

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** PLSC 110 **TITLE:** Contemporary Foreign Governments **C-ID:** POLS 130
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)
Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or 105 and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in 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. Discuss various political systems and their central features.
 2. Effectively communicate the impact of state and non-state actors on the development and implementation of policy in different political systems, utilizing the comparative method.
 3. Critically analyze political theories and ideologies regarding the stability of regimes and transitions from one regime type to another.
 4. Discuss the impact of regional, historical, ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political institutions, issues and policy.
 5. Evaluate ethical issues and conflicts inherent to political issues.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Discuss various political systems and their central features.
 2. Effectively communicate the impact of state and non-state actors on the development and implementation of policy in different political systems, utilizing the comparative method.
 3. Critically analyze political theories and ideologies regarding the stability of regimes and transitions from one regime type to another.
 4. Discuss the impact of regional, historical, ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political institutions, issues and policy.
 5. Evaluate ethical issues and conflicts inherent to political issues.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 1. Introduction to comparative government and politics.
 - A. Politics, government, state.
 - B. Comparative government.
 - C. Patterns of government/state.
 - D. Levels and types of government: local, federal, unitary.
 - E. Discuss the role of state and non-state actors and popular participation on the economic development, political stability and implementation of public policy in different regimes.
 - F. Introduce the use of the comparative method by utilizing diverse historical, regional, and economic case studies.
 - G. Discuss theory regarding the stability of regimes and transitions from one regime to another.

2. Governmental and institutional structures.
 - A. Constitutions and laws.
 - B. Executives and cabinets.
 - C. Legislative bodies.
 - D. Citizens and electoral systems.
 - E. Party systems.
 - F. Judiciary and legal systems.
 - G. Interest groups.
 - H. Fiscal systems and institutions.
 - I. Local and central government relations.
 - J. Civil service and administration.
 - K. Military and foreign policy.
 - L. Public policy: economy, environment, population, resources.
 - M. Introduce different regime types and their resulting institutions in political systems.
3. Case studies. Several contemporary foreign governments will be studied. Among those governments (but not limited to these), are the following,:
 - A. The United Kingdom.
 - B. The French Republic.
 - C. The German Federal Republic
 - D. The Japanese Constitutional Monarchy.
 - E. The Russian Federation.
 - F. The Peoples' Republic of China.
 - G. The Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North Korea)
 - H. The United States of Mexico.
 - I. The Nigerian Republic.
 - J. The Republic of India.
 - K. The Republic of South Korea.
 - L. The Saudi Arabian Monarchy
 - M. Include actual country examples of each regime types in terms of institutions, processes, political culture, and historical/cultural contexts.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. 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:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Group Projects
- E. Homework
- F. Oral Presentation
- G. Papers
- H. Quizzes

- I. Research Projects
- J. Written examination

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

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Mahler, G.. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, ed. Prentice Hall, 2013
- B. Kesselman, M.; Krieger, J.; and Joseph, W.. *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 7th ed. Cengage Learning , 2015
- C. Hague, R. & Harrop, M.. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*, 7th ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013
- D. Hauss, C. & Haussman, M.. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 8th ed. Cengage Learning , 2013

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Course Originator: Lee Miller