

## **SYLLABUS**

**COURSE:** POL 111-01-1  
**COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

**SEMESTER:** SPRING 2020  
MWF 1:30 P.M. – 2:20 P.M.  
HENRY 207

**INSTRUCTOR:** MICHAEL E. WEAVER  
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OFFICE HOURS: MTWTH 8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

**REQUIRED TEXT: ESSENTIALS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS**  
**AUTHOR: O'NEIL**  
**EDITION: 6TH 18**  
**PUBLISHER: NORTON**  
**ISBN: 9780393624588 (paperback)**  
**9780393631340 (ebook)**

### **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.

### **GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course will address the following component of the Gen Ed requirements:

#### ***Critical Thinking:***

- Students will systematically acknowledge and challenge diverse evidence, concepts, assumptions, and viewpoints.

### **PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students will employ chronology to understand change and continuity, as well as cause and effect, in history.
2. Students will examine the development of governance and evaluate the nature of laws and political institutions.
3. Students will apply multiple perspectives recognizing that there is no historical linearity and/or political inevitability
4. Students will use the tools and methods of historians or political scientists to transform learning from memorization to actually “doing” history or political science.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Using the discipline frame of comparative politics, the student will:

1. Recognize historical change, continuity, and causality in the context of the evolution and contemporary dynamics of political configurations around the world (HI/POL PLO 1 and 2).
2. Contrast and compare the workings of political institutions and governance across the world (HI/POL PLO 1 and 2).
3. Evaluate political developments and arrangements with multiple views and interpretations while systematically acknowledging and challenging diverse evidence, concepts, assumptions, and viewpoints in comparative politics (HI/POL PLO 3; General Education Critical Thinking PLO).
4. Apply course materials to contemporary political, social, and economic events by critically examining specific country case studies (HI/POL PLO 4; General Education Critical Thinking PLO).

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To be successful in this course and receive a passing grade of C or above, you must be willing to allocate sufficient time to access course materials, satisfactorily complete all written assignments, and receive a grade of 70% or above on the Final Exam.

### **NOTE:**

- Simply earning points for a particular grade does not guarantee that the student will be given that grade. If assignments are missing/incomplete or attendance is lacking, the final grade may be reduced to a lower level.

### **CANVAS**

This course is listed on CANVAS, Chaminade's online platform. All written assignments are to be submitted to the CANVAS 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.

### **EMAIL**

I will normally respond within one to three days via email. Weekend emails will most likely not be read until Monday, so schedule accordingly *Please note: It is University policy that faculty may only respond to student emails sent via their official Chaminade email address. Therefore, I will not respond to emails sent from other sources.*

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to regularly attend and actively participate in class meetings. University regulations require that attendance be taken. More than three (3) unexcused absences may result in a reduction in your final grade. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the information from any missed class or classes.

## ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

- I will periodically assign the class essay topics based on the readings, as well as class lectures, films, etc. 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. Quotations from the readings to back up or refute any aspect of the topic are also encouraged, and should be cited appropriately. *Written assignments submitted after the due date will only be eligible for partial credit.*
- The following rubric will be used to evaluate your essays:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Language, Style and Structure of the Essay (2 points)	0.5	1	1.5	2
Application of Evidence/Class Materials and Basic Analysis (4 points)	1	2	3	4
Critical Analysis, Argumentation, and Evaluation (4 points)	1	2	3	4

Maximum of ten points for the essay. These are the following grading criteria in detail:

**Language, Style, and Structure of the Essay** (2 points) – The student will:

1. follow the guidelines for the length of the essay.
2. write with grammatically correct and stylistically good language
3. use a clear and accessible structure (no streams of consciousness) for the essay

**Application of Evidence/Class Materials and Basic Analysis** (4 points) – The student will:

1. directly and concisely answer the essay question
2. use the correct evidence/class materials to answer the essay question
3. apply sufficient evidence to back up major analytical points
4. provide a thorough analysis of the major points raised by the essay question

**Critical Analysis, Argumentation, and Evaluation** (4 points) – The student will:

1. engage in critical thinking tasks, such as contrasting and comparing concepts, etc.
2. create analyses that avoid explanations based on historical linearity and/or political inevitability
3. develop arguments based on their own analysis/viewpoints
4. evaluate major points raised by the essay question to challenge diverse concepts and evidence in comparative politics, as well as their personal assumptions and viewpoints

## **EXAM**

- The Final Exam for this class is scheduled for **TUESDAY, MAY 5TH**, from **11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.** ***No exams will be given before this time.*** Students who do not take the exam at the scheduled time will be given a grade of I (Incomplete) and will be scheduled for a make-up exam to be arranged with the instructor within 30 days after the end of the semester. Students who do not complete the exam within that time frame will receive a failing grade for the course.

## **GRADING**

- Written Assignments           45%
- Final Exam:                   45%
- Attendance:                   10%

*A (“Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative”)*

- 90% or higher point total
- 90% or higher grade on the Final Exam
- Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments.

