

Montgomery County Community College  
POL 240  
Comparative Politics  
3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a course in the comparative analysis of various contemporary political systems. It focuses on the examination of their political cultures, constitutional foundations, governmental structures, policy-making processes, and capacity to adapt to change.

**REQUISITES:**

*Previous Course Requirements*

None

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Discuss major theories in Comparative Politics.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Classroom Discussion Guest Speakers Exams
2. Analyze similarities and differences of political phenomena in democratic, non-democratic regime change, advanced democracies, communism and post communism countries.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Governmental Models Assignment Comparative Case Study Assignment Current Issue in Comparative Politics Assignment Exams Classroom Discussion
3. Compare and contrast current issues in comparative politics.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Current Issue in Comparative Politics Assignment Governmental Models Assignment Comparative Case Study Assignment Classroom Discussion Exams

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Discuss sustainability initiatives in less-developed and newly industrialized countries.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Current Issue in Comparative Politics Assignment Governmental Models Assignment Comparative Case Study Assignment Classroom Discussion Exams
6. Compare and contrast current issues of political economy and globalization.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Current Issue in Comparative Politics Assignment Governmental Models Assignment Comparative Case Study Assignment Classroom Discussion Exams
7. Discuss the role of violence and its impact in comparative politics.	Lecture/Discussion Independent Studies Papers Guest Speakers	Current Issue in Comparative Politics Assignment Governmental Models Assignment Comparative Case Study Assignment Classroom Discussion Exams

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter Two: States

Chapter Three: Nations and Society

Chapter Four: Political Economy

Chapter Five: Democratic Regimes

Chapter Six: Nondemocratic Regimes

Chapter Seven: Political Violence

Chapter Eight: Advanced Democracies

Chapter Nine: Communism and Post communism

Chapter Ten: Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries

## Chapter Eleven: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics

### LEARNING MATERIALS:

Present selected text:

O'Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (2015, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.). W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.

O'Neil, Patrick H., Fields, Karl and Share, Don. *Cases in Comparative Politics* (2015, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.). W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

### COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Carol-Rae Sodano, D. Creciun Date: 7/1995

Revised by: Thomas Kolsky and Jodi Empol-Schwartz Date: 3/2009

Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz Date: 2/10/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/2017

*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*