

**A: Division:** Academic  
**B: Department:** Arts & Humanities

**Date:** November 10, 1995

**New Course:**

**Revision of Course Information Form:** X

**Dated:** September 1991

**C:** POLI 210

**D:** INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

**E:** 3

**Subject & Course No.**

**Descriptive Title**

**Semester Credit**

**F: Calendar Description:**

This course is an introduction to political processes and structures in a comparative perspective. It will cover the comparative political process and its scope and methods at an introductory level. It will provide an understanding of approaches to comparisons of the differing processes and structures of foreign governments and regimes.

**Summary of Revisions:**  
 (Enter date & section)  
 Eg. Section C,E,F

1995.11.10  
 Section: H

**G: Type of Instruction: Hours per Week/per Semester**

|                           |          |              |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Lecture                   | 2        | Hrs.         |
| Laboratory                |          | Hrs.         |
| Seminar                   | 2        | Hrs.         |
| Clinical Experience       |          | Hrs.         |
| Field Experience          |          | Hrs.         |
| Practicum                 |          | Hrs.         |
| Shop                      |          | Hrs.         |
| Studio                    |          | Hrs.         |
| Student Directed Learning |          | Hrs.         |
| Other                     |          | Hrs.         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>4</b> | <b>HOURS</b> |

**H: Course Prerequisites:**

POLI 101 or Permission of Instructor

**I: Course Corequisites:**

None

**J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:**

None

**K: Maximum Class Size:**

35

**L: College Credit Transfer** X

College Credit Non-transfer

**M: Transfer Credit:**

Requested:  
 Granted: X  
 Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as Appropriate:

U.B.C. POLI 210 = Poli 220 (3)

S.F.U. POLI 210 = Pol 231 (3)

U.Vic. POLI 210 = Poli 210 (1.5)

Other:

COURSE DESIGNER(S)

DIRECTOR/CHAIRPERSON

DIVISIONAL DEAN

REGISTRAR

## **N: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):**

M. Dogan & D. Pelassy. How to Compare Nations: Strategies in Comparative Politics. Chatham: Chatham House, 1989.

C. Soe. Comparative Politics: Annual Editions. Guilford: The Dushkin-Publishing Group, Inc.

D.F. Roth, P. Warwick, D.W. Paul. Comparative Politics in an Interdependent World. New York: Harper & Row, 1989.

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Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings:

O: Course Objectives; P: Course Content; Q: Method of Instruction;

R: Course Evaluation

### **O. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will become familiar with the comparative political process, its scope and methods at an introductory level.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts in the study of comparative politics.
3. Students will be able to apply their understanding of concepts to a comparative analysis of contemporary regimes, political structures, political processes and contemporary foreign governments.
4. Students will be prepared for further study in more advanced work in Comparative Politics, Scope and Methods, Area Studies, and International Relations.

### **P. COURSE CONTENT**

Unit One: An introduction to the study of comparative politics;  
Comparing to escape from ethnocentrism;  
Comparing to find sociological rules;  
Operational concepts;  
Theoretical frameworks;  
Functionals equivalences.

Unit Two: The internationalization of analytical categories;  
Social classes: different in each continent;  
Cultural pluralism: Vertical societies;  
Political culture: from nation to nation;  
Political socialization: from generation to generation;  
Political clientelism: a ubiquitous phenomenon;  
Consociational democracy;  
An elitist model for fragmented societies;  
Political crises: Historical events or stages of development.

Unit Three: Choice of countries;  
 On the need to segment before comparing;  
 The case study in comparative perspective;  
 The binary analysis;  
 Comparing similar countries;  
 Comparing contrasting countries;  
 The conceptual homogenization of a heterogeneous field.

Unit Four: How to structure the results of the comparison;  
 The dichotomy as clarification;  
 Cross-National typologies of social actors;  
 Typologies of political regimes;  
 The dynamics of models;  
 From comparison to synthesis;  
 From comparison to prediction.

#### Q. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, and in-class discussion of assigned research topics. Additional readings will be assigned for each unit of the course, and placed on reserve in the library. Where appropriate, audio-visual materials will be used.

#### R. COURSE EVALUATION

Evaluation of student performance will be based on a combination of written examinations, a formal research paper, and participation. All evaluation elements assigned must be completed by the student.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Midterm Test                           | 25%        |
| Research Essay                         | 30%        |
| Final Test<br>or second Research Essay | 25%        |
| Participation *                        | <u>20%</u> |
|  | 100%       |

\*Participation grades for students will be based on a combination of objective criteria, which will include a selection of the following:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| ·Short in-class tests  | 10% |
| ·Attendance, participation   | 10% |
| ·Short research papers   | 10% |
| ·Book review   | 10% |
| ·In-class presentation   | 10% |
| ·Formal debate   | 10% |
| ·Instructor evaluation of<br>individual student progress,<br>research skills | 10% |
| ·Oral examination  | 10% |
| ·Additional assignments  | 10% |