

Course Title	LAI204 Comparative Political Issues	Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
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Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	Mondays 14:00~17:00
Track	Global liberal arts	Mode of Instruction	Single
Credits	2	Allocated Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year, Spring
Active Learning	2.3. Presentations, 4.1. Interactive lectures, 4.3. Free discussions, 4.4. Case studies, 4.8. Informal debates, 4.9. Group work on questions, 4.10. Think-pair-share and Think-group-share.	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	This course is an introduction to the study of political systems across the globe. We will explore diverse forms of government, political institutions, ideologies, and challenges faced by nations in the 21st century. By comparing and contrasting political structures and processes, students will gain a deeper understanding of the factors that shape political outcomes and the world we live in.		
Course Objectives	This course will equip students with the ability to identify key concepts in comparative politics, analyze the characteristics of different political systems, and compare and contrast political institutions across various countries. Students will be able to apply comparative frameworks to understand contemporary global challenges and develop critical thinking and communication skills related to contemporary politics through class discussions, research, and written assignments.		
Prerequisite			
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	2	Defining the State and the Origins of Political Organization	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	3	The Nation-State and Contemporary Societies	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	4	Political Economic Systems: Comparing Outcomes	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	5	Democratic Regimes	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	6	Non-Democratic Regimes	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.

	7	Review and Assessment Midterm Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points
	8	Political Violence Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	9	Terrorism and Revolution Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	10	Effective Democracies Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	11	The Transformation of Political Institutions in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	12	Imperialism and Colonialism Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	13	The Challenges of Post-Imperialism and Sustainable Development Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	14	Political, Economic, and Societal Globalization Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	15	Final Review Final Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points.
Grading	In-Class participation: 20% Assignments and presentations: 20% Mid-term examination: 30% Final examination: 30%	
Textbooks	Students will be asked to read sections of the book listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.	

References	O'Neil, Patrick H. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> . 2024 Eighth ed. New York: W.W. Norton and Company
NOTES	To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing the readings before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class. A two-hour preparation and review period is required for each class.