

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Spring 2018  
Monday 3:30-6:30 105 West (Res. College)

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
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Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF  
11:30-12:30 MWF  
2:00-3:00 W

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:

G. Bingham Powell, Jr.: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*  
11<sup>th</sup> revised edition; Pearson, 2014

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.

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|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>GRADES:</u> | Class Participation  | 10 pts                    |
|                | Early Take-Home Exam | 10 pts (Due Fri. Feb. 09) |

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)    | 20 pts (Mon. March 05)                     |
| NYT Multiple Choice Test(2) | 10 pts (March 05/April 23)                 |
| Two Country Paper           | 10 pts (Mon. April 16)                     |
| Final Exam                  | <u>40 pts</u> (Mon. April 30; 3:30-5:30pm) |
|                             | 100 pts                                    |

|              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A+ 100 - 95  | B+ 86.9 - 85 | C+ 76.9 - 75 | D+ 66.9 - 65 |
| A 94.9 - 90  | B 84.9 - 80  | C 74.9 - 70  | D 64.9 - 60  |
| A- 89.9 - 87 | B- 79.9 - 77 | C- 69.9 - 67 | D- 59.9 - 57 |

### LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

|                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Jan. 22          | <u>Course Introduction:</u> The Study of Politics<br>The Value of Comparative Politics<br>Comparative Methods and Problems                         | Powell, Chapters 1, 2    |
| Jan. 22          | <u>Characteristics of Political Systems:</u><br>Defined by their Context<br>Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies<br>Sustained by their Economics | Powell, Chapters 3, 4, 5 |
| Jan. 29          | <u>Institutional Approach</u><br>Legislature, Executive, Judiciary<br>Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals                           | Powell, Chapters 6, 7    |
| Feb. 05          | <u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>Great Britain   | Powell, Chapter 8        |
| Feb. 09 (Friday) | <u>Return Take-Home Exam (Due)</u>   |                          |
| Feb. 19          | <u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>France  | Powell, Chapter 9        |
| Feb. 26          | <u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>Germany and Japan                                       | Powell, Chapters 10, 11  |

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|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| March 05          | <u>Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test (1)</u>   |                          |
| March 12          | <u>Overview of Communism and the third World</u><br><u>Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>Russia | Powell, Chapter 12       |
| March 19          | <u>Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>China  | Powell, Chapter 13       |
| March 26 – 30     | <u>Spring Break</u>  |                          |
| April 02          | <u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>India   | Powell, Chapter 17       |
| April 09          | <u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>Mexico  | Powell, Chapter 14       |
| April 16          | <u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u><br>Iran/Nigeria  | Powell, Chapters 16 & 18 |
| April 20 (Friday) | <u>Two-Country Survey/Paper of Recent Events Due</u>   |                          |
| April 23          | <u>NYT Multiple Choice Test (2)/Review Session/Return Papers &amp; Pre-Final Grades/Course Evaluation</u>                                    |                          |
| April 30          | <u>Final Exam (Mon. April 30, 3:30-5:30pm)</u>   |                          |