

Comparative Political Systems

Basic Information

Title: Comparative Political Systems

Code: HUM203

Credit Hours: 2 C.H.

Prerequisite(s): None

Classification: University General Knowledge Restricted Elective Course

Course Description

This is a lecture course. Where there will be ample opportunity for discussion of various topics and it is expected that students will participate in the lectures by asking questions and contributing ideas. There are many different ways to compare political systems. The methodology of this course is drawn from rational choice theory and post-modern constructivism.

The course will be divided roughly into six main topics. (1) a discussion of the historical and philosophical framework for comparing political systems by examining the ideas of Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. (2) How political systems are described and classified. (3) The relationship between the economic marketplace and the political forum. (4) The effect of interest groups on political change. (5) The role of culture as a variable that defines the setting for political systems. (6) The application of different techniques and theories that explain political change in different areas (such as Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, South America, and Africa).

Learning Objectives

- To provide students with knowledge and skills required for understanding different political systems and critically evaluate their performance.
- To help student acquire skills and techniques necessary for the analysis of economic and social aspects of different political systems.
- To provide students with tools and instruments to analyze democracy, communism, and other political ideologies.
- To enhance student capabilities to conduct analysis of democracy and the political economy.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Understand the major schools of thought used in comparing political systems including structural functionalism, political-economy approaches, social choice theory, and political culture;
- Understand the connections between political institutions and the economy.
- Understand the nature of democracy, communism, and other political ideologies.
- Apply methods for comparing political systems to explain political phenomena in today's world.

Course Outline

Module/Topic
<u>Module 01: Introduction to Comparative Politics</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: System Theory and Comparative Politics Lesson 02: What is Comparative Politics? Lesson 03: Structural Functionalism Summary Assessment
<u>Module 02: Classification of Political Systems</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: Analysis And Description, Political System Nature Lesson 02: Political Systems Classification Lesson 03: Research in Comparative Political Systems Summary Assessment
<u>Module 03: Political Economy</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: Guide To International Economies Lesson 02: Systems of Political Economy Lesson 03: Welfare State Summary Assessment
<u>Module 04: Political Parties and Interest Groups</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: Political Parties

Module/Topic
Lesson 02: Party Systems Lesson 03: Interest Groups Summary Assessment
<u>Module 05: Political Culture</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: Culture: Setting The Stage For Political Lesson 02: Social Choice Mechanism Lesson 03: General Possibility Theorm Summary Assessment
<u>Module 06: Examining Cases in Political Systems</u> Introduction Objectives Lesson 01: Democracy, Nature and Theory Lesson 02: Corporatism in Politics Lesson 03: Examples and Cases in Political Systems Summary Assessment

*Delivery mode of each module/topic will be determined by instructor and could differ from one semester to the other.