

Chapter 1 : Course: POLSC Introduction to Comparative Politics

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Social Science and Comparative Politics Effective comparative study of political systems is rooted in the scientific method. To start off the course, Unit 1 first provides an overview and brief history of scientific inquiry and research methods. As you review the material, think about if and how the comparative scientific study of politics differs from scientific inquiry focused on natural phenomena. Can we study politics, for example, using the same research methods as a scientist studying microbes or global climate change? Why or why not? Completing this unit should take you approximately 4 hours.

The Nation-State As introduced in Unit 1, comparative politics enables us to understand how and why nations change, how and why governments in a particular part of the world compare to governments in a different part of the world, and other patterns and regularities between political systems. Before we can begin our work as comparatists, however, we need to learn about the basic unit of comparative political study: In Unit 2, we first examine the history and thinking behind the modern nation state through the contributions of Hobbes and Weber. We will then discuss how states developed in our modern world, challenges to state sovereignty, and compare totalitarian and authoritarian forms of the state. As you read through Unit 2, reflect on the following questions. Why do we have or need the nation- state? How does the concept of sovereignty tie into the history and characteristics of the state? How has the nation-state evolved since its origin in ? Is there an optimum form of state rule? And finally, is the modern nation state static or evolving in its form and function? Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Democratic States and Democratization Unit 3 focuses exclusively on the concept of democracy. After defining the concept, this unit focuses on various attributes that characterize democratic states and differentiate them from authoritarian regimes. We then examine processes of democratization and the breakdown of democracy followed by the debate regarding the relationship between democracy and economic development. The unit concludes with a focus on the contemporary case of the Arab Spring. As you work through unit 3, reflect on the following questions. What differentiates democracies from authoritative regimes? What conditions facilitate democratization and do contemporary trends in the early 21st century support or undermine democratic states? Finally, are those who argue that democracy improves economic outcomes correct in their analysis? Completing this unit should take you approximately 6 hours.

Comparing Political Structures and Institutions A constitution provides a road map for a political system. Although constitutions vary from state to state, they are similar in many ways. A constitution expresses the collective values and supports the security and stability of developing institutions. In this unit, we explore how constitutions serve common needs. We consider how their differences reflect the values and interests of diverse constituencies. For example, legislatures may be divided into different types of houses and have different rules for choosing their members, but they typically have the same lawmaking purpose. We we often can trace these similarities and differences to specific reasons that allow us to better understand the culture or society. For example, the way a government is organized often reflects the social stratification of the political community in question. We will examine different characteristics of government as factors in our study of comparative politics. We derive these factors from the written constitution, the political leadership, and the bureaucracy that emerged over time. In each case, we discuss political factors with an eye toward comparison. Completing this unit should take you approximately 13 hours to complete.

Political Behavior The behaviors of different populations influence, and are influenced by, political institutions. This unit focuses on how other i. Culture is defined as the sum of the ideas, values, beliefs, and norms that inform the ways in which you behave and lead you to anticipate how you will be judged for your behavior. We will see that cultural factors influence the political process in many different ways, often leading to different political values, differing degrees of alienation from the local process, and different means of mobilization. We will also examine how subcultures and recent shifts in political activism have influenced government of late before taking a look at interest groups, pressure groups, lobbying, the press, media campaigns, and nongovernmental and

quasi-nongovernmental organizations. In these discussions, we will emphasize the use of the Internet in policy and administrative processes. Note that as we progress through this unit, we will discuss each of these topics in terms of their application in comparative politics. Finally, we will conclude with an introduction to comparative voting processes. Completing this unit should take you approximately 22 hours.

Comparing Ideology, Policy, and Decision Making This unit deals with ideology and decision-making tactics. We first compare five different ideologies that shape mainstream political party platforms and governance in contemporary democratic systems conservatism, liberalism, Christian democracy, social democracy, and environmentalism. We then look at frameworks for understanding the policy process before discussing the ways in which policymakers garner feedback and use indecision strategically. The unit concludes with a focus on informal influences that shape government policy choices. Completing this unit should take you approximately 10 hours.

Comparative Case Studies This last unit will introduce you to area studies as they are conducted in political science and international studies. Please bear in mind that this unit is by no means exhaustive either geographically or topically. Over the course of this unit, we will apply factor analysis and other comparative methods we learned in earlier units to practical examples from four different regions of the world Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. The classification for such area studies have developed out of the standard geopolitical organization of American political science. This unit will also look at how political elites and policy makers hold distinct views on democratization and modernization and how those views impact political conflict in these regions. Completing this unit should take you approximately 16 hours.

