POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Spring 2016  
Monday 3:30-6:30  105 West (Res. College)

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall  
Telephone: 225-578-2143  
Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF  
11:30-12:30 MWF  
3:00-4:00 W

OBJECTIVE: The course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary for examining politics across the countries of the world. In particular, we will provide a foundation for understanding the concepts on which political systems operate, the forces that account for change and continuity and the basis for comparing political performance in the first, second and third worlds. It is expected that by the end of the semester, students must have developed the analytical skills for explaining the differences and similarities existing in the select countries discussed in class. Poli 2053 is a General Education course designed to improve broad knowledge, stimulate life-long learning and develop critical understanding of the political phenomena.

The University strives toward Learning Competency and the fulfillment of the following objectives:
- Ability to think, describe, interpret and analyze the world
- Facility to make sense of the world that impact on our own local system
- The need to gain critical perspectives of the governments and institutions across various political systems

TEXTBOOK: There is one major text required for this course:

G. Bingham Powell, Jr.: Comparative Politics Today: A World View  
11th revised edition; Pearson, 2014

You are also required to read assigned articles from The New York Times for the multiple choice tests and the two-country paper.

EXAMS and PAPERS: As part of the general education requirement (all students of 2053) will do standard multiple choice questions during the mid-term and final exams. A major essay question will also be administered to all sections of 2053. Much of the content of the mid-term and final exam (essays and definitions) come from the lectures. You will do a brief comparative survey of recent political developments in any two countries of your choice. For this 3-5 page paper, do not select any of the ten countries covered in the lectures.

GRADES:  
Class Participation  10 pts  
Early Take-Home Exam  10 pts (Due Mon. Feb. 15)  
Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)  20 pts (Mon. March 07)
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>NYT Multiple Choice Test(2)</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
<td>(March 07/April 25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Country Paper</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
<td>(Mon. April 18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
<td>(Mon. May 02; 3:30-5:30pm)</td>
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**LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Jan. 25**

**Course Introduction:** The Study of Politics

The Value of Comparative Politics

Comparative Methods and Problems

Powell, Chapters 1, 2

**Jan. 25**

**Characteristics of Political Systems:**

Defined by their Context

Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies

Sustained by their Economics

Powell, Chapters 3, 4, 5

**Feb. 01**

**Institutional Approach**

Legislature, Executive, Judiciary

Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals

Powell, Chapters 6, 7

**Feb. 15**

**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:** Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

Great Britain

Powell, Chapter 8

**Feb. 22**

**Return Take-Home Exam (Due)**

**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:** Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

France

Powell, Chapter 9

**Feb. 29**

**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:** Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes

Germany and Japan

Powell, Chapters 10, 11
March 07  Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test (1)

March 14  Overview of Communism and the third World
Transition from Communism:  Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Russia  Powell, Chapter 12

March 28  Transition from Communism:  Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
China  Powell, Chapter 13

April 04  Developing Countries:  Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
India  Powell, Chapter 17

April 11  Developing Countries:  Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Mexico  Powell, Chapter 14

April 18  Developing Countries:  Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Iran/Nigeria  Powell, Chapters 16 & 18

April 18  Two-Country Survey/Paper of Recent Events Due

April 25  NYT Multiple Choice Test (2)/Review Session/Return Papers & Pre-Final
Grades/Course Evaluation

May 02  Final Exam (Mon. May 02, 3:30-5:30pm)