

Department: Political Science
Course Title: Politics of the Developed World
Course Number: PS 470
New: Fall 2002

I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours: An examination of the major political, social, and economic issues facing governments of the developed world. 3 credit hours.

II. Prerequisites: PS 103 (American Political Systems) **or** PS 104 (Comparative Political Systems).

III. Purpose and Objectives of the Course: To familiarize students with the politics, processes, and policies of developed democracies and to elucidate a set of systematic relationships that may exist between certain social, political, and economic variables in these countries. Topics to be covered will include, though not necessarily limited to, nation-building, parliamentary and presidential government, the role of political parties and interest groups, electoral politics, federalism, and policy-making.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- To attend consistently all scheduled classes, read all assigned materials, maintain a set of systematic class notes, and turn in all assignments on time.
- To participate and to engage actively in class discussion and dialogue with other students and the instructor.
- To take three major examinations (including a final exam), composed primarily of analytic essay questions requiring students to demonstrate both comprehension of and critical synthesis of course material.
- To write a critical literature review of one of the major theoretical debates in comparative politics, to develop a research agenda that would contribute to that debate, and to orally present their ideas to the class.

V. Course Content:

- A. Topic 1: Core Concepts – 2 weeks
 - Democracy, liberalism, equality, liberty, etc.
 - Majoritarian and consensus forms of democracy.
- B. Topic 2: Historical Foundations - 2 weeks
 - Nationalism, nation building and the nation-state system
 - The historic development of societal cleavages.
- C. Topic 3: Political Parties and Elections – 3 weeks
 - Electoral systems, party systems, and internal party organization

D. Topic 4: Regime Types – 3 weeks

- Parliamentary and presidential government, government formation, federalism

E. Topic 5: Interest Groups – 1 week

- Pluralism and corporatism compared

F. Topic 6: The Welfare State – 1 week

- The development, characteristics, and future of the welfare state

G. Topic 7: Globalization – 2 weeks

- Supra-nationalism and theories of international integration
- The European Union

H. Student Presentations – 2 weeks

VI. Text Books:

■ Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 3rd Edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

■ Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

■ Additional readings will be placed on reserve or provided via electronic links.

***** Note: The Gallagher, etal. text is the primary text book for the course.**

VII: Basis for Student Evaluation:

- Two midterm examinations: 30%
- Literature Review: 10%
- Written Research Agenda: 20%
- Oral Presentation: 10%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Class Participation: 10%