

PSC 2227 Approaches to Comparative Politics

Introduction

Comparative politics is a major sub-area in political science. Developed as a cohesive framework of analysis, comparative political science approach developed in the immediate post-Second World war period in the context of the rise of 'scientific' political science inquiry. Although many of its theoretical assumptions have led to controversies, comparative politics continues to remain an influential branch of the discipline of political science.

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to:

- i. provide students a basic understanding of the scope of comparative politics,
- ii learn the importance of the comparative inquiry in the field of Political Science, and
- iii know the approaches and the key analytical tools in the field of comparative politics.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- i understand the field of comparative politics and its key concepts and approaches, and
- ii apply the comparative perspectives to understand the distinct features in different political systems.

Course Content

1. Introduction

- i. Comparative politics, the field of study.
- ii. Advantages of comparative inquiry.

2. Paradigmatic Search in Comparative study of politics

- i. Paradigms in political analysis and their relevance to the field of Comparative Politics.
- ii. The historical tradition.
- iii. Positivist/'scientific' tradition in Political Science.

3. Major theoretical and conceptual approaches of mainstream comparative politics

- i. Theories of system and state.

- ii. Political culture, political socialization, interest articulation and interest aggregation and political participation.

4. Marxist and Neo-Marxist Approach to Comparative Politics

- i.. Concepts of class, political power and the state in historical contexts.
- ii. The concepts of development, underdevelopment and dependency.
- iii. World system approach – Core and periphery in the world capitalist system.

5. Thematic Country Studies in Comparative Perspective: Separation of powers, presidential systems, federalism, cabinet government in England, USA, Canada, India, China, and Russia.

Scheme of Evaluation

Assignment or Classroom Test	15%
Mid-semester Test	15%
Final Examination	60%
Class Attendance and participation	10%

Recommended Reading

Almond, Gabriel, Powell, G Bingham, Strom, Kaare and Dalton, Russel J (Eds.), 2004, *Comparative Politics Today*, London: Pearson Education Publishers.

Dogan, Mattel and Pelassy, Dominique, 1990, *How to Compare Nations: Strategies in Comparative Politics*, Chatham, NJ: Chatham House.

Frank, Andre Gunder, 1969, *Latin America: Underdevelopment or Revolution?* New York: Monthly Review Press.

Huntington, Samuel, 1991, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*, University of Oklahoma Press.

Ingelhart, R, 1997, *Modernization and post-Modernization,, Cultural, Economic and Political Change*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Pye, Lucien, W, and Verba, Sydney (Eds.), 1965, *Political Culture and Political Development*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Wallerstein, Immanuel, 1974, *The Modern World System*, New York: Academic Press.