

Comparative Politics

Course code	<i>POL103</i>
Compulsory in the programmes	<i>Compulsory</i>
Level of studies	<i>Undergraduate</i>
Number of credits and	<i>6 ECTS (48 contact hours + 6 consultation hours, 106 individual work hours)</i>
Course coordinator (title and name)	<i>Dr. Pijus Krūminas</i>
Prerequisites	<i>Introduction to Politics</i>
Language of instruction	<i>English</i>

THE AIM OF THE COURSE:

This course introduces students to the key concepts and theories of comparative politics. The general topics covered range from concepts of the state to main political institutions of both democratic regimes and dictatorships. The adopted approach uses modern tools of political analysis that provide methodological basis for successfully studying comparative politics and other subjects related to political science and economics.

This course aims at providing the analytical framework for studying the workings of specific political institutions. Therefore, students will be provided with modern theoretical framework for doing research in comparative politics, will learn to apply their skills in practice and have rigorous understanding of main concepts of politics.

MAPPING OF COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES) WITH DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ASSESMENT AND TEACHING METHODS

Course level learning outcomes (objectives)	Degree level learning objectives (Number of LO)	Assessment methods	Teaching methods
CLO1. Understand and define scientific method and scientific study of politics.	ELO1.2.	Midterm test, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO2. Define and use the main analytic concepts of comparative politics and political analysis, solve game-theoretic problems, apply theoretical models to actual cases.	ELO1.1. ELO1.2.	Midterm test, final exam, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO3. Define the concepts of state and politics, understand basic elements of political processes.	ELO1.1. ELO1.2.	Midterm test, final exam, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO4. Understand the structure of different political regimes and their workings and institutions, their main distinctions and similarities.	ELO1.1. ELO1.2.	Midterm test, final exam, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO5. Define and analyze the impact of economic and cultural factors on political processes and policies.	ELO1.1. ELO1.2.	Midterm test, final exam, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO6. Understand and analyze issues of	ELO1.1.	Final exam, case studies,	Lectures, group

collective decision making, social choice theory, principle-agent problem and their implications for democratic politics.	ELO1.2. ELO2.1.	term paper	work, seminars, self-study
CLO7. Explain and evaluate the influence of political institutions on economic policy, economic performance and business environment.	ELO1.1. ELO1.2.	Final exam, case studies, term paper	Lectures, group work, seminars, self-study
CLO8. Compare the political systems of different countries and present the findings in a written output.	ELO4.3.		

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The ISM University of Management and Economics Code of Ethics, including cheating and plagiarism are fully applicable and will be strictly enforced in the course. Academic dishonesty, and cheating can and will lead to a report to the ISM Committee of Ethics. With regard to remote learning, ISM remind students that they are expected to adhere and maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting.

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic	In-class hours	Readings
Introduction Introductory comments. What is science and what is politics? Scientific method, induction vs. deduction. Verification or falsification? The concept of politics. Review of the main concepts of game theory. Exit, voice, loyalty game.	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 19 – 44, 49 – 79 Workshop: game theory in political science
The concept of state What is a state? Contractory and predatory views of the state. Failed states. State of nature and civil society games.	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 87 – 125 Workshop: state of nature and civil society games
Political survival. Dictatorship and democracy: measures. What do politicians seek? Main concepts of the selectorate theory (selectorate, winning coalition, leader, challengers). Political survival. Public vs. private goods. Measuring dictatorship and democracy. Minimal conception of democracy vs. broader definitions. Consolidation of democracy. Regime type measures.	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 143 – 168, 384 – 402 Case study
Economic and cultural determinants of regime type Does economics influence type of political regime? How? Modernization theory. Natural resources, foreign aid, social equality. Civic culture and democracy. Religion and democracy.	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 171 – 209 Case study
Dictatorships Types of dictatorships. Cult of personality. Elections in dictatorships. Survival of dictatorships. Dictatorship party game.	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 349 – 403 Seminar: selectorate theory and dictatorships, life in dictatorships

