

PROPOSAL TO LIST A COURSE, OR TO RENEW THE LISTING OF A COURSE,  
IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION SOCIAL SCIENCES AREA  
AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Renewal  New Listing

Course designation, number, and title: (e.g.: PHIL/1000/ Introduction to Philosophy)

Poli 2053 Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Course designation Course number Course title

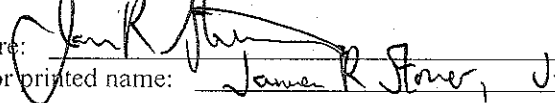
Semester credits: 3 Contact hours per week: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_

Department (or other unit) offering the course and proposing its inclusion: Poli

College or School: Humanities and Social Sciences

Please attach the requested information. Submit a single electronic copy (pdf file) bearing unit and college/school signatures to [gened@lsu.edu](mailto:gened@lsu.edu).

Chair of the proposing unit, affirming approval by its faculty or appropriate faculty committee:

Signature:  Date: April 25, 2012  
Typed or printed name: James R. Stoner, Jr

Dean of College or School, affirming support of the proposal:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on General Education, affirming approval by the Committee:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Academic Affairs:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Proposal to Renew the Listing of Political Science 2053 In General Education at Louisiana State University**

1. Attached is a syllabus for Political Science 2053 that includes the course description, reading assignments, statement of general education goals in social science, description of assignments and examinations used to assess student learning, and an outline of the subject matter of the course.
  
2. Political Science 2053 is a broad, multiple section, general introduction to the comparative politics, with a typical enrollment of 50 students. It is designed to be a comprehensive survey of politics in democratic, post-communist, and developing societies with an emphasis on major actors and institutions. More specifically, the course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary for examining politics across the countries of the world. In particular, the course provides 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. Political science 2053 is a general education course designed to improve broad knowledge and critical understanding of the political phenomena.

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the *LSU General Catalog*, General Education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather, they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2053 is designed to address the following General Education goals: *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.*

3. The required readings for the course along with the exams, quizzes, and writing assignments are all designed to provide students various opportunities for developing an “understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.”

The assessment will be conducted during the fall semesters of each year. During those semesters, the instructors of this course will gather to discuss and select appropriate questions to assess this competency. Approximately 10 to 15 multiple-choice questions will be given to students on their final examinations. In addition, faculty teaching the courses will give a writing assignment that requires each student to produce an essay on comparative politics.

Examples of some multiple-choice questions and the criteria used for assessing student performance are provided below:

The *New York Times* piece, “Prison Nation,” deals with this country that has a high incarceration rate:

- A. South Africa
- B. China
- C. United States
- D. Cuba

The *New York Times* article, "Intellectuals in China," revealed that:

- A. They called for the mass riots against Beijing.
- B. They often side with the US and the West in internal Chinese Disputes.
- C. They have condemned the crackdown and called for peace
- D. None of the Above

The percentage of students who score in each of the following categories, for each section and across all sections will be summarized:

Percentage of Examination Questions Answered Correctly

- 90% = Exceeds Expectations
- 70 - 89% = Met Expectations
- Under 70% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.

Examples of the writing assignment and the criteria used for assessment:

Students are asked to survey political events in any two countries of their choice. They must choose two countries not covered in class and they must select an event in each country (an election, protest, resignation, strike, new law, etc.) and examine its consequences. Students are expected to examine their findings in the context of general trends concerning politics of First World Countries, Second World Countries, and the Third World.

Essays will be assessed by the team of comparative instructors and will summarize percentage of students who score in each of the following categories, for each section and across all sections.

- Research Essay demonstrates a thorough and critical understanding of the events researched and discussed = 90% & Above = Exceeds Expectations
- Research essay demonstrates a thorough understanding of the events but without significant critical and contextual perspective = 80-89% = Meets Expectations
- Research Essay demonstrates an accurate and general sense of events selected with some contextual perspective = 70-79% = Meets Expectations
- Research Essay demonstrates little understanding of events selected and/or context = 60-69% = Did Not Meet Expectations
- Research Essay demonstrates little understanding and little effort to select events and analyze them in a comparative perspective. Below 60% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.

## Introduction to Comparative Politics Political Science 2053

Instructor: Dr. Harry M. Mokeba

Fall 20XX

Objectives: 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 described in the catalogue as a “survey of politics in democratic, post-communist and developing societies, with an emphasis on major actors and institutions.” As a **general education** course, it is intended to improve broad knowledge and critical understanding of political phenomena. More specifically, it is designed to encourage students to demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

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

Almond and Powell: Comparative Politics Today: A Worldview  
New York: Pearson Longman, 2008

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
Midterm Exam (in class)	20 pts
Two Country Paper	10 pts
Multiple Choice Tests(2)	10 pts
Final (take home)	<u>40 pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

A: 100-88    B: 87.9-78;    C: 77.9-68;    D: 67.9-60;    F: Below 60

