

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Theory of Comparative Politics

Information :

Course Code : PSC 200

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Mass Media

Area Of Study :

This course portrays an introduction to the analysis of comparative politics. It introduces a theoretical framework of up-to-date approaches and methodologies used in analyzing political systems comparatively. Fundamentally, the course covers the functions and structure of the state, through studying the relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities in the different forms of political systems; this being either the parliamentary, presidential or semi-presidential systems. This is whilst focusing on the different tiers of government, the media in politics, interest and pressure groups and political parties in the context of the political system. Additionally, in light of the Arab Revolutions, the course tackles theories on uprising, revolutions and democratic transitions in different political systems.

Course Goals:

Address the prime approaches used today in studying political system;

Provide a thorough understanding of a wide range of concepts associated with the regional, international and domestic political affairs such as state, government systems;

Analyze how different practices by political systems of different natures, can have regional and international influences, in particular the position of the Arab region, while keeping Egypt at the center of attention.

Description :

This course portrays an introduction to the analysis of comparative politics. It introduces a theoretical framework of up-to-date approaches and methodologies used in analyzing political systems comparatively. Fundamentally, the course covers the functions and structure of the state, through studying the relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities in the different forms of political systems; this being either the parliamentary, presidential or semi-presidential systems. This is whilst focusing on the different tiers of government, the media in politics, interest and pressure groups and political parties in the context of the political system. Additionally, in light of the Arab Revolutions, the course tackles theories on uprising, revolutions and democratic transitions in different political systems.

Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Define the difference between types of governments and political systems. |
| 2 - | Recognize the difference between theory and practice in different chosen case studies. |
| 3 - | Identify changes between democracy to non-democratic systems, or the other way around, and why and how they happen. |

b. Intellectual Skills: :

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Explain why the political systems of the world's superpowers act in certain situations as they do. |
| 2 - | Combine theoretical to practical issues and analyze them. |
| 3 - | Examine substantial regional and international issues and factors such as the current people revolts in different parts of the world, and be able to draw traits and trends. |

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

1 -	Relate the different given case studies to regional and other international cases to understand the pro and cons of each experience.
2 -	Illustrate a relatively strong understanding of current and historical events related to the chosen cases.
3 -	Analyze how the stance of the Arab revolutions has impacted on regional and international calculations in theory and in practice.

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

1 -	Think of different scenarios, scenario building method, as opposed to those practiced by world leaders and political systems.
2 -	Compare between different events and how different political systems or states reacted to them.
3 -	Evaluate the performance of regional and international political actors to the Arab Spring, Ukrainian Uprisings and the like.

Course Topic And Contents :

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introductory Lecture and Course Outline	3	1	
Definitions: Political systems, regimes, revolutions, uprisings, democracy and dictatorship	3	1	
Theoretical: Media and Politics (and practical cases)	3	1	
Theoretical: Minorities and uprisings in politics shaping (and a practical case)	6	2	
Regional trends in political practice	3	1	
Midterm Exam		1	
International trends: revolutions, ñcall for democracyñ fall of capitalism?	6	2	
Practice: Ukraine	3	1	
Practice: The Arab Revolutions	3	1	
Practice: (other case studies of choice)	6	2	
Comparative session and analytical feedback	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Debates
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paperé)	30.00		To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam(s)	30.00	7	To assess professional skills.

Recommended books :

Charles Hauss, Melissa Haussman, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, Cengage Learning, 2012.
Danielle Caramani, Comparative Politics, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2014.