

CPO: Comparative Politics Courses

Courses

CPO 2002 Comparative Politics
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Examination of political processes and political institutions in selected foreign countries such as Britain, France, Germany, USSR, Japan and India. Methods of cross-national political analysis. Meets General Education requirement in Social Sciences. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 3055 Dictatorships
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

The course will carry out a comparative analysis of dictatorships across time and space, with special attention paid to 20th century totalitarian regimes, including those of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. The analysis will focus on some of the causes for the rise and fall of these dictatorships, their ruling personalities and methods, the costs imposed on their subject populations, and their long-term effects on the politics of their representative countries. The course will begin with selections from classic writings on tyranny from Plato, Aristotle, Suetonius, and Machiavelli. Then, using scholarly texts, novels, and films, we will examine historical cases from several continents, drawing parallels and contrasts across them. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 3103 Politics of Western Europe
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Political processes and institutions of selected European political systems. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 3322 Cuba, Castro and the USA
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

The course will carry out an analysis of Cuban politics, domestically and in relation to the USA, from the outbreak of the Spanish-American War to the present, with special emphasis on the Castro era (i.e., 1959 to the present). The analysis will compare Cuba's standard of living, nature and structure of standing before Fidel Castro seized power in the early years of the Cuban Revolution and at different times during his nearly 50-year reign. Some attention will be paid to how Cubans who came to the USA after Castro have fared, especially politically. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 3513 Politics of the Far East-Japan and China
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Political systems of China and Japan offer striking comparisons to each other and to the United States. They provide two non-Western cultural contexts within which some Western political ideas and institutions operate. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 3614 Politics of Eastern Europe
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course follows the transition from communism to democratization through democratic consolidation in Eastern Europe. It explores the question: how democratic are they today, nearly a decade and a half after the collapse of communism? Emphasis is on the changes in post-Soviet states, their organization and political culture and identity, and contemporary issues. Several countries will be considered in greater depth, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and East Germany. Specific issues will be addressed across Eastern Europe, including the communist legacy, economic development, interest group emergence, social problems, civil society challenges, and nationalism.

CPO 4074 Political Economy
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course has two objectives in mind. One is to inquire into methods of analysis that borrow certain ideas from economics, such as self-interest and incentives, to the study of politics. One might call this the methodological objective. The other objective is to examine the reciprocal relations between government and the domestic economy. Specifically, it surveys what political scientists and public intellectuals have said about the effect of economic conditions on regime survival and elections, on the one hand, and on the other the impact of regime type and public policy on various measures of the general welfare as economic growth, human development, and income or wealth inequality. We shall begin with excerpts from ancient and modern thinkers, then proceed to analyze scholarship by contemporary political scientists and political economists.

CPO 4303 Politics of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

The politics of Spain, Portugal, and the largest Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico) and, as time permits, other countries of particular concern to the United States. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 4314 Democracies
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course examines what it means to be a 21st century democracy. It explores institutional variants of democracy, including different structures of government and electoral systems. It considers the promise and the problems that democracy holds. In the course we will explore democratic variants examining factors such as accountability, competitiveness, transparency, representation. We will examine democratization and how to build and sustain democracy. We will consider preconditions for democracy and discuss the complex relationship between democracy and economics. Offered concurrently with CPO 5315; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

CPO 4774 Radicalism and Extremism
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Political radicals and political extremists reside outside of the boundaries of mainstream politics because they diverge sharply in their ideological orientation strategy and tactics relative to the parties of the political center. This course focuses on the ideology, discourse, goals and actions of certain parties and groups on the "fringe" of politics. Emphasis is placed on conceptualizing the terms "radical" and "extremist" to develop an understanding of how these groups stand apart from the mainstream. Comparative cases will be examined ranging from consideration of a wide variety of American radicals on both the political right and political left, European radical right political parties, religious radicals and fundamentalism, and Middle Eastern radical Islam. We will characterize various extremist groups, discuss strategies and tactics, explore factors that catalyze such groups, and consider their impact and significance on policy but also on governance and society. The course is offered concurrently with CPO 5779; graduate students will have additional work.

CPO 4792 Geopolitics
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Exploration and study of patterns of conflict, geography, cooperation and change in world politics in the post-Cold war period; the examination of the creation of world order under anarchic conditions; and the study of religious, cultural, resources and economic crises in large portion of the world; which relates to the larger issue of state power and US national policy. Offered concurrently with CPO 5797 graduate students will be assigned additional work. Meets Multicultural Requirement.

CPO 4905 Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)

CPO 5315 Democracies
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course examines what it means to be a 21st century democracy. It explores institutional variants of democracy, including different structures of government and electoral systems. It considers the promise and the problems that democracy holds. In the course we will explore democratic variants examining factors such as accountability, competitiveness, transparency, representation. We will examine democratization and how to build and sustain democracy. We will consider preconditions for democracy and discuss the complex relationship between democracy and economics. Offered concurrently with CPO 4314; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

CPO 5779 Radicalism and Extremism
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Political radicals and political extremists reside outside of the boundaries of mainstream politics because they diverge sharply in their ideological orientation strategy and tactics relative to the parties of the political center. This course focuses on the ideology, discourse, goals and actions of certain parties and groups on the "fringe" of politics. Emphasis is placed on conceptualizing the terms "radical" and "extremist" to develop an understanding of how these groups stand apart from the mainstream. Comparative cases will be examined ranging from consideration of a wide variety of American radicals on both the political right and political left, European radical right political parties, religious radicals and fundamentalism, and Middle Eastern radical Islam. We will characterize various extremist groups, discuss strategies and tactics, explore factors that catalyze such groups, and consider their impact and significance on policy but also on governance and society. This course is offered concurrently with CPO 4774; graduate students will have additional work.

CPO 5797 Geopolitics
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Exploration and study of patterns of conflict, geography, cooperation and change in world politics in the post-Cold war period; the examination of the creation of world order under anarchic conditions; and the study of religious, cultural, resources and economic crises in large portion of the world; which relate to the larger issue of state power and US national policy. Graduate students will be assigned a substantial research project from which they will lead the class on their specific subject. They will also lead their respective teams in the research of an international maritime case study to demonstrate the complexity of dealing with inter- national law. This course is dual-listed with CPO4792.

CPO 6006 Seminar in Comparative Politics
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Comparison and analysis of political systems, theoretical and empirical.

CPO 6905 Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)