Outline of Instruction

Division: Social Science  Area: Political Science
Course Number: 211  Course Name: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Prerequisites: POLSC 151 – Introduction to Political Science
Corequisite: NONE
Hours Required: Class: 45  Lab: 0  Credits: 3

Course Description/Purpose

This course addresses key concepts, theories and academic approaches for the study of comparative politics and for understanding differences among governments and political systems in today’s complex world. Students will explore concepts such as authoritarianism, democratization, legitimacy, sustainability, globalization and modernization, and will understand how these concepts influence political activity within and among states. Examples of different government structures will be introduced, including the key factors that affect policy decisions within various government systems and structures, and how those structures and decisions shape society. Students will also obtain a greater understanding of various political and social cultures from both Western and non-Western cultures. Whenever possible, students will use research, the Internet, museums and travel to enhance their learning of the differences between political systems and institutions.

Major Units

- Comparative Politics and Pedagogy – Themes and Approaches
- The State
- Nations and Society
- Political Economy
- Authoritarianism
- Democracy
- Advanced Democracies
- Communism
- Less Developed and Newly Industrialized Countries
- Globalization
- Global Environment/Health
- Political Violence
Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive

Each student will be expected to *Identify/Recognize.*

- various approaches and methods for the study of comparative politics
- how various countries organize their political institutions and how various countries employ political processes
- the difference between authoritarianism and democracy

Performance

Each student will be expected to *Demonstrate/Practice through written assignments the following.*

- the use of appropriate vocabulary to describe differences among states, governments, and cultures
- how emerging trends and global issues that affect world political systems today; how these issues and trends will likely affect future events and relationships among political actors
- the role that developing countries play in global politics
- critically reflect the diversity among political systems in contemporary society

JS/pn—11/15