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:

Charles Hauss: Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges
Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning

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:
- Class Participation: 10 pts
- Early Take-Home Exam: 10 pts (Wed. Feb. 05)
- Mid-Term Exam (In-Class): 20 pts (Wed. March 12)
Two Country Paper 10 pts (Due Wed. April 23)
NYT Multiple Choice Test(s) 10 pts (Wed. March 12/Wed. April 30)
Final Exam (In-Class) 40 pts (Wed. May 07; 4:00pm-6:00pm)
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. 15  Course Introduction: The Study of Politics
         The Value of Comparative Politics
         Comparative Methods and Problems
         Hauss, Chapters 1, 2

Jan. 22  Characteristics of Political Systems:
         Defined by their Context
         Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies
         Sustained by their Economics
         Hauss, Chapters 2, 3

Jan. 29  Institutional Approach
         Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
         Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
         Hauss, Chapters 2, 3

Feb. 05  Return Take-Home Exam

Feb. 12  Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
         Great Britain
         Hauss, Chapter 4

Feb. 19  Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
         France
         Hauss, Chapter 5

Feb. 26  Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
         Germany and Japan
         Hauss, Chapter 6
March 12  Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test
Crisis of Communism
Hauss, Chapter 8

March 19  Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Russia
Hauss, Chapter 9

March 26  Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
China
Hauss, Chapter 10

April 02  Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
India
Hauss, Chapter 12

April 09  Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Mexico
Hauss, Chapter 15

April 23  Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due
Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
Iran/Nigeria
Hauss, Chapters 13, 14

April 30  NYT Multiple Choice Test/Review Session/Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades/Course Evaluation

May 07  Final Exam 4:00pm-6:00pm