Module Name: Comparative Politics

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No appointment is necessary. If you want to see me outside of these times please drop me an email.
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Politics
This module is part of the Politics portfolio. We aim to bring you a range of modules that give you breadth and depth of experience in and around the curriculum area of Politics. The Politics staff team have a broad range of teaching and research interests, including:

* political ideas and theory
* international, comparative and area-based study
* governance, policy & society
* conflict, challenge, resistance & dissent
* third sector development

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us. We want to share your enquiries, enthusiasm and interest.

Key staff roles
If you have questions or queries that are not related to this particular module, please email:

Politics Subject Group Leader: Dr Emma Heron
Course Leader (Politics): Dr Andy Price
Course Leader (ASS): Dr Linda Grant
Level 1 Tutor: Dr Mark Langan
Level 2 Tutor: Dr Carissa Honeywell
Level 3 Tutor: Dr Andy Price
Dissertation Coordinator (Politics / Pol-Hist): Dr Martin Parker
Academic Advisors (Level 1): STAR tutors
Academic Advisors (Level 2): PD1 tutors
Academic Advisors (Level 3): PD2 tutors
Student Support: Lucy Mills or Gary Curtis
This Module

The aim of this module is to develop a comparative understanding of the key similarities and differences in the political structures and policy processes of a number of selected countries. This module will introduce learners to various political structures, comparative theories and methodologies and apply these to contemporary, policy relevant issues. The module will draw on the political structures and processes of the:

- United Kingdom;
- France;
- Germany;
- Spain;
- Japan;
- Russia; and
- China.

Learning Outcomes:

By engaging successfully with this module learners will be able to:

- discuss the similarities and differences in the politics of selected countries;
- compare the political structures and processes of selected countries;
- compare a range of policies in selected countries; and
- identify and analyse the relationship between processes of 'globalization' and national and international politics.
ASSESSMENT
Information on the assessment for the module will be made available soon.

You will be assessed in the following way(s):
• One 2,500 word essay - 100%.
• In module retrieval is not available for this module.

Please chose and answer ONE of the following 4 questions:

1. 'An understanding of both theory and method is central to assessing the usefulness of comparative politics'. Discuss.

2. Compare and contrast the political system of China to the political system of at least one other state studied on this course.

3. Take one policy issue studied on this course and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the responses undertaken by at least two states also studied on this course.

4. 'Issues relating to security are at the top of every Government's political agenda'. Discuss with reference to at least two states studied on this course.

Feedback
Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways:

• Essays will be submitted via the Helpdesk in Southbourne and feedback provided in written form; and
• The opportunity for face-to-face feedback will be available and can be arranged by appointment with the tutor

Learning and Teaching Methods
Students will be supported in their learning, to achieve the above outcomes, in the following ways:

• weekly lectures;
• seminars will provide the opportunity for topics/issues raised in lectures to be studied in greater depth;
• lectures will also be made available via the VLE; and
• additional learning materials in support of lectures will be made available to students in resource folders.
Course Textbooks

The books below will be of benefit throughout the module.


ATTENDANCE

Part of what it means to be a student at Sheffield Hallam University, as outlined in the Student Charter, is for you to take responsibility for managing and progressing your learning and to make every effort to meet your attendance and assessment requirements. We firmly believe that attendance in seminars and lectures aids your learning and helps you to feel part of the academic community here at Sheffield Hallam. We therefore expect you to attend all sessions for this module.

We monitor attendance in this module. Please let a member of staff know if you are likely to experience difficulties (this could be your seminar tutor, the Module Leader, your Year Tutor or your Academic Adviser).

Lecture/Seminars are Tuesdays 3pm-5pm.
Lecture/Seminar Structure

This module is split between two parts. Part One – Theory – introduces learners to the theoretical foundations and methodologies common in studies relating to comparative politics. Moreover, Part One, analyses the nature of different political systems and institutions. Part Two – Policies explores various policy issues and state responses to them in an effort to ascertain the differences and similarities between them.

Lecture/Seminars are Tuesdays 3pm-5pm.

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PART ONE – THEORY CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGIES

Lecture One - Introduction

This section will introduce learners to the subject of comparative politics. As such this lecture will examine:
- What is comparative politics?
- Why is it useful to compare?
- What can comparative politics tell us?

