

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Fall 2014  
MWF 12:30-1:20 218 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
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Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 MWF  
11:30-12:30 MWF  
3:00-5:00 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:

Charles Hauss: Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges  
Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015

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 Fri. Sept. 12)
	Mid-Term Exam (In-Class)	20 pts (Fri. Oct. 17)

NYT Multiple Choice Test(2)	10 pts (Oct. 17/Dec. 1)
Two Country Paper	10 pts (Fri. Nov. 21)
Final Exam (In-Class)	<u>40 pts</u> (Wed. Dec. 10)
	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

Aug. 25-29	<u>Course Introduction: The Study of Politics</u> The Value of Comparative Politics Comparative Methods and Problems Haus, Chapters 1, 2
Sept. 3-10	<u>Characteristics of Political Systems:</u> Defined by their Context Driven by Constitutions and Ideologies Sustained by their Economics Haus, Chapter 3
Sept. 12-17	<u>Institutional Approach</u> Legislature, Executive, Judiciary Interest Groups, Political Parties and Individuals Haus, Chapters 2, 3
Sept. 12	<u>Return Take-Home Exam (Due)</u>
Sept. 19-26	<u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Great Britain Haus, Chapter 4
Sept 29 - Oct. 8	<u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> France Haus, Chapter 5
Oct. 10 - Oct. 15	<u>Politics in Capitalist Democracies: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes</u> Germany and Japan Haus, Chapter 6

- Oct. 17                    Mid-Term Exam (In-Class) and NYT Multiple Choice Test (1)
- Oct. 20                    Overview of Communism and the third World  
Haus, Chapters 8 & 11
- Oct. 22-27                Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes  
Russia  
Haus, Chapter 9
- Oct. 29 - Nov. 5        Transition from Communism: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes  
China  
Haus, Chapter 10
- Nov. 7-12                Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes  
India  
Haus, Chapter 12
- Nov. 12-17              Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes  
Mexico  
Haus, Chapter 15
- Nov. 19-24              Developing Countries: Historical Basis and Contemporary Attributes  
Iran/Nigeria  
Haus, Chapters 13, 14
- Nov. 21                    Two-Country Survey/Paper of Recent Events Due
- Dec. 1-6                    NYT Multiple Choice Test (2)/Review Session/Return Papers & Pre-Final  
Grades/Course Evaluation
- Dec. 10                    Final Exam (Wed. 7:30am)