

**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
SEMESTER: FALL 2017**

COURSE SYLLABUS

**POL 111-90-4
COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL E. WEAVER

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUIRED TEXT: *GEOPOLITICS: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION*

AUTHOR: KLAUS DODDS

EDITION: 2ND 14

PUBLISHER: OXFORD

ISBN: 9780199676781

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.

Course Requirements

Overall

- Satisfactory completion of all assignments as given throughout the course.
- Satisfactory completion of a Final Exam

Specific

- Each week, 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. A good essay will include a student's personal opinion on the subject matter as well as thoughtful consideration of the readings and the questions posed.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1 & 2	8/21 – 9/1	Comparing Nations	9/1
3 & 4	9/4 – 9/15	Types of Government	9/15
5 & 6	9/18 – 9/29	Nation Building	9/29
7 & 8	10/2– 10/13	Political Culture	10/13
9 & 10	10/16– 10/27	Interest Articulation	10/27
11 & 12	10/30 – 11/11	Media and Government	11/11
13 & 14	11/13 – 11/24	Terrorism	11/24
15 & 16	11/27 – 12/8	Globalization	12/8
17	12/11 – 12/15	Final Exam- Date and Time TBA	

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the dates listed above, including dates when assignments are due, may be school holidays. Therefore, please use the time in class wisely so you do not get caught short when an assignment is due.