

Sacramento City College
Behavioral & Social Sciences
Political Science 302 --- Comparative Governments Spring 2011
Professor Tedla tedlad@scc.losrios.edu 558-2285 RS 274
Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 10:30a.m. OBA

Course Objective:

The main objective of this course is to introduce you to the concept of comparative political and governmental systems. The introduction will have both a macro and micro approach to the study, i.e., we will look at systems from regional and country specific models. This investigation of systems by region or singular basis will make the study manageable from contextual aspect. For example, when we discuss a particular country, it is imperative that we know some basic demographic information such as population, religion, culture, language, economy, culture, and other information that makes this country so unique.

It is crucial that in contemporary society, especially in a new century and millennium, that we know something about the rest of the world that knows A LOT more about us than we do about the rest of the world. It is really the right thing to do--- know thyself through the knowledge of others view about you!!

Just in the last 10-15 years the world has dramatically changed in its form and content. The collapse of the USSR, the end of the 'Cold War', the end of Apartheid, the concentration of world economy through regional market integration, globalization, WTO, HIV/AIDS, the problems and prospects in the Middle East, the North v. South issues, global economic crisis, the election of President Obama, etc... are some of the thematic intercontinental topics covered in this class. There are over 200 countries, states, and municipalities in the world. Most are functioning governments, be it democratic or non democratic, authoritarian, theocratic, and some are non-functioning or failed states.

At the end of the day, this is YOUR world! Assuming that you do your part of the work, your breadth of knowledge in this area will greatly enhance. Your part is to be able to understand and learn the different systems and their unique circumstances in the hope that some day you will be able to share your experience.

Text:

Almond, Powel, Strom, & Dalton

Comparative Politics Today

Other supplementary material will be provided in advance for discussions and assignment purposes. As well, you will have to utilize the Internet for some specific topics and sections not covered in the text--- especially map (atlas) exercises.

Evaluations:

All exams, tests, and quizzes are derived from text and handouts unless otherwise modified. Please have 'blue books' with you at ALL TIMES. You will be provided in advance the essay questions for preparations purposes. All tests, exams, and quizzes will be essay format---objectives may apply when needed. You will not be allowed to make up or reschedule any tests, exams, or quizzes. Extra credit may be accepted if and only the work is relevant to the topic or subject matter. Map/Atlas prep is your responsibility—online!

Distribution:

Tests (2)	20pts.	20%
Quiz	10pts.	20%
Map	10pts.	10%
Midterm	20pts.	20%
Final (Take home)	30pts.	30%

Extra Credit: 5pts. TBA

Class Participation:

This is your class. As such, make the best of it--- enjoyable, fun, but serious as well. Those who demonstrate their very best by participating, contributing, or just by being a responsible member of the class, will definitely have an advantage. I assure you, whether you are a Political Science major or not, you will definitely benefit from the class. I will do my very best to make the material as clear as possible. I take full attendance and will drop without notice should there be absence exceeding one week. Remember: tardy means absence.

NB: This class requires a good sum of work both in reading and writing. I hope you do not mind! I assume that you have the skills in critical thinking and writing necessary not only for this class but for others as well. If so, no problem---if not, we'll work on it!

I take attendance at all times. Excess **absences and tardy of (2)** will result as a drop without notice. I come to class on time and you should too. **PLEASE, no ins and outs of class during class sessions.** Also, turn off all **cell phones, no laptop work NOT** related to the class allowed! Thank you!

Take care and looking forward to a great semester!