PURPOSE
This course introduces the student to the comparative approach to the study of politics, as well as to some of the descriptive and explanatory generalizations about politics that have been developed through this kind of analysis. The first portion of the course will explore the major contending approaches to comparative political analysis, and the assumptions and methodologies implied by these approaches. This is followed by an exploration of selected themes or analytic constructs in comparative politics: development and democracy with a focus on Third World politics. Finally, each student will be expected to utilize one or more of the above-discussed theoretical and analytical frameworks to a country case study selected in consultation with the instructor. Both oral and written research results of these country case studies will be reported in class.

READINGS (All available on-line at Barnes & Noble or from publisher)


RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR STUDENTS INTENDING TO PURSUE A PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE


ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
As a graduate course, students are expected to attend class regularly and participate actively in classroom discussions. Absences must be approved in advance by the instructor via email (preferable), phone, or in person. Value: 15%

EXAMINATIONS/ORAL/PAPER
There will be one take-home essay-type examination (25%), one in-class essay-type examination (25%), and one brief country-specific research paper (12-15pp) that will be defended in an in-class oral presentation and submitted as hard copy at end of semester (35%).

READING SCHEDULE (preliminary & subject to change)
1. SEPTEMBER 7
   Topic: Introduction

2. SEPTEMBER 14
   Topic: Theories
   Readings: Wiarda

3. SEPTEMBER 21
   Topic: Theories
   Readings: Lichbach & Zuckerman

4. SEPTEMBER 28
   Topic: Methods
   Readings: Geddes

5. OCTOBER 5
   Topic: Methods
   Readings: Landman

6. OCTOBER 12
   Topic: TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DUE
   Readings: NO CLASS

7. OCTOBER 19
Topic: Development
Readings: Inglehart/Welzel

8. OCTOBER 26
Topic: Development
Readings: Norris/Inglehart

9. NOVEMBER 2
Topic: Democracy
Readings: Dahl

10. NOVEMBER 9
Topic: Democracy
Readings: Przeworski

11. NOVEMBER 16
Topic: IN-CLASS EXAMINATION

12. NOVEMBER 23
Topic: Country Cases
Readings: Oral Presentations

13. NOVEMBER 30
Topic: Country Cases
Readings: Oral Presentations

14. DECEMBER 7
Topic: Country Cases
Readings: Oral Presentations

15. DECEMBER 14
Topic: Country Cases
Readings: Oral Presentations: ALL PAPERS DUE