

COURSE: POL 111 – Comparative Government and Politics
SEMESTER: FALL 2014
TIME: MWF 10:30 – 11:20 A.M.
LOCATION: HENRY 223
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL E. WEAVER
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NOTE: All email communication must be conveyed by means of your Chaminade email address. I will not respond to emails sent to me from other email addresses.

eCOLLEGE:

This course is listed on eCollege. All written assignments are to be submitted to the eCollege site ONLY according to published deadlines on the site and also announced in class. Copies of all handouts, readings, etc. will also be available on the course website.

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 which might be “exportable” ideas for countries to borrow from one another.
- Gain exposure to some of the most important perspectives and theories which inform our understanding of comparative politics.
- Develop a basic understanding of the methods which political scientists use to understand politics.

Course Requirements

- Regularly attend and actively participate in class meetings.
- Satisfactory completion of all assignments as given throughout the course, including readings, essays, and research paper
- Satisfactory completion of all exams

Grading

The final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- A
 - 90% or higher average on mid-term and final exams
 - Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments
 - Satisfactory attendance
 - Satisfactory class participation
- B
 - 80% or higher average on mid-term and final exams
 - Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments
 - Satisfactory attendance
 - Satisfactory class participation
- C
 - 70% or higher average on mid-term and final exams
 - Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments
 - Satisfactory attendance
 - Satisfactory class participation
- D
 - 60% or higher average on mid-term and final exams
 - Non-compliance with written assignment guidelines
 - Satisfactory attendance
 - Satisfactory class participation
- F
 - Less than 60% or higher average on mid-term and final exams
 - Non-compliance with written essay assignment guidelines
 - Unsatisfactory attendance
 - Unsatisfactory class participation