Chapter 2 : What is Political Science? | Department of Political Science | University of Washington

Political science focuses on the theory and practice of government and politics at the local, state, national, and international levels. We are dedicated to developing understandings of institutions, practices, and relations that constitute public life and modes of inquiry that promote citizenship.

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Political Theory Political theory is concerned mainly with the foundations of political community and institutions. It focuses on human nature and the moral purposes of political association. To clarify these concepts, political theorists draw on enduring political writings from ancient Greece to the present and on various writings by moral philosophers. Political theory also focuses on empirical research into the way political institutions function in practice. Here political theorists subject beliefs about political life found in important political writings to re-examination in the light of ongoing human behavior. In either case, political theory seeks to ultimately deepen political thinking and to spur citizens to responsible and creative political action.

POL S , Introduction to Political Theory, provides students with an overview of the main lines of thought in political theory. Advanced courses focus on given concepts, topics, and thought in political theorizing.

Comparative Politics Comparative politics is a broad field with a variety of approaches and goals. Some scholars and researchers compare contemporary political systems in order to judge which types best provide particular values: Others suggest that the main purpose of comparative politics is to provide an understanding of how and why different societies develop different kinds of political institutions. Still others use comparative politics as a way of discovering general laws and theories that will explain human political behavior and its variability. Comparative politics courses are of two basic types. One offers comparisons of a particular set of problems or institutions in a number of different countries. The second type offers in-depth analyses of the basic political institutions and processes of a single country or group of countries in a world region. Most students will want to begin their study of comparative politics with the **Introduction to Comparative Politics POL S**, which combines the two main approaches by including comparative discussions of particular problems, issues, processes, and institutions in a wide variety of political settings as well as in-depth readings and lectures on some of the major countries in the contemporary world.

International Relations The field of international relations is concerned with developing an understanding of why states and non-state international actors, like the United Nations and multinational corporations, interact as they do. International relations is a diverse field both in terms of what kinds of behavior are studied and how they are studied. International conflict, particularly war, continues to be an important focus of the field. Why do wars start? Who wins and why? How can wars be prevented? What is the role of international law and organizations? As the world has become more interdependent, scholars have become more aware of the importance of international economic activity. As a result, scholars are analyzing world trade, communications, development, foreign investment, and international finance. How states make foreign policy decisions is another important area of study. National security policy, nuclear deterrence, arms control and defense spending decisions are typical examples of foreign policy decisions. This is the foundation for a wide variety of offerings at the and levels, such as American foreign policy, global environmental politics, international political economy, and international conflict.

American Government and Politics Students of American government and politics seek an understanding of politics as practiced in the United States. In addition to courses on the American presidency, the U. Congress, and the courts, the department offers specialized courses on such topics as the political role of mass media, the politics of race and ethnicity, constitutional law, policy formation, state politics, and American political thought. Some of the broad questions that concern students in this field are: How and why did American political institutions, ideas, and practices develop as they have? How does one go about evaluating them? Are American political institutions, ideas and practices unique, or are they similar to other societies? How might American politics be improved?

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To acquire first-hand experience with the American political system, students are encouraged to participate in academic internships in Washington D. Political Methodology The subfield of political methodology is concerned with the philosophical bases of political science, social science, empirical research design and analysis, and practical field research experience. Courses in the political methodology field cover philosophical issues regarding the possibility of a science of politics, the similarities and differences between political science and other social sciences, alternative modes of explanation, and the truth of knowledge claims. They also examine the formulation of experimental and non-experimental research designs for making causal inferences about political processes and behavior and explore the. Students are also provided an opportunity to conduct individual and group research projects through seminars. The political methodology faculty have current research and teaching interests in such diverse topics as mass media, feminist theory, language politics, political economy, rational choice theory, and public policy.

Chapter 3 : Chapter 2: States | Essentials of Comparative Politics, 4e : W. W. Norton StudySpace

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Chapter 4 : Comparative Politics | Graduate Program | Department of Political Science | Vanderbilt University

Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Politics /16 Wadham College 2 of Comparative Politics, ed. Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, New York.

Chapter 5 : AP Comparative Government Practice Questions | Albert

Introduction to Comparative Politics Chapter Exam Instructions. Choose your answers to the questions and click 'Next' to see the next set of questions.

Chapter 6 : Comparative politics - Wikipedia

Use Albert's AP® Comparative Government practice questions to compare the political institutions, traditions, and challenges of various countries.