

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Spring 2015  
Monday 3:30-6:30 127 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
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Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 MWF  
11:30-12:30 MWF  
3:00-4:00 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.

<u>GRADES:</u>	Class Participation	10 pts
	Early Take-Home Exam	10 pts (Due Mon. Feb. 16)
	Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)	20 pts (Mon. March 02)

NYT Multiple Choice Test(2)	10 pts (March 02/April 27)
Two Country Paper	10 pts (Mon. April 20)
Final Exam	<u>40 pts</u> (Mon. May 04; 3:00-5:00pm)
	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. 26	<u>Course Introduction: The Study of Politics</u> The Value of Comparative Politics Comparative Methods and Problems	Powell, Chapters 1, 2
Jan. 26	<u>Characteristics of Political Systems:</u> Defined by their Context Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies Sustained by their Economics	Powell, Chapters 3, 4, 5
Feb. 02	<u>Institutional Approach</u> Legislature, Executive, Judiciary Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals	Powell, Chapters 6, 7
Feb. 09	<u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Great Britain	Powell, Chapter 8
Feb. 16	<u>Return Take-Home Exam (Due)</u> <u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> France	Powell, Chapter 9
Feb. 23	<u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Germany and Japan	Powell, Chapters 10, 11

March 02	<u>Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test (1)</u>
March 09	<u>Overview of Communism and the third World</u> <u>Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Russia Powell, Chapter 12
March 16	<u>Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> China Powell, Chapter 13
March 23	<u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> India Powell, Chapter 17
March 30	<u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Mexico Powell, Chapter 14
April 13	<u>Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Iran/Nigeria Powell, Chapters 16 & 18
April 20	<u>Two-Country Survey/Paper of Recent Events Due</u>
April 27	<u>NYT Multiple Choice Test (2)/Review Session/Return Papers &amp; Pre-Final Grades/Course Evaluation</u>
May 04	<u>Final Exam (Mon. May 04, 3:00-5:00pm)</u>