GVPT 459 B: Comparative Political Institutions

This course will provide a general introduction to Comparative Political Institutions. It will explore basic political concepts that relate to issues of representation, elections, and congresses.

Students are expected to do the assigned readings and participate in class discussion. Grades will be based on two in-class exams, participation, presentation of cases, and a short paper discussing Simone de Beauvoir All men are Mortal. Please familiarize yourself with the academic honesty policy of the University of Maryland. Collaborative papers require a joint 10 minute presentation on the last week of classes (only groups of two students are expected to present their work in class). Individual papers do not require a separate presentation.

**Grade:**
- Participation 10%
- First Exam 30%
- Second Exam 40%
- Short Paper 20%
- 100%

**Learning Outcomes:**
- Student will master basic concepts, theories and methods pertaining to the comparative study of political institutions.
- Students will write an original paper on comparative political institutions, seen from a literary viewpoint.
- Students will be able to understand how the study of comparative politics fits within the field of Political Science in general.

**One of these three books:**

(https://www.amazon.com/First-Fifteen-Lives-Harry-August-ebook/dp/B00ECE90D4)


c) Adrian Tchaikovsky. 2016. Children of time. 
Support Book:
Almond, G; Powell, G; Strom, K; Dalton, R. 2011. Comparative Politics Today. Longman. It can be rented for less than U$ 30.

ALL OTHER READING MATERIALS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH CANVAS

SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1, AUGUST 28: REPRESENTATION.**

*Optional:*
Adam Przeworski, Interview in *Passion, Craft and Method*.

**WEEK 2, SEPTEMBER 4 AND 6: STATE FORMATION.**


Case study: England
https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9te2u50pgneidk/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.8.ppt?dl=0

**WEEK 3, SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13: PRESIDENTALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM**


*Optional:*
Philippe Schmitter, Interview in Passion, Craft, and Method.

Case study: Germany
https://www.dropbox.com/s/i58hir9ca0x66c3/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.10.ppt?dl=0

**WEEK 4, SEPTEMBER 18 AND 20: REPRESENTATION II.**


Case study: USA
https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5umj04qde3kanf/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.19.ppt?dl=0
**WEEK 5, SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27: DEMOCRATIZATION I**


Optional:
Guillermo O’Donnell, Interview in Passion, Craft, and Method.

**WEEK 6, OCTOBER 2 AND 4: DEMOCRATIZATION II**


Optional:

**WEEK 7, OCTOBER 9 AND 11: LEGISLATURES.**


Case Study: Argentina

**WEEK 8, OCTOBER 16 AND 18: MOVIE**

The Deal

**WEEK 9: REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAMINATION:**

Review: Tuesday October 23
Midterm: Thursday October 25.

**WEEK 10, OCTOBER 30, NOVEMBER 1: PARTIES.**


Case study: Brazil
https://www.dropbox.com/s/j6hkhl65uyxjld/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.15.ppt?dl=0

**WEEK 11, NOVEMBER 6 AND 8: MOVIE**

Good Bye, Lenin


Case study: Nigeria
https://www.dropbox.com/s/fqlwkgubxpphab/0205109152.Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.18.ppt?dl=0

WEEK 13, NOVEMBER 20: WHY ELECTORAL REFORMS?

Calvo, E. The Competitive Road to Proportional Representation. [EV]

Case study: Chile

WEEK 14, NOVEMBER 27 AND 29: GENDER POLITICS


WEEK 15: REVIEW AND SECOND EXAM

Review: December 4.
Second Exam: December 6.

EXAMS WEEK: Monday December 17
Turn in Final Paper