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 and critical understanding of the political phenomena.

Books: There is one major text required for this course.

Almond and Powell: Comparative Politics Today: A Worldview

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.

Examinations, Paper, and Grades: There will be an early take home exam, an in-class midterm exam, a brief comparative survey of recent events in TWO countries (not discussed in lectures) of your choice and a take-home final. Details of these assignments will be determined according to this formula.

Class Participation 10 pts.
Early Exam (take home) 10 pts. (Jan. 30)
Midterm Exam (in class) 20 pts. (Mar. 04)
Two Country paper 10 pts. (Apr. 22)
Multiple Choice Tests 10 pts. (Mar. 04 & Apr. 29)
Final (take home) 40 pts. (May 01: By NOON, 209 Stubbs Hall)
100 pts.

A: 100-88  B: 87.9-78;  C: 77.9-68;  D: 67.9-60;  F: Below 60
Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments

Jan. 14
**Course Intro:** The Study of Politics
The Value of Comparative Politics
Comparative Methods and Problems; Almond & Powell, Chapter 1

Jan. 21
**Characteristics of Political Systems:**
Defined by their Context
Driven By Constitutions and Ideologies
Sustained by their Economies; Almond & Powell, Chapter 2 & 3

Jan. 28
**Return Take Home**
**Institutional Approach**
Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
   Almond & Powell, Chapter 4, 5, 6, & 7

Feb. 04-18
**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:**
Their Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
   Great Britain - Chapter 8   France - Chapter 9
   Germany - Chapter 10   Japan - Chapter 11

Mar. 04
**Midterm Exam** (In Class)
Also **first** NYT multiple choice test

**Overview of Communism and the Third World**

Mar. 11-25
**Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**
   Russia: Chapter 12
   China: Chapter 13

Apr. 01-22
**Developing countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attribute**
   India: Chapter 17
   Mexico: Chapter 14
   Iran/Nigeria: Chapter 16 & 18

Apr. 22
**Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due!**
**Give Out Take Home Final**

Apr. 29
**Course Evaluation/final NYT Multiple Choice Test**
**Review Session**
**Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades**

May 01
**Return Take Home Final By NOON (209 Stubbs Hall)**