*B (“Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner”)*

- 80-89% point total
- Passing grade on Final Exam
- Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments

*C (“Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter”)*

- 70-79% point total
- Passing grade on Final Exam
- Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments

*D (“Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work”)*

- 60-69% point total
- Passing grade on Final Exam
- Satisfactory and timely completion of all written assignments

*F (“Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given.”)*

- Less than 60% grade on the Final Exam
- Unsatisfactory completion of all written assignments.
- Unsatisfactory class attendance
- Unsatisfactory class participation

**COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO REVISION)**

Week 1	Introduction: The Comparative Study of States
Week 2	The State and The Origins of Political Organization
Week 3	Nations and Society: Political Identity and Culture
Week 4	Democratic Regimes
Week 5	Developed Democracies
Week 6	Developing Countries
Week 7	Communism and Post-Communism
Week 8	Nondemocratic Regimes
Week 9	Political Violence
Week 10	Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics
Week 11	SPRING RECESS
Week 12	Case Study: United Kingdom
Week 13	Case Study: Japan
Week 14	Case Study: China
Week 15	Case Study: India
Week 16	Case Study: Iran
Week 17	Course Review & Exam Prep

## **SCHOOL POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty**

Violations of the Honor Code are serious. They harm other students, your professor, and the integrity of the University. Alleged violations will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If found guilty of plagiarism, a student might receive a range of penalties, including failure of an assignment, failure of an assignment and withholding of the final course grade until a paper is turned in on the topic of plagiarism, failure of the course, or suspension from the University.

Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication and Falsification:** Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- **Multiple Submissions:** The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit (including oral reports) more than once without authorization.
- **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: copying or borrowing liberally from someone else's work without his/her knowledge or permission; or with his/her knowledge or permission and turning it in as your own work; Copying of someone else's exam or paper; Allowing someone to turn in your work as his or her own; Not providing adequate references for cited work; Copying and pasting large quotes or passages without properly citing them
- **Abuse of Academic Materials:** Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource materials.
- **Complicity in Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

### **Disability Access**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from the Counseling Center by the end of week three of the class, in order for the instructor to plan accordingly. Failure to provide written documentation will prevent your instructor from making the necessary accommodations. You may contact staff in the Counseling Center at (808) 735-4845.

### **Title IX Compliance**

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the following:

- Chaminade Counseling Center| 808-735-4845.
- Any priest serving as a sacramental confessor or any ordained religious leader serving in the sacred confidence role.

### **Syllabus Change Policy.**

This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course. Occasionally, it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester due to the progress of the class, experiences of the students, and unforeseen changes in the schedule. Changes to the syllabus will be made with advance notice whenever possible

## **MARIANIST EDUCATIONAL VALUES**

The five characteristics of a Marianist Education are:

### **1. Educate for Formation in Faith**

Catholic Universities affirm an intricate relationship between reason and faith. As important as discursive and logical formulations and critical thinking are, they are not able to capture all that can be and ought to be learned. Intellectual rigor coupled with respectful humility provides a more profound preparation for both career and life. Intellectual rigor characterizes the pursuit of all that can be learned. Respectful humility reminds people of faith that they need to learn from those who are of other faiths and cultures, as well as from those who may have no religious faith at all.

### **2. Provide an Excellent Education**

In the Marianist approach to education, “excellence” includes the whole person, not just the technician or rhetorician. Marianist universities educate whole persons, developing their physical, psychological, intellectual, moral, spiritual and social qualities. Faculty and students attend to fundamental moral attitudes, develop their personal talents and acquire skills that will help them learn all their lives. The Marianist approach to education links theory and practice, liberal and professional education. Our age has been deeply shaped by science and technology. Most recently, information and educational technologies have changed the way faculty and students research and teach. At Marianist Universities, two goals are pursued simultaneously: an appropriate use of information technology for learning, and the enhancement of interaction between students and teachers. As Catholic, Marianist Universities seek to embrace diverse peoples and understand diverse cultures, convinced that ultimately, when such people come together, one of the highest purposes of education is realized: a human community that respects every individual within it.

### **3. Educate in Family Spirit**

Known for their strong sense of community, Marianists have traditionally spoken of this sense as “family spirit.” Marianist educational experience fosters the development of a community characterized by a sense of family spirit that accepts each person with loving respect, and draws everyone in the university into the challenge of community building. Family spirit also enables Marianist universities to challenge their students, faculty and staff to excellence and maturity, because the acceptance and love of a community gives its members the courage to risk failure and the joy of sharing success.

### **4. Educate for Service, Justice, and Peace**

The Marianist approach to higher education is deeply committed to the common good. The intellectual life itself is undertaken as a form of service in the interest of justice and peace, and the university curriculum is designed to connect the classroom with the wider world. In addition, Marianist universities extend a special concern for the poor and marginalized and promote the dignity, rights and responsibilities of all people.

## **5. Educate for Adaptation to Change**

In the midst of rapid social and technological change, Marianist universities readily adapt and change their methods and structures so that the wisdom of their educational philosophy and spirituality may be transmitted even more fully. “New times call for new methods,” Father Chaminade often repeated. The Marianist University faces the future confidently, on the one hand knowing that it draws on a rich educational philosophy, and on the other fully aware for that philosophy to remain vibrant in changing times, adaptations need to be made.

*Selected from Characteristics of Marianist Universities: A Resource Paper, Published in 1999 by Chaminade University of Honolulu, St. Mary's University and University of Dayton*