

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Comparative Government

Prefix and Course Number: POLS 102

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Be familiar with the basics of political life.
- Recognize the fundamentals of comparative governments.
- Identify the processes and functions in all political systems.
- Demonstrate a greater awareness for problem solving through understanding of differing political institutions.
- Develop adequate arguments in written form.
- Be able to apply concepts to comparative government.

Student Evaluation: Attendance, written exams, and writing assignments.

Course Outline:

I. Concepts and methods in the Study of Comparative Political Systems

A. Tools of Comparative Analysis: The how, what, and why of comparing political systems.

B. Themes for comparing different political systems

1. state and regional organizations
2. democratic, transitional, and nondemocratic political systems
3. developed and developing countries
4. political economic systems
5. politics of collective identity: race, class, ethnicity, gender, religion, nation, and

nationalism

II. Organization of Politics and Society

A. Federal and Unitary Government

B. Political Structures: Executive, Legislative, Judicial Branches

C. Political Institutions: Political Parties and Interest Groups

D. Political Process: Selection of Political Elite

E. Political Behavior: Political Culture

III. Representative Case Studies: The Application of Comparative Political Concepts

A. Countries

1. Great Britain
2. United States
3. France
4. India
5. Germany
6. Brazil
7. Mexico
8. Russia
9. China
10. Nigeria
11. Iran

B. Regional Economic Organizations

1. EU
2. NAFTA

3. ASEAN

Instructional modes used in this course: Lecture, writing assignments, video, and class discussion.