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: *Comparative Politics Today*

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Take-Home Exam</td>
<td>10 pts (Wed. Jan 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)</td>
<td>20 pts (Wed. March 06)</td>
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Two Country Paper 10 pts (Due Wed. April 24)
NYT Multiple Choice Test(s) 10 pts (Wed. March 06/Wed. May 01)
Final Exam (In-Class) 40 pts (Wed. May 08; 5:00pm-7:00pm)

100 pts

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Jan. 16 Course Introduction: The Study of Politics
The Value of Comparative Politics
Comparative Methods and Problems
Powell, Chapters 1, 2

Jan. 23 Characteristics of Political Systems:
Defined by their Context
Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies
Sustained by their Economics
Powell, Chapters 3, 4

Jan. 30 Institutional Approach
Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
Powell, Chapters 5, 6, 7

Jan. 30 Return Take-Home Exam

Feb. 06 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Great Britain
Powell, Chapter 8

Feb. 20 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
France
Powell, Chapter 9

Feb. 27 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Germany and Japan
Powell, Chapters 10, 11
March 06  Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test

March 13  Overview of Communism and the Third World

March 13  Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
          Russia
          Powell, Chapter 12

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

March 20  Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
          India
          Powell, Chapter 17

March 27  Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
          Mexico
          Powell, Chapter 14

April 10  Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
          Iran/Nigeria
          Powell, Chapters 16, 18

April 17  Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due

April 24  NYT Multiple Choice Test/Review Session/Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades/Course Evaluation

May 01  Final Exam 5:00pm-7:00pm (Possible)