

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

POS 3 - Comparative Politics

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level V; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

Comparative analysis of different kinds of political systems, including their history, political institutions, processes and policies, the environments in which they occur, and their consequences. (C-ID POLS 130).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the role of the state.
- B. Distinguish among regime types and their central features.
- C. Compare political systems, both in theory and with actual country examples.
- D. Explain the impact of the regional, economic, historical and cultural factors on political institutions and behavior.
- E. Analyze political systems by using the comparative method.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduce different regime types and their resulting institutions in political systems	11.00
2. Discuss theory regarding the stability of regimes and transitions from one regime type to another.	10.00
3. Include actual country examples of each regime type in terms of institutions, processes, political culture, historical/cultural context, and role of the people.	10.00
4. Discuss the role of the state and popular participation in political and economic development within countries.	10.00
5. Introduce the use of the comparative method by utilizing diverse historical, regional, cultural, political and economic case studies.	10.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Multimedia Presentations
- E. Research Paper

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Papers
- C. Group Participation
- D. Class participation
- E. There will be writing assignments totaling at least 2500 words

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. Read the article comparing/contrasting political decision making among small scale Democratic societies and large scale democratic systems. Consider such concepts as hierarchy and egalitarian organization emphases.
2. Read the Chapter from your text book that focuses on comparisons and contrasts between modern democratic republics and modern socialistic states. Be able to discuss in class the differences between the Cuban system and Socialistic countries in northern Europe (e.g. Norway and Sweden.)

B. Writing Assignments

1. Write a three page description of the current Chinese political organization. How does the current Chinese State differ from that of fifteen years ago? Focus on the concept of economic co-option from western influences as a key factor in shaping recent Chinese politics.
2. Write a five page essay outlining the key characteristics of the Indian governmental system. Include how international marketing has influenced political organization in India over the last twenty years.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. This weekend several dignitaries from the government of Japan are visiting. Attend their public forum and be able to discuss their current policies regarding the use of nuclear power.
2. View this week's CSPAN program dealing with a presentation from UN dignitaries on the subject of Egypt's formation of a new government. Be able to identify the current type of government Egypt has as well as summarizing the role that the United States is playing in the organization of this "new" government.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Almond, G.A. and Bingham Powell, Jr. G., eds. . Comparative Politics Today: A World View. 10th Edition. Longman, 2011.
- B. Almond, A.G., Dalton, R.J., Bingham Jr. G. Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Perspective. 6th Edition. Longman, 2011.

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Date: 03/04/2013