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 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 Beauvoire 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 this three books:
- Simone de Beauvoire. All Men Are Mortal. W.W. Norton. NY.
- Saramago, José. The gospel according to Jesus Christ. Random House, 1999.

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 READINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH CANVAS
SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, AUGUST 29 AND 31: REPRESENTATION.

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

WEEK 2, SEPTEMBER 5 AND 7: STATE FORMATION.

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

WEEK 3, SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13: PRESIDENTIALISM 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 19 AND 21: REPRESENTATION II.

Case study: USA
https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5umj04qde3kanf/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.19.ppt?dl=0

WEEK 5, SEPTEMBER 26 AND 28: DEMOCRATIZATION I

Optional:
Guillermo O'Donnell, Interview in Passion, Craft, and Method.
**Week 6, October 3 and 5: Democratization II**


Optional:

**Week 7, October 10 and 12: Legislatures.**


Case Study: Argentina

**Week 8, October 17 and 19: Movie**

The Deal

**Week 9: Review and Midterm Examination:**

Review: Tuesday October 24
Midterm: Thursday October 26.

**Week 10, October 31, November 2: Parties.**

Octavio Amorin Neto and Gary W. Cox, 1997.”Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties

Case study: Brazil
https://www.dropbox.com/s/j6hkhkj65uyