

# PSPA 211

## Survey of Comparative Politics

### Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the basics of comparative politics. Lectures focus on the variables that affect the outcome of the political process (such as levels of participation, political recruitment, political culture, ideology, and institutional mechanism). The course examines diverse countries reflecting advanced industrial democracies, communist and former communist countries, and developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, participants should be able to:

- \*Understand the basic variables that affect political performance
- \*Appreciate the importance of major historical events in forming political communities and developing societal skills
- \*Construct a simple model for comparing different political systems
- \*Develop awareness about a number of representative political systems in different geographical regions

### Readings

#### Required

*Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Addison Wesley, 2000. (Gabriel Almond et al.).

#### Recommended

*Comparative Politics: Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Interdependence*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock Publishers, 2001. (by Monte Palmer).

*Politics and Government: How People Decide their Fate*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1980. (by Karl W. Deutsch).

“The Structure and Dynamics of EU Federalism,” *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 36, nos. 1-2, pp. 184-208, 2003 (by R. Daniel Kelemen).

“Party Systems and Democratization: A Comparative Study of the Third World,” *Democratization*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 11-29 (by Carston Anckar).

### Grading System

Mid-term Examination	35%
Term paper	25%
Final Examination	40%

### Reading Schedule

Week One: Introduction

Chapter 1, Issues in Comparative Politics, pp.2-20.

Chapter 2, Concepts in Comparative Politics, pp. 21-34.

Week Two: The Making of a Political System  
Chapter 3, Political Socialization and Culture, pp. 36-51.  
Chapter 4, Political Recruitment and Structure, pp. 52-69.

Week Three: Political Process  
Chapter 5, Interest Groups and Interest Articulation, pp. 70-85.  
Chapter 6, Political Parties and Interest Aggregation, pp. 86-105.

Week Four: Policy Formulation and Implementation  
Chapter 7, Government and Policymaking, pp. 106-124.  
Chapter 8, Public Policy, pp. 125-152.

Week Five: Politics in England, pp. 154-209.

Week Six: Politics in France, pp. 210, 263.

Week Seven: Politics in Germany, pp. 264-325.

Week Eight: Politics in Japan, pp. 326-379.

Week Nine: Politics in Russia, pp. 380-437.

Week Ten: Politics in China, pp. 438-491.

Week Eleven: Politics in Brazil, pp. 556-607.

Week Twelve: Politics in Egypt, pp. 608-667.

Week Thirteen: Politics in India, pp. 668-729.

Week Fourteen: Politics in the United States, pp. 784-824.

Week Fifteen: Appraisal of the Comparative Approach