

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

DEGREE: BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEGREE COURSE YEAR: FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH

SEMESTER: 1º SEMESTER 2º SEMESTER

CATEGORY: BASIC COMPULSORY OPTIONAL

NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS): 6 3

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH SPANISH

TUTORIALS:

FORMAT: LECTURE & SEMINAR

PREREQUISITES:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many centuries ago, Greek philosophers started observing the fantastic array of different forms of government around their Mediterranean world and wondering which one was best. Today, political scientists tackle much the same questions, taken to higher levels of complexity: What makes some countries democratic and others not? Why do some countries become rich and others do not? Why do regimes (including, sometimes, democracies) collapse? Are some regimes better than others in promoting stability, equality or wealth creation? In examining questions like these, students will be introduced to fundamental problems of inference in social science with particularly emphasis on the case study method, appreciating its merits and its limitations.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- a) To introduce students to basic social science methodology
- b) To teach students the fundamentals of different types of regimes (both democratic and authoritarian) and educate them on questions of comparative governance and economic policy
- c) To hone students' skills in making oral presentations and developing arguments in writing

3. COURSE CONTENT

SESSION 1:
Course Introduction

SESSION 2:
Origins of Comparative Politics

SESSIONS 3-4:
Comparative Methodology in the Social Sciences

SESSIONS 5-6:
The State: Sovereignty, Legitimacy, and Governance

SESSIONS 7-8:
Regime Types, Democracy and Authoritarianism

SESSIONS 9-10:
Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism, Federalism vs. Unitarianism

SESSIONS 11-12:
Elections and Political Parties

SESSION 13:
Constitutions and judicial review

SESSION 14:
Ideology, religion, and political culture

SESSION 15: Midterm Exam

SESSION 16:
The international dimension of domestic politics

SESSION 17:
Gender, race, and ethnicity

SESSION 18:
Nationalism and ethnic conflict

SESSIONS 19-20:
Development and the welfare state

SESSIONS 21-22:

In-class exercise analyzing and comparing politics in twelve case studies

SESSION 23:

Social movements and revolutions

SESSION 24:

Case studies of revolutions: 1989 and the Arab Spring

SESSIONS 25-26:

Class debate on democratic collapse and civil war

SESSION 27-28:

Class debate about democratization

SESSIONS 29-30:

Course wrap-up and final exam

POSITION PAPER DUE

4. EVALUATION SYSTEM

4.1 General Observations

Students are expected to complete all readings assigned each week (except the first week) prior to coming to class in order to participate in a fruitful discussion. Extensions will be granted only for extraordinary circumstances by notifying the instructor well in advance. Otherwise, late homework will be penalized by a full letter grade for every day past the due date.

4.2 Weighing Criteria

The final grade for the course will be calculated according to the following components.

Class Participation	20%
Response Paper	5%
Position Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%

The response paper (1-2 pages) is due one week after each student's oral presentation on one of the assigned readings. The final paper (6-8 pages) is due on the last session. Guidelines regarding the final paper will be distributed to students after the midterm examination.

4.3 Examination Policy

- a) Students have up to 4 examination sessions per course over two consecutive academic years.
- b) IE University has a mandatory Class Attendance Policy that calls for students to attend a minimum of 70% of class sessions in a course. An absence, for any reason, counts towards the maximum of 30% allowed absences. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in students being ineligible to sit for the exam in both the 1st and 2nd examination sessions. These students will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd session.
- c) Grading for make-up exams will be subject to the following rules:
 - i) Students who failed the course in the first round of exams will be eligible to re-sit in the 2nd examination session. *Warning:* students who do not comply with the attendance policy requirements will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd examination session.
 - ii) The highest grade that a student may earn in the 2nd examination session is 8.

4.4 Extraordinary Examination

In the event that you do not satisfy the requirements to pass the class, you will have the option to take an extraordinary supplemental exam. This exam may be complemented and/or replaced by additional supplemental assignments as part of your overall evaluation. Dispensation for the inclusion of additional evaluation criteria in the event of an unsatisfactory grade will be made solely at the discretion of your professor. In accordance with university policy, extraordinary exams must without exception be taken in Segovia during the extraordinary exam period.

5. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS

This subject does not require the use of electronic devices in class. The use of laptops is permitted in the classroom only for purposes related to the course. Additionally, all phones must be turned off and put aside during class. There will be serious repercussions for those students who disregard this policy.