

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: POSC 225
Course Title: Comparative Politics

Year: 2024-2025
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

This course introduces students to various nation-states of the world and compares governmental development, political history and institutional functions in the contemporary era. Using a wide sample of nation-states it analyzes aspects of international relations, competing domestic political institutions, and the history of internal political processes that have generated cohesion and/or conflict. Prerequisites: ENGL 101; MATH 090 and RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Spring semester.

Course Context/Audience

This course serves as an advanced level survey for all students interested in the social scientific views of comparative politics. By comparing and contrasting at minimum 10-12 different nation-states, it provides a wide scope to appreciate the great diversity of world political systems, international socio-cultural developments, and contemporary economics. As a required offering in the International Studies AS Program, as well as a Social Science, Liberal Arts and Unrestricted elective, the course has a diverse audience. It could appeal to Social Science, General Studies, International Business, Entrepreneurship, and Hotel Restaurant Management Program students at TC3, depending on their transfer and career interests

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing:	WC	College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or prerequisites.
Math:	M2	MATH 090 if required by placement testing.
Reading:	R4	Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the basic elements of political systems, including parties, governmental institutions, NGOs, participation practices, and what varying societies expect of their political processes.
2. Recognize, investigate, and explain how politics, institutions of government and competing parties function in the diverse nation-states studied, and how they change over time.

3. Understand how international diplomacy, trade, migration and other factors alter governmental policies in the contemporary era, both internally as well as externally.
4. Be able to compare and contrast on a basic level how nation-states we study as diverse as Iran, Japan, Russia and Nigeria have arrived at their political practices and governmental structures.
5. Create, research, write, and orally present an independent research project on a topic of comparative politics chosen in conjunction with the instructor.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Review the political history, organization and practices of select nation-states	80-90%
Compare and contrast the structures of governments from various regions and the similarities and differences	80-90%
Analyze the basics of political theory and key elements of political science	10-20%
Understand the dynamics of how changes are made in political systems	20-30%
Compare and contrast the USA with multiple nation-states of the various world regions	10-20%
Expose students to multiple viewpoints on how to conduct a government	20-30%

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others. 	<p>Students will be comparing and contrasting multiple forms of government and political processes across 6 continents, noting the historical development, and changes over time created by internal and external conflict. They will be closely reviewing how individual nation-states were created, using the text book and other sources as guides. They will weigh and discuss factors in the success or failure of initiatives to alter government. Ultimately, they will see in the comparative process how individual nation-states have come to conflict or consensus on their development. The success or failure to alter the political form and process in each nation-state will focus student attention on issues of education, economics, racism, religious practice and other factors that have led different nation-states to multiple conclusions. One aspect of the course will be to place the student into a position where they will need to compare and analyze their own political traditions and expectations with those of others.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. 	<p>It is not possible to conduct a comparative political science course without recourse to extensive comparisons to how theories, practices, procedures, and expectations of the political process have altered the trajectory of other nation-states. Globalization, as far as it impacts commerce, music, food, trade, employment, immigration and so many other topics in the course, shapes our current US political discourse and structure. Our model of political and governmental functioning is only one of many options, and our actions and policies have impact on public policy initiatives in the USA as well as serving as models overseas.</p>

Instructional Methods

This course utilizes a lively lecture component mixed with extensive classroom discussions. Weekly, students will be reading about two or three nation-states and discuss in class the similarities and differences of note under instructor guidance. The goal of the discussions will be to examine core issues in governance, and to place different political traditions into context. Each student will pursue an individual research project with the assistance of the instructor and a research librarian. It will be substantial, and findings will be presented in class the last weeks of the semester.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Essay Examinations	30-50%
Final Research Paper (8-10 pages)	20-30%
Attendance and Participation in Class Discussions	20-30%
Research Bibliography and Classroom Presentation of Research Paper	10-20%

Text

Comparative Politics Today: A World View, 10th Edition, G. Bingham Powell, Jr Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom, Longman, 2012.

Bibliography

The ever-changing nature of this sub-field of comparative political science means that the introductory survey texts listed below are undergoing constant editing and re-printing. Instructors should review text ideas each semester to find the most relevant narrative text as well as supplements. Many texts opt to examine 10-12 nation-states, but instructors could substitute or supplement those materials in order to focus on nations linked to current events, of interest to US policies or of interest to students who will study abroad. Individual country studies abound, and could be tailored to suit each semester. An instructor could opt to use current events as a vehicle to incorporate another nation-state.

Chinese Politics, 7th Edition, Dreyer, Longman, 2010.

Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, 8th Edition, Charles Hauss and Melissa Haussman, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013.

Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Framework, 6th Edition, G. Bingham Powell, Jr., et al, Longman, 2012.

The Emerging European Union, 6th Edition, Yesilada et al, Longman, 2010.

Essentials of Comparative Politics, 3rd Edition, Patrick H. O'Neil, W. W. Norton and Company, 2010.

Global Political Islam, Peter Mandaville, Routledge, 2010.

Global Politics: A New Introduction, Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Routledge, 2009.

International Relations: The Basics, Peter Sutch and Juanita Elias, Routledge, 2010.

Introduction to Global Politics, Richard W. Mansbach and Kirsten L. Rafferty, Routledge, 2011.

Middle Eastern Politics, 9th Edition, Andersen et al, Longman, 2009.

The Good Society: An Introduction to Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition, Alan Draper and Ansil Ramsay, Longman, 2012.

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Brief 2nd Edition, Mark Kesselman et al, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013.

The Russian Polity, 6th Edition, Remington, Longman, 2010.

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual Instructors are encouraged to make use of DVD and other media sources relevant to topics in the course. These are available in multiple formats and a research librarian should be consulted for assistance in advance of any purchase for our permanent collection, of for streaming video access, or loan.

Electronic: The global scope of the course lends itself to constant change. Scholarship is constantly emerging that may be relevant to the classroom; political situations on the world scene are constantly in flux. Instructors ought to review electronic items in advance and use appropriately and consult our research librarians in advance.

Other

None Specified