

# North Hennepin Community College

## **POLS 1600: Comparative Politics**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

This course examines and compares the organization and politics of modern governments around the world. Countries studied exemplify larger course themes of political institutions, political culture, elections, public policy, democratization, economic development, and comparative methodology.

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/10/1997 - Present**

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Approaches in comparative politics; comparative research methods
2. Regional studies
3. Country studies
4. Nations and states; state-building/legitimacy/stability; failed states
5. Regime types (democracies/non-democracies; advanced democracies/communism/post-communism/less-developed/newly industrializing countries)
6. Governance and accountability
7. Political institutions and structures (legislatures, executives, judiciary, bureaucracies, militaries, constitutions, levels of government)
8. Elections/electoral systems
9. Political parties; interest groups; political participation/citizenship and representation
10. Political culture
11. Cleavages and politics (ethnic, racial, class, gender, religious, regional)
12. Civil society and social capital
13. Social movements
14. Media
15. Public policy (economic, social welfare, civil rights/liberties, environment, etc)
16. Political economy
17. Democratization
18. Globalization
19. Political violence

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Build a basic understanding of comparative politics:
  - a) Examine and compare the organization and politics of multiple modern governments around the world (NHCC ELO 1)
  - b) Identify and discuss how the application of comparative methodology helps us to describe, explain, and predict diverse global behaviors and outcomes related to political institutions, political culture, elections, public policy, democratization, and economic development (NHCC ELO 1)
2. Employ the methods and data that political scientists use to investigate the human condition (MnTC Goal 2, 5a; NHCC ELO 2)
3. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures (MnTC Goal 5b; NHCC ELO 1)
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues (MnTC Goal 5d; NHCC ELO 1)
5. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences (MnTC Goal 8b; NHCC ELOs 1, 3)
6. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution (MnTC Goal 8c; NHCC ELOs 1, 2)
7. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future (MnTC Goal 8d; NHCC ELO 3)

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
2. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.