

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**Social Science**  
**Revision Date: 07-01-19**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Course Number: POLS1040  
Course Title: Contemporary Foreign Governments and Comparative Politics  
Prerequisite: None  
Catalog Description: Focuses on the description and analysis of modern political systems and their respective ideologies. First half of the course focuses on broad structural features of government. Second half looks at several individual national states. Final part of courses analyses problems facing modern political systems.  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Class Hours: 45  
Lab Hours: 0  
Total Contact Hours 45

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:** *Course will:*

- A. Provide a general overview of the subfields of comparative politics.
- B. Provide both a broad overview of major theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics, the method by which comparativists compare political phenomenon across nation-states, and the application of these approaches and methods of comparison to the study of political development and comparative political systems.
- C. Increase students' ability to think more critically about the complex issues that face countries through the investigation of specific country cases that deal with the development and operation of a variety of political systems.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**A. Student Learning Outcomes:** *Student will be able to:*

- 1. Increase the ability to think critically about the problems presented by the five areas of conflict to include power, resources, social identity, ideas and values.
- 2. Hone skills that can be used outside of political science-- such as library research, the use of comparative methodologies, working with Internet to find data and presentation skills.
- 3. Engage in the world around them and ultimately gain the ability to become a better world citizen.

**B. General Education Learning Outcomes**

- 1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
  - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
  - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
  - Outcome: Acquire and integrate knowledge and construct relationships across disciplines.
- 2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
  - Outcome: Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of U.S. history and culture as it relates to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and culture.
  - Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.
  - Outcome: Function effectively in multicultural settings.
  - Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.

Outcome: Identify and evaluate different theoretical or philosophical perspectives and their relevance to ethical decision-making.

3. GELO #6: Career and Life Skills

Outcome: Employ effective interpersonal and intrapersonal communication skills.

Outcome: Use digital technology effectively to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and present information.

Outcome: Develop knowledge and habits that will foster physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental wellness.

Outcome: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

**IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)**

- A. The concept of a country
- B. Political Culture
- C. The impact of the past
- D. The key institutions
- E. Quarrels specific to countries
- F. Great Britain
- G. France
- H. Germany
- I. Russia
- J. Japan
- K. China
- L. Brazil
- M. South Africa
- N. Iran

**V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Required Text(s):
  - 1. Kesselman, M., et al (2010). Introduction to Comparative Politics (5<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Houghton-Mifflin.
  - 2. Subscription to a major news magazine, to be announced.
- B. Other resources: Supplemental handouts supplied by instructor.
- C. Research Paper (following detailed instructions provided by instructor).

**VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION**

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:
  - 1. Lectures, discussion, video presentations and student presentations related to current events. Major emphasis will be placed on discussion of issues covered in the assigned readings.

**VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Students' understanding of course content and objectives will be evaluated by means of their performance in a variety of assessment modalities, which may include, but will not be limited to, at least several of the following: written examinations, research paper, short papers, class discussions, debates, presentations and attendance. The student's grade will be based in large part on the following:

- A. A minimum of three exams will count for at least 60% of the final grade.
- B. The research paper and other written work will account for at least 20% of the final grade.
- C. Attendance and class participation will account for at least 20% of the final grade.
- D. Specific details regarding grading policies will be noted elsewhere in the syllabus.
- E. SCC GRADING SCALE

|    |        |    |       |   |            |
|----|--------|----|-------|---|------------|
| A+ | 95-100 | C+ | 75-79 | F | 59 or less |
| A  | 90-94  | C  | 70-74 |   |            |
| B+ | 85-89  | D+ | 65-69 |   |            |
| B  | 80-84  | D  | 60-64 |   |            |

#### **VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- A.** In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner and within time frames allowed.
- B.** Regular attendance, reading, examinations, writing assignments, discussion and respectful behavior are all required course components.
- C.** In most cases, a minimum grade of C is required to transfer to four-year institutions. It is up to the student to be aware of academic issues such as this.