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 lifelong learning and develop critical understanding of the political phenomena.

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

Kesselman, Krieger & Joseph: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Boston: Wadsworth, 2010

In addition, NYT readings will be assigned.

Exam & Paper:
As part of the general education requirement, (all sections of 2053) will do standard multiple choice question during the midterm and the final. There will be other multiple choice questions assigned from the NYT.

A major essay question will be administered to all 2053 sections. Much of the content of the midterm and final exam (essays and definitions) come from the lectures.
You will select TWO countries (not examined in the lectures) to compare events that have recently taken place for your research paper.

GRADES/ASSIGNMENT DATES:

- Class Participation 10 pts.
- Early Take Home Exam 10 pts. (Due Sept. 03)
- Midterm Exam (in class) 20 pts. (Wed. Oct. 13)
- Two Country paper 10 pts. (Due Wed. Nov. 17)
- Multiple Choice Tests 10 pts. (During Midterm and before final)
- Final 40 pts. (Wed. Dec. 08)

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

Aug. 25  
**Course Intro:** The Study of Politics  
The Value of Comparative Politics  
Comparative Methods and Problems; KKJ: Part 1

Sept. 01  
**Characteristics of Political Systems:**  
Defined by their Context  
Driven By Constitutions and Ideologies  
Sustained by their Economies; KKJ: Part 1

Sept. 03  
**Return Take Home Exam**

Sept. 08  
**Institutional Approach**  
Legislature, Executive, Judiciary  
Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals  
KKJ: Part 1

Sept. 15-Oct 06  
**Politics in Capitalist Democracies:**  
Historical Basis and Contemporary Traits  
Great Britain - Chapter 7  
France - Chapter 3  
Germany – Chapter 4  
Japan - Chapter 5

Oct. 13  
**Midterm Exam** (In Class)  
Also **first** NYT multiple choice test

**Overview of Communism and the Third World**

Oct. 20-27  
**Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Traits.**  
Russia: Chapter 11  
China: Chapter 13

Nov. 03-17  
**Developing countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Traits**  
India: Chapter 6  
Mexico: Chapter 10  
Iran/Nigeria: Chapter 12 & 8

Nov. 17  
**Two-Country Paper Due**

Dec. 01  
**2053 Essay/Multiple Choice Test**  
**Review Session/Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades**

Dec. 08  
**In-Class Final**