

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2014
Wednesday 4:00-7:00/105 Residential College W

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

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:

Charles Hauss: Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges
Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning

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 (Wed. Feb. 05)
	Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)	20 pts (Wed. March 12)

Two Country Paper	10 pts (Due Wed. April 23)
NYT Multiple Choice Test(s)	10 pts (Wed. March 12/Wed. April 30)
Final Exam (In-Class)	<u>40 pts</u> (Wed. May 07; 4:00pm-6:00pm)
	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. 15 Course Introduction: The Study of Politics
 The Value of Comparative Politics
 Comparative Methods and Problems
 Hauss, Chapters 1, 2
- Jan. 22 Characteristics of Political Systems:
 Defined by their Context
 Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies
 Sustained by their Economics
 Hauss, Chapters 2, 3
- Jan. 29 Institutional Approach
 Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
 Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals
 Hauss, Chapters 2, 3
- Feb. 05 Return Take-Home Exam
- Feb. 12 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Great Britain
 Hauss, Chapter 4
- Feb. 19 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 France
 Hauss, Chapter 5
- Feb. 26 Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Germany and Japan
 Hauss, Chapter 6

- March 12 Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test
 Crisis of Communism
Haus, Chapter 8
- March 19 Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Russia
Haus, Chapter 9
- March 26 Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 China
Haus, Chapter 10
- April 02 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 India
Haus, Chapter 12
- April 09 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Mexico
Haus, Chapter 15
- April 23 Two-Country Survey of Recent Events Due
 Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes
 Iran/Nigeria
Haus, Chapters 13, 14
- April 30 NYT Multiple Choice Test/Review Session/Return Papers and Pre-Final Grades/Course
 Evaluation
- May 07 Final Exam 4:00pm-6:00pm