

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** PLSC 110    **TITLE:** Contemporary Foreign Governments    **C-ID:**  
**Semester Units/Hours:** 3.0 units; a minimum of 48.0 lecture hours/semester  
**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
    Eligibility for ENGL 838 or 848 AND any READ 400-level course.
  
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science  
**CSU GE:**  
    CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions  
**IGETC:**  
    IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
    An introduction to the politics and government of foreign countries. A comparison of the operation of state and non-state actors in a variety of political systems.
  
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Effectively communicate the impact of state and non-state actors in different political systems on the development and implementation of public policy.
  2. Critically analyze theories on the impact of institutions, political culture and economic inequality on the development and implementation of public policy.
  3. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and public policy in different countries.
  4. Evaluate the ethical issues and conflicts inherent to contemporary political issues.
  
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Effectively communicate the impact of state and non-state actors in different political systems on the development and implementation of public policy.
  2. Critically analyze theories on the impact of institutions, political culture and economic inequality on the development and implementation of public policy.
  3. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and public policy in different countries.
  4. Evaluate the ethical issues and conflicts inherent to contemporary political issues.
  
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**
  1. Introduction to comparative government and politics.
    1. Politics, government, state.
    2. Comparative government.
    3. Patterns of government/state.
    4. Levels and types of government: local, federal, unitary.
  2. Governmental and institutional structures.
    1. Constitutions and laws.
    2. Executives and cabinets.
    3. Legislative bodies.
    4. Citizens and electoral systems.
    5. Party systems.
    6. Judiciary and legal systems.
    7. Interest groups.

8. Fiscal systems and institutions.
  9. Local and central government relations.
  10. Civil service and administration.
  11. Military and foreign policy.
  12. Public policy: economy, environment, population, resources.
3. Case studies. Several contemporary foreign governments will be studied. Among those governments (but not limited to these), are the following,:
1. The United Kingdom.
  2. The French Republic.
  3. The German Federal Republic
  4. The Japanese Constitutional Monarchy.
  5. The Russian Federation.
  6. The Peoples' Republic of China.
  7. The Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North Korea)
  8. The United States of Mexico.
  9. The Nigerian Republic.
  10. The Republic of India.
  11. The Republic of South Korea.
  12. The Saudi Arabian Monarchy

#### 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Guest Speakers

#### 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

##### **Writing Assignments:**

Research papers, analytical essays, short-answer questions on assigned readings, reports on political activities.

##### **Reading Assignments:**

Textbooks, websites, reports, newspapers, newsmagazines.

##### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Oral presentations.

#### 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

1. Class Participation
2. Class Work
3. Exams/Tests
4. Group Projects
5. Home Work
6. Oral Presentation
7. Papers
8. Quizzes
9. Research Projects
10. Written examination

#### 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

1. Mahler, G.. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, ed. Prentice Hall, 2013
2. Kesselman, M.; Krieger, J.; and Joseph, W.. *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 6th ed. Cengage Learning , 2013
3. Hague, R. & Harrop, M.. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*, 6th ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010
4. Hauss, C. & Haussman, M.. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 8th ed. Cengage Learning , 2013

**Origination Date:** August 2010  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** December 2012  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2013  
**Course Originator:** Lee Miller

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