Poli 2053-001  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Spring 2012  
Wednesday 5:00-8:00  218 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry M. Mokeba  
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall  
Phone: 578-2143  
Office Hours: MWF  9:30-10:30  
WRF  11:30-12:30  
MW  3:00-5:00

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.

Books: 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 midterm and final.

A major essay question will also be administered to all sections of 2053. Much of the content of the midterm 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 on the lectures.

Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Exam (take home)</td>
<td>10 pts (due Feb 07)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>20 pts (Mar 07)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Country paper</td>
<td>10 pts (Apr 18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYT Multiple Choice Tests</td>
<td>10 pts (Mar 07/May 02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (in class)</td>
<td>40 pts (May 09; 8:00-10:00 pm)</td>
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A: 100-88  B: 87.9-78;  C: 77.9-68;  D: 67.9-60;  F: Below 60
Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments

Jan 18

**Course Intro:** The Study of Politics
The Value of Comparative Politics
Comparative Methods and Problems; GBP: Chapter 1 & 2

Jan 25

**Characteristics of Political Systems:**
Defined by their Context
Driven By Constitutions and Ideologies
Sustained by their Economies; GBP: Chapter 3 & 4

Feb 01

**Institutional Approach**
Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
GBP: Chapter 5, 6, & 7

Feb 08

**Return Take Home** (In class)

Feb 08-29

**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:**
Their Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Feb 08; Great Britain - Chapter 8  Feb 15; France - Chapter 9
Feb 29; Germany – Chapter 10  Feb 29; Japan - Chapter 11

Mar 07

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

Mar 14

**Overview of Communism and the Third World**

Mar 14-21

**Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**
Mar 14; Russia - Chapter 12  Mar 21; China - Chapter 13

Mar 28-Apr 18

**Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes**
Mar 28; India – Chapter 17
Apr 04; Mexico - Chapter 14
Apr 18-25; Iran/Nigeria - Chapter 16 & 18

Apr 18

**Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due!**

May 02

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

Final May 09
8:00-10:00 pm