

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER: POL 111-90-1/POL 111-91-4
COURSE TITLE: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
DEPARTMENT: HISTORICAL & POLITICAL STUDIES
DIVISION: HUMANITIES
SEMESTER: FALL 2015
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL E. WEAVER

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- **Email:** michael.weaver@chaminade.edu
- **Phone:** 808-739-7461

Scope of the Course

The course is designed to 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.
- Satisfactory completion of a Final Exam

Specific

- Each Monday, I will post an essay assignment on the website for you to work on during the week. Instructions for each assignment will be given at the time each one is assigned. I expect you to report to the Computer Lab at your appointed times during the week to work on these assignments, as well as talk with your classmates about the material assigned. I don't mind discussion among the class, but each person is expected to do their own independent work.
- I will also post readings and handouts for you to look over during the week. These may apply directly to the written assignments for that week, but may also be related to the topics. You do not have to write anything for these readings, but I do expect you to read them and talk about them with each other.
- If, during the week, you have specific questions for me, or if you just want to chat about the course, you can send me an email through the course website. I will be checking the site daily so I should be able to get back to you pretty quickly.
- This course can be interesting or it can be boring. It all depends upon what kind of effort you put into it. I am really looking forward to working with all of you this semester!

Welcome!