

COURSE: POL 111 – Comparative Government and Politics
SEMESTER: SPRING 2013 – INDEPENDENT STUDY
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL E. WEAVER
CONTACT INFO: michael.weaver@adjunct.chaminade.edu
REQUIRED TEXT: *POLITICS: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION*
KENNETH MINOGUE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

“A man who has tasted only his mother’s soup has no basis to claim that hers is the best.”

African proverb

Scope of Course

- The course is structured thematically and will, additionally, introduce students to important concepts in comparative politics, such as democratization, the state, institutions, political culture, civil society, political economy, and incorporate these into the comparative analysis of various countries around the world.

Goals of the Course

- Survey contemporary politics and political trends in selected countries and regions around the world.
- Compare and contrast the variety of ways that different countries have chosen to shape their political institutions and processes, and assess the costs and benefits of these choices.
- Analyze the variety of public policies different countries have adopted to address common problems, including the challenges of globalization, with an eye toward identifying processes, practices, and policies that might be “exportable” ideas for countries to borrow from one another.
- Gain exposure to some of the most important perspectives and theories that inform our understanding of comparative politics.

Course Requirements

- **Overall**
 - Satisfactory completion of all assignments as given throughout the course, including readings, essays, and term paper
 - Satisfactory completion of a Final Exam
- **Readings**
 - Read Ch. 1-13 of the course text. For each chapter, submit a summary of that chapter, to include the major points contained in it. These summaries are to be no less than one (1) page in length (typed, double-spaced), and are to be posted in the Drop Box section of the course website. Other readings will be assigned periodically and posted in the Doc Sharing section of the ecollege course website

- **Essays**
 - A series of essay questions will be posted on the course website. These essays are to be no less than two (2) pages in length (typed, double-spaced). As each essay is completed, it should be posted in the Drop Box section of the course website.

- **Term Paper**
 - A term paper is a required element of the course. Specific instructions will be posted in the Doc Sharing section of the course website.

- **Final Exam**
 - A Final Exam covering the pertinent major points of the course must be satisfactorily completed at the end of the semester. A Study Guide for the Final will be available prior to the Exam to assist in reviewing the course material.

Grading

- Chapter Summaries & Essays 30%
- Term Paper 20%
- Final Exam 50%