



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

**POLS-1500 – M01
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
FALL 2017**

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**Tuesday and Thursday: 12.30hs-13.45hs
CLASSROOM: Padre Rubio Hall 8**

**Office hours at
San Ignacio Hall Office 310
(please make an appointment by email):
Thursdays 13.45hs-14.45hs**

COURSE INTRODUCTION

In this class we will examine various countries and their forms of government. It is fascinating to compare and contrast different societies, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. We may ask ourselves what elements lead to stable governments, what factors encourage democracy, or why are some countries more egalitarian? Finding the ideas that each country builds upon and discovering the benefits and liabilities of different structures are key aspects of this course. These will be interconnected with discussions of current events and how to build better democracies.

This is a very dynamic course that combines the theoretical study of the comparative method, the analysis of historical processes and practical exercises to help you discover the advantages of comparative analysis. The goal is to familiarize each student with the ways that different political systems function and the means to analyse them.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the comparative method
- To familiarize the student with the tools and the aims of the comparative method
- To study examples of comparative analysis
- To practice comparative studies exercises

Student learning outcomes:

-Upon completing this course students will understand the role of theory and research in social science analysis.

-Students will be able to grasp the theoretical and empirical findings of the relevant social science literature.

-Students will be able to assess the merits of prevailing schools of thought within a comparative politics.

-Students will be able to identify how a specific social science discipline understands and analyses complex social phenomena.

-Students will be able to think critically and independently about comparative politics & its actors.

Grade Scale:

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	73%-79%
C	67%-72%
C-	60%-66%
D	50%-59%
F	0%-49%

Grade Components:

25%	Exercises and Class participation
20%	Mid-term exam
20%	Oral Presentation
35%	Final exam

Course Credits: 3

Requirements:

You are required to attend each class session prepared and ready to participate.

You are expected to **complete the readings for this course before the date for which they are listed and to prepare for the class exercises.**

You should make every effort to read as widely as possible for the course and you should be prepared to share with the other students any information which you have gained through your reading.

Students will be graded on the basis of **class exercises and participation (25%), a mid-term exam (20%), an oral presentation (20%) and a final exam (35%).**

Class exercises and participation

In order to give a diversity of participation opportunities, class exercises will include homework, quizzes and Blackboard assignments. Some of the classes will include practical exercises to help you become familiar with the comparative method. You are expected to participate in the exercises, to read in advance the material and to follow the guidelines to be able to learn from these activities.

I trust we will be able to have a mutually respectful classroom atmosphere by treating all classmates as equals. In deference for others, please do not eat during class.

When evaluating presentations, class participation and attendance, I will positively take into account the following:

- 1. students who attend every class and let me know when and why they will be absent.*
- 2. students who make an effort to prepare the homework and attempt to make class dynamic and engage the audience.*
- 3. students who show interest in following the debates.*

With regard to matters pertaining to **academic honesty and plagiarism**, you are reminded that cheating is a deplorable behavior, which leads to an “F” grade and possible expulsion from the University.

Mobile phones and laptops should not be used during class

The oral presentations:

These are some guidelines for your presentations.

- **DO NOT READ YOUR PRESENTATION**, if you prepare well you will feel confident enough to present without reading

- **MAKE THE PRESENTATION DYNAMIC, TRY TO ENGAGE THE AUDIENCE, PRESENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ISSUE AND TRY TO ANSWER THEM, i.e.**
 - Why is this topic important?
 - What are the different perspectives in the study of this topic?
- Present the different views, arguing for and against each of them.
- List causes and consequences if appropriate
- Offer best practices to solve the problem if appropriate

At the end of your presentation, the audience should have learned the relevance of the topic, different perspectives to understand the issue or problem, the most appropriate ways to deal with it and consequences for countries and/or the region

You will be assessed based on the oral presentation you give. You should show a good amount of knowledge on the topic based on relevant bibliography. You need to make an argument and provoke a dynamic discussion. The criteria for evaluation will be your engagement in the topic, your capacity to demonstrate comparative analysis skills, and your knowledge & ability to put your argument forward. **Presentations given late will be marked down by 10% a day.**

Mid –term and final exams

The midterm exam is on **October 10th**, during class.

The final is on **December 20th, 12.00 -15.00 hrs.**

The midterm and final examinations must be written on their respective dates. No alternative examinations will be scheduled except in the case of excused medical absences.

Contacting me

- Ask me questions in class, or send an e-mail to: daniel.blanch@slu.edu
- or make an appointment to see me during my office hours as listed above.

Bibliography

Hague, Harrop and McCormick (2016) *Comparative Government and Politics*, Palgrave 10th Edition.

This is the textbook for this course.

Reference material:

- Huntington (1991) *The Third Wave*, University of Oklahoma Press.
- Sen (1999) *Development as Freedom*, Oxford University Press.
- A variety of other readings will be offered in class.

