



Course Code IREL-235	Course Title Comparative Politics	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Political Science	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Dr Craig Webster
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Introduce students to the key terms and concepts in the field of Comparative Politics.
- Introduce students to the major ideologies of political economy.
- Introduce students to the major challenges of the different types of countries in the world.
- Introduce students to the various choices facing countries in terms of how to organize themselves politically and economically.
- Familiarize students with the different ideologies guiding the structuring of political and economic systems.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this programme, the student will be able to:

1. Utilize the language of Comparative Politics.
2. Illustrate knowledge of the major issues and concerns of those who study Comparative Politics.
3. Illustrate familiarity with the major political theories and ideologies in the political world.
4. Report in the English language both orally and in written form at a high level of competence.
5. Use IT skills (word processing, powerpoint and Internet) as study and communication tools.
6. Illustrate the ability to continue learning in a self-directed manner and work on an academic level within the intended professional field.
7. Use libraries, bibliographical material and academic research in an efficient manner.

Course Contents:

1. What is Comparative Politics?
2. States: their evolution and role in politics
3. Nations and Society: what are nations and societies?
4. Political Economy: the different regimes of political economy and their implications
5. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism: forms of non-democratic government
6. Democracy and its many forms
7. Advanced Democracies and their current challenges
8. Communism and Postcommunism: the challenges of the transition
9. LDCs and NICs: the challenges facing the world's poorest countries
10. Globalization and its impact upon economies and societies
11. Political Violence: the sources of conflict and the management of conflict

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures , conferences and sessions with visiting speakers, Project work

Assessment Methods:

Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam, Class Participation, Essays

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Patrick H. O'Neil	Essentials of Comparative Politics	W.W. Norton & Co	2007	0393928764
Rod Hague and Martin Harrop	Comparative Government and Politics	Palgrave Macmillan	2004	1403913145

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Gabriel A. Almond and others	Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Framework (5th Edition)	Longman	2007	0205576567
Robert Dahl	Modern Political Analysis (6th Edition)	Prentice Hall	2002	0130497029
Rov C. Macridis	Contemporary Political Ideologies (6th Edition)	Longman	1997	0673524582
Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Ragowski	Essential Readings in Comparative Politics	W.W. Norton & Co.	2006	0393929507
Alan Draper and Ansil Ramsay	The Good Society: An Introduction to Comparative Politics	Longman	2007	0321432177