Lecture Two - Theory, Concepts and Methodology

This section introduces a variety of theoretical approaches, comparative concepts and methodologies useful to this course. This section will cover the following:

Theory: Institutional Behavioural Structural Rational Choice Interpretive
Concepts: Power Authority Legitimacy State Sovereignty Ideology Left and Right
Methodology Qualitative Quantitative Historical

Essential Reading:

Theory


Concepts


Methodology


Supplementary:

Lecture Three - Political Systems One (Democratic / Authoritarian)

This section forms the first of two that examine divergent political systems. This section focuses on democratic and authoritarian political systems. It begins by describing the two, their similarities and differences. Questions for consideration in this class include:

- What different types of political systems exist?
- What is a democratic political system and how do democracies differ from one another?
- What is an authoritarian political system and how do they differ from one another?
- Why do states utilise the systems that they do?
- How can we split the states under discussion on this course between them?
- What, if any, are the differences and similarities between the two systems?

Essential Reading:

Supplementary Reading:


Lecture Four - Political Systems Four (Executive, Legislative, Judiciary, policy process)

This section forms the second of two examining the divergent political systems of those states under analysis on this course. Having explained the basic framework in which states exist, this section explores the roles of different institutions within such states. As such, this section explores the following questions:

- What are the roles of the following in both democratic and authoritarian regimes:
  - Executive;
  - Legislative;
  - Judiciary; and
  - Policy Process.
- What influence does each one have on the political process?
- How much overlap is there between each of these institutions?

Essential Reading:

Supplementary Reading:


PART TWO – POLICY ISSUES AND RESPONSES.

Having developed a theoretical foundation and holistic understanding of different political institutions, this second part goes onto analyse the responses of states to specific policy issues. Although maybe not overtly stated in this second part of the module it is important that you consider these responses within the context of the theoretical foundation provided in Part One. It is impossible to go through the policy responses of each state discussed in this module. You are encouraged to browse the readings here and through the library to gain further insight into how each state responds to specific issues.

Lecture Five - Trade Policy and Globalisation

- What do we mean by trade policy?
- How important is trade and policy to states?
- What is trade policy based upon?
- What is mean by globalisation?
- What theories of globalisation exist?
- Is globalisation always positive for states?
- Can globalisation affect security?

Essential


UNKNOWN AUTHOR, 'We'll always have Paris. France and Globalisation', The Economist, 399 (30th April 2011) 8731, p. 55.

VILLAVERDE, J. 'Globalisation, Growth and Covergence', The World Economy, 34 (June 2011) 6, pp. 952-971.
RAZEEN, Sally. 'Globalisation: China and Globalisation', Economic Affairs, 27 (December 2007) 4, p. 82.


RAZEEN, Sally. 'The Asian Drama', Economic Affairs 27 (March, 2007) 1, p. 87.


RAZEEN, Sally. 'Europe, Trade and Globalisation', Economic Affairs, 27 (June 2007) 2, p. 99.


Lecture Six - Sustainable Development and the Environment

- What issues exist around the environment?
- Is their consensus around the issues that exist on the environment?
- Do environmental concerns form concerns for the security of the state?
- What is meant by sustainable development?
- How have states tackled issues related to the environment?


Lecture Seven - Food Security/Dependency

- What is food security?
- What impact will/does it have?
- What causes food insecurity?
- How do states cope with food security/dependency?

Foreign Policy in Focus, Food and Farm

http://www.fpif.org/issues/foodfarm


Lecture Eight – Assessment Advice Session

This class session will offer you an opportunity to discuss the assessment task for this module.

Lecture Nine - Energy Security

- What is energy security?
- Why is energy security important to states?
- What is the energy security nexus?
- How have states responded to energy security concerns?

WILLIAMS, Paul. Security Studies. An Introduction - ON BLACKBOARD


Lecture Ten - Arms Control and Disarmament

- Can there be an argument for increasing or maintaining global weapons acquisitions?
- Should western countries be putting more constraints on their arms sales? What stops them doing this?
- What prevents states disarming?
- What can the international community do to encourage increased disarmament?

BEACH, Hugh. 'Is There a Future for Arms Control?' International Relations 22 (2008), pp. 363-368.


Lecture Eleven - Transnational Crime and Terrorism

➢ What is meant by transnational crime and how does it differ from terrorism?
➢ What kind of threats have states faced from transnational crime and terrorism?
➢ How have states responded to threats from transnational crime and terrorism?

Supplementary Reading:


ANDREAS, Peter. and NADELManN, Ethan. *Policing the Globe: Criminalization and Crime Control in International Relations* 2006 OUP


ANDREAS, Peter. and NADELmann, Ethan. *Policing the Globe: Criminalization and Crime Control in International Relations* 2006 OUP


Lecture Twelve – One-to-One Assessment Advice

There will be no class this week. I will be available in my office for any last minute one-to-one assessment advice.