<p>Transitions to democracy Why do some states undergo regime changes and become democratic instead of remaining authoritarian? Why other countries remain authoritarian? Bottom-up transitions. Collective action theory and tipping models. Top-down transitions.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 265 – 308 <i>Review for the midterm</i>
<p>Forms of democratic government What are the main types of democracies? Relationship between government and legislature. Parliamentary democracies. Model of government formation in parliamentary democracies. Presidential democracies. Semi-presidential governments. Principal-agent problem.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 457 – 525 Case study
<p>Group decision making and democratic elections Group decision making. What is the best way to pick the outcome? Arrow's Impossibility theorem. Majoritarian and proportional representation systems. Mixed electoral systems. Median voter theorem. Spatial model of voting.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 413 – 446, 535 – 598 Case study
<p>Party systems What are parties? Party systems and their origins: economic and social cleavages theories. What are social cleavages? Number of parties.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 603 – 668 Case study
<p>Veto players What are veto players? Veto player theory. Federal states. Bicameralism, its types. Constitutionalism.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 673 – 729 Case study
<p>Political regimes and their effects. Effects of democratic institutions. Performance of dictatorships and democracies. Majoritarian and consensus democracy. Determinants of fiscal policy. Institutions and fiscal policy. Ethnic conflict. Survival in presidential systems.</p>	4	Clark, Golder & Golder pp. 325 – 347, 741 – 826
<p>Wrap up of the course. Overview of the content of the course. Simulation game about political processes.</p>	4	<i>Review for the final examination</i>
	Total: 48 hours	
CONSULTATIONS	6	
FINAL EXAM	2	

FINAL GRADE COMPOSITION

Type of assignment	%
<i>Group Components 0%</i>	



<i>Individual Components 100%</i>	
Case studies (for seminars)	20%
Midterm take-home examination	25%
Final examination	35%
Term paper	20%
Total:	100

DESCRIPTION AND GRADING CRITERIA OF EACH ASSIGNMENT

(Provide short descriptions and grading criteria of each assignment)

Assessment consists of three different elements:

- **Case studies (20%)** covering topics and methods discussed in class.
- **Midterm take-home examination (25%)** covering material learned during the first 5 weeks of the course.
- **Final examination (35%)** covering material learned during the starting with week six weeks of the course.
- **Term paper (20%)** covering topics and methods learned in class.

Case studies will be based on analytical tools discussed during the course and their use in political science. Students will have to demonstrate their understanding on what issues are studied by scientists in topics covered during the course, and how they can be analysed. During the selected seminars students will be provided data on the topic to work with and discuss their findings.

Term paper will relate current political events to theoretical knowledge acquired during the course, and will include empirical analysis of chosen cases.

The midterm take-home examination will ask students to develop hypotheses based on the material from the first five lectures and to illustrate it with empirical examples based on the indexes and variables discussed during the course.

The final examination will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and problem-solving tasks.

Retake policy: If the final grade is negative, the student may be allowed to retake the final examination during the re-sit exam session. The retake will cover all course material, and comprise 60% of the final grade. Case studies and term paper cannot be retaken, but their evaluation is not annulled.

Readings (additional readings are possible during the semester, you will be notified in advance):

Clark, W. R., Golder M., Golder S.N., *Principles of Comparative Politics*, 2nd edition, Sage Publications, 2013



ANNEX

DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives for the Bachelor of Social Science

Programmes:

*Economics and Data Analytics,
Economics and Politics*

Learning Goals	Learning Objectives
Students will be critical thinkers	ELO1.1. Students will be able to understand core concepts and methods in the key economics disciplines
	ELO1.2. Students will be able to identify underlying assumptions and logical consistency of causal statements
Students will have skills to employ economic thought for the common good	ELO2.1. Students will have a keen sense of ethical criteria for practical problem-solving
Students will be technology agile	ELO3.1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in common business software packages
	ELO3.2. Students will be able to make decisions using appropriate IT tools
Students will be effective communicators	ELO4.1. Students will be able to communicate reasonably in different settings according to target audience tasks and situations
	ELO4.2. Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively through an oral presentation
	ELO4.3. Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively in a written paper