uichol, Geir Helgesen, and Byung Man Ahn. 2002. "Democracy, Trust, and Political Efficacy: Comparative Analysis of Danish and Korean Political Culture."</p> <p>Blokker, Paul. 2008. "Multiple democracies: political cultures and democratic variety in post-enlargement Europe." <i>Contemporary</i></p>	<p>Week Six Forum Discussion</p> <p>Research Paper Due</p>

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			<p><i>Politics</i> 14, no. 2: 161-178. <i>Academic Search Premier</i>, EBSCOhost</p> <p>Dalton, Russell J., and Steven Weldon. 2010. "Germans Divided? Political Culture in a United Germany." <i>German Politics</i> 19, no. 1: 9-23.</p>	
7	Globalization and integration	CO1: Evaluate theories, approaches, and methods in comparative politics.	<p>Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." <i>World Politics</i> 48: 297-323.</p> <p>Electoral Systems, Party Systems, and Ideological Representation An Analysis of Distortion in Western Democracies HeeMin Kim, Jr. and Richard C. Fording <i>Comparative Politics</i>, Vol. 42, No. 2 (January 2010), pp. 167-185</p>	Week Seven Forum Discussion

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			Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 – Caramani pp. 103-215	
8	Promoting democracy	CO3: Analyze the impact of cultural and historical experiences on a governance system.	<p>Democracy and Law." <i>Theoria: A Journal Of Social & Political Theory</i> 58, no. 127: 63-94.</p> <p>Understanding Media Socialization in Democratizing Countries: Mobilization and Malaise in Central and Eastern Europe</p> <p>Matthew Loveless</p> <p><i>Comparative Politics</i>, Vol. 42, No. 4 (July 2010), pp. 457-474</p> <p>The Politics of Group Representation: Quotas for Women and Minorities Worldwide</p> <p>Mona Lena Krook and Diana Z. O'Brien</p> <p><i>Comparative</i></p>	<p>Week Eight Forum Discussion</p> <p>Final Assignment Due</p>

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			<p><i>Politics</i>, Vol. 42, No. 3 (April 2010), pp. 253-272</p> <p>Enacting Constitutionalism: The Origins of Independent Judicial Institutions in Latin America</p> <p>Julio Ríos-Figueroa and Andrea Pozas-Loyo</p> <p><i>Comparative Politics</i>, Vol. 42, No. 3 (April 2010), pp. 293-311</p>	
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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](#)

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[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

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>.

All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1" margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

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.

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.

- **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

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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: ;-), :), ☺

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.

- **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. 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.

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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.

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. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

Selected Bibliography

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