Topics for class and bibliography

Week	General topic of lesson	Readings or Other Assignments Due
1. Sep 5 & 7	What is comparative politics & why does it matter. The State	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, <i>Comparative Government and Politics</i> , Palgrave. Chapters 1 & 2.
2. Sep 12 & 14	Democracy & Types of Regimes	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapters 3 & 4. Blackboard discussion
3. Sep 19 & 21	Political Culture & interest groups	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapters 12 & 18.
4. Sep 26 & 28	Political parties & Elections	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapters 15 and 16. Blackboard discussion
5. Oct 3 & 5	Voters	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chap 17.
6. Oct 10	Midterm	midterm exam on all content covered so far
7. Oct 17 & 19	Survey discussion Constitutions and legislatures	Topics due for oral presentation Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chap 7 & 8.
8. Oct 24 & 26	Oral presentations. Compare strengths and weaknesses of different countries, systems or approaches	Choose one country and look for the following information: formation and expansion of the state, state institutions, political regime or form of government, relationship between church and state, role of the military, electoral system, relationship between executive and legislative, judiciary
9. Oct 31 & Nov 2	Oral presentations	Continue in class
10. Nov 7	The executive: political power and leaders	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapter 9. Blackboard discussion
11. Nov 14 & 16	Multilevel governance & Federalism	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapter 11. Handout in class
12. Nov 21 & 23	Political Participation	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapter 13 & handout.
13. Nov 28 & Nov 30	Nationalism	Handout in class. Blackboard discussion.
14. Dec 5 & 7	Comparative theories	Hague, Harrop & McCormick, Chapter 5.
15. Dec 12th	Review for final exam	

Final exam:

<p>Tuesday 20th December 12.00-15.00hs</p>
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Important Dates

- Sunday, September 17 – Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and /or Add a Class – Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Options
- Monday, October 30 – Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W

Holidays that affect this class:

- Thursday, Oct. 12, Fiesta Nacional de España - Holiday (University closed)
- Thursday, Nov. 9, La Almudena Holiday - (University closed)

Academic Calendar

Fall 2017

AUGUST		
Thursday	31	TOEFL test (4:00 p.m.)
SEPTEMBER		
Friday-Sunday	1-2	Permanent and Transfer students mandatory Academic Welcome Session and departure for Welcome Days from SLU-Madrid (9:00 a.m.)
Saturday	2	Class of 2021 Convocation at SLU-Madrid (12:00 p.m.-noon) Study Abroad arrival and Housing in host family move-in date
Sunday	3	Study abroad students mandatory Welcome Sessions (10:00 a.m.)
Monday	4	Fall 2017 first day of classes
Sunday	17	Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or add a class Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
Friday	29	Exams for MATH - First midterm (2:00-4:30 p.m.)
OCTOBER		
Thursday	12	<i>Fiesta Nacional de España</i> - Holiday (University closed)
Friday	13	University closed
Monday	16	Last day to submit Transfer Application for spring semester
Thursday	19	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades
Monday	30	Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W
NOVEMBER		
Wednesday	1	<i>Día de Todos los Santos</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Thursday	2	Registration for Spring 2018 semester begins
Thursday	9	<i>La Almudena</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Friday	24	Exams for MATH - Second midterm (2:00-4:30 p.m.)
DECEMBER		
Wednesday	6	<i>Día de la Constitución</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Friday	8	<i>Inmaculada Concepción</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Wednesday	13	Fall 2017 final day of classes
Thursday-Friday	14-15	Fall 2017 final exams
Monday-Wednesday	18-20	Fall 2017 final exams
Monday	18	Mid-Year commencement
Thursday	21	Fall 2017 University Housing move-out date
Saturday	23	Professors' deadline to submit fall 2017 final grades

Final Exam Schedules 2017-2018

FALL 2017					
	14 Dec (Th)	15 Dec (Fr)	18 Dec (Mn)	19 Dec (Tu)	20 Dec (W)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30 & 10:00	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 15:30 & 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at:

http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf.

Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

Title IX Statement:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:

<http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Accommodation:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact to Disability Services.

Class Attendance:

Once a student is registered for a course, attendance at every meeting of every class is expected, including those held in the first week of the semester. A maximum of two unjustified absences is permitted. Each additional absence will cause the final course grade to be lowered by one-third of a letter grade, i.e., from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B, etc. Excessive absences in a course will have a negative effect on the final grade. When a student is absent, the quality of his or her work in a course will deteriorate since material missed in class sessions can rarely be made up satisfactorily, even though the student remains responsible for that work. Any absence due to illness should be justified by a note from the student's physician or other health professional confirming the day(s) on which the student was unable to attend class. A written excuse from a student's host parent or residence supervisor is also acceptable.

In the event that a class meeting is unexpectedly cancelled, students will be expected to continue with readings or other assignments as originally scheduled. Any assignments due or class activities (e.g., a quiz, exam or presentation) planned for such a cancelled class are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are communicated.