

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : IR 552	Course Title : Comparative Politics
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: Comparative analysis of political systems from economic, institutionalist, and social theoretical perspectives. Study of various topics including globalization, democratization, authoritarianism, economic development and crises, political radicalization and moderation, civil war and peace processes, revolutions and regime changes with the theoretical methodological approaches of comparative politics.	Textbook / Required Material : reader provided by the instructor
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 7 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description: Why are some states large and some are small? Why do some states collect more taxes than others? Which states are more efficient and why? How come some countries are rich while others are poor? Why do we observe more disobedience in some nations than others? Why are some social movements violent while other movements rely on civil forms of disobedience? Why are women more oppressed in some parts of the world and more liberated in others?</p> <p>This course will seek to answer to important political questions including but not limited to ones listed above, using methods of comparative politics. By comparing states, institutions, social groups and movements across time and place, we will study issues that are of vital interest to political science.</p>	
Design content : n/a	Computer usage: required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze structural, institutional, and society centric perspectives to politics • Grasp major theories in comparative politics • Learn about common research methods employed by comparative politics scholars • Explain different political outcomes within or across countries • Develop special understanding of topics including state, democracy, authoritarianism, gender, racism, and social movements 	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, videotapes/slides	
Course Outline	
Week	Topics
1	Introduction: What is Comparative Politics?
2	The Development of the Modern State

3	The Development of the Modern State, cont.
4	Nationalism, Racism, Genocide
5	Nationalism, Racism, Genocide, cont.
6	Democracy and Democratization
7	Democracy and Democratization, cont.
8	Development and its Discontents
9	Non-Western Modernities
10	Social Movements: Violent and Civil Forms of Disobedience
11	Social Movements: Violent and Civil Forms of Disobedience, cont.
12	Gender Politics
13	Gender Politics, cont.
14	The State of Comparative Politics
15	Concluding Remarks

Assessment methods:

Class participation: 10%

Quizzes: 30%

Take-home essay: 15%

Final exam: 45%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
MIR1	Possess in-depth knowledge about the fundamental concepts and theories of the discipline of International Relations		X			
MIR2	Be aware of the theoretical approaches related to the issues of the system, nation-state, institutions, culture, and power in world politics					X
MIR3	Follow closely the contemporary world conjuncture					X
MIR4	Be able to question the well-established knowledge and causal relationships in the field of International Relations				X	

MIR5	Be aware of the shortcomings and gaps in the International Relations literature and be able to carry out research that addresses these gaps and shortcomings		X			
MIR6	Comprehend various scientific research methods and be able to use these methods effectively			X		
MIR7	Be able to produce an original, scientific study in the field of International Relations		X			
MIR8	Be able to think independently, creatively, and critically					X
MIR9	Embrace work ethics and behave accordingly			X		
MIR10	Be open-minded towards new phenomena that emerge in world politics and the politics of states					X
MIR11	Have self confidence and acquire the ability to deliver presentations in public					X
MIR12	Be able to work together with individuals from different cultures, beliefs, and opinions				X	

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading 95 hrs

Lectures and discussions 40 hrs

Written assignment 30 hrs

Examinations 10 hrs

TOTAL 175hrs (25X7) 7 ECTS

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