

POLS 2 Course Outline as of Spring 2004**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: POLS 2 Title: INTRO/COMPAR GOVT

Full Title: Introduction to Comparative Government

Last Reviewed: 4/8/2024

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	12	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

Catalog Description:

A contemporary in-depth study of four nations, examining their historical, economic, social, cultural, and political dynamics and challenges. The course will compare, contrast and evaluate the following countries: Germany, Japan, China, and Mexico.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:**Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: A contemporary in-depth study of four nations examining their historical, economic, social, cultural, and political dynamics and challenges. The course will compare, contrast and evaluate these following countries: Germany, Japan, China, and Mexico. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 2025
	L4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 1981
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social Science	Fall 2012
	D8	Political Science, Govt, Legal Instutns	
	D	Social Science	Fall 1991
	D2	Economics	Summer 2012
	D4	Gender Studies	
	D8	Political Science, Govt, Legal Instutns	
	D	Social Science	Fall 1981
	D2	Economics	Summer 1991
	D4	Gender Studies	
IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
	4	Social and Behavioral Science	Fall 1981
	4H	Political Science:Govt and Legal Instutn	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Inactive:
		Fall 1981	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Inactive:
		Fall 1981	
CID:			
CID Descriptor:	POLS 130	Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics	
SRJC Equivalent Course(s):		POLS2	

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

Outcomes and Objectives:

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

1. Define, state, and explain the comparative model we will use in the course for the purpose of comparing nations to each other.
2. Argue a particular point in connection to the comparative model.
3. Demonstrate communication and analytical skills.
4. Use information learned from the textbook and lectures on exams.
5. Compare and contrast the political cultures, methods of political socialization, and government institutions of Germany, Japan, China, and Mexico.
6. Evaluate how the governments and the people interact in each of these

four countries

7. Differentiate and critique the various components of the governments in each of these four countries.
8. Appraise how the nations we study in comparative government compare to the United States.

Topics and Scope:

1. Introduction to the course.
 - A. Scope and purpose of the course.
 - B. Review syllabus.
 - C. Review textbooks.
 2. The theoretical framework for the course.
 - A. How to study comparative government.
 - B. The theoretical framework of the course.
 - C. An explanation of the methodology.
- Part One: Germany.
3. An Introduction.
 - A. The geography.
 - B. The people.
 - C. The history.
 4. Political Culture and Political Socialization.
 - A. A description of Germany's political culture.
 - B. A discussion of Germany's political socialization process.
 5. Political Interaction and Articulation Between People and Government.
 - A. Voter participation.
 - B. Campaigns and elections.
 - C. Political parties and interest groups.
 6. Governmental Institutions.
 - A. The structure of government.
 - B. The function of government.
 7. An evaluation of Germany.
 - A. Public policy.
 - B. Performance.
 - C. The future.
- Part Two: Japan
8. An Introduction.
 - A. The geography
 - B. The people.
 - C. The history.
 9. Political Culture and Political Socialization.
 - A. A description of Japan's political culture.
 - B. A discussion of Japan's political socialization process.
 10. Political Interaction and Articulation Between People and Government.
 - A. Voter participation.
 - B. Campaigns and elections.
 - C. Political parties and interest groups.
 11. Governmental Institutions.
 - A. The structure of government.
 - B. The function of government.
 12. An Evaluation of Japan.
 - A. Public policy.

B. Performance.

C. The future.

Part Three: China.

13. An Introduction.

A. The geography.

B. The people.

C. The history.

14. Political Culture and Political Socialization.

A. A description of China's political culture.

B. A discussion of China's political socialization process.

15. Political Interaction and Articulation Between People and Government.

A. Voter participation.

B. Campaigns and elections.

C. Political parties and interest groups.

16. Governmental Institutions.

A. The structure of government.

B. The function of government.

17. An Evaluation of China.

A. Public policy.

B. Performance.

C. The future.

Part Four: Mexico.

18. An Introduction.

A. The geography.

B. The people.

C. The history.

19. Political Culture and Political Socialization.

A. A description of Mexico's political culture.

B. A discussion of Mexico's political socialization process.

20. Political Interaction and Articulation Between People and Government.

A. Voter participation.

B. Campaigns and elections.

C. Political parties and interest groups.

21. Governmental Institutions.

A. The structure of government.

B. The function of government.

22. An Evaluation of Mexico.

A. Public policy.

B. Performance.

C. The future.

23. An Overview of the Course.

A. A compare and contrast of the four countries.

Assignment:

1. Read and study appropriate chapters in textbooks (30-50 pgs. per week.)
2. Regular attendance and extensive notetaking in class is expected and assumed.
3. Preparation for in-class, closed book, no notes essay exams.
4. Term paper (approx. 5-7 pgs.)

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Term papers

Writing
30 - 50%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations
0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

IDENTIFICATION, ESSAY EXAMS

Exams
50 - 70%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

None

Other Category
0 - 0%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Gabriel Almond and B. Powell, COMPARATIVE POLITICS TODAY, 7th ed., Prentice-Hall, 2000.

Charles Hauss, COMPARATIVE POLITICS: DOMESTIC RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES, 3rd ed., Wadsworth Publishing, 2000.

Thomas Magstadt, NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS: COMPARATIVE POLITICS IN REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE, 3rd ed., Bedford/St. Martin's Publisher, 1998.