POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2013
Wednesday 5:00-8:00 p.m. 218 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall
Telephone: 225-578-2143

Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 MWF
11:30-12:30 MWF
3:00-5:00 MW

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 the following objectives for general education courses:
- 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:


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

Student Responsibility: You are required to attend all class sessions and keep up with reading assignments in order to enhance your ability to participate in class discussions. There is a grade for class participation.

EXAMS and PAPERS: There will be an early take-home exam, a midterm exam, (2) NYT multiple choice exams, a brief comparative survey/paper of recent events in (2) TWO countries of your choice (not discussed in class), and a final exam.

GRADES: Class Participation 10 pts
Early Take-Home Exam 10 pts (Sept. 11)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Country Paper</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYT Multiple Choice Tests (2)</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
<td>Oct. 16/Dec. 04</td>
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<td>Final Exam (In-Class)</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
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<td>100 pts</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: 100-88</td>
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<td>B: 87.9-78</td>
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<td>C: 77.9-68</td>
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<td>D: 67.9-60</td>
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<td>F: Below 60</td>
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**LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Aug. 28**  
**Course Introduction:** The Study of Politics  
The Value of Comparative Politics  
Comparative Methods and Problems  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapters 1, 2 & 3

**Sept. 04**  
**Characteristics of Political Systems:**  
Defined by their Context  
Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies  
Sustained by their Economics  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 2

**Sept. 11**  
**Institutional Approach**  
Legislature, Executive, Judiciary  
Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 3

**Sept. 11**  
**Return Take-Home Exam** (in class)

**Sept. 18**  
**Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**  
Great Britain  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 4

**Sept. 25**  
**Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**  
France  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 5

**Oct. 02**  
**Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**  
Germany  
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 6
Oct. 09 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Japan
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter

Oct. 16 Mid-Term Exam (in-class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test
Overview of Communism and the Third World

Oct. 23 Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Russia
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 9

Oct. 30 Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
China
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 10

Nov. 06 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
India
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 12

Nov. 13 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Mexico
Hauss & Hausman, Chapter 16

Nov. 20 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Iran/Nigeria
Hauss & Hausman, Chapters 13 & 15

Nov. 20 Two-Country Survey/Paper of Recent Events Due

Dec. 04 NYT Multiple Choice Test
Review Session
Return papers/”pre-final” grades
Course Evaluation

Dec. 11 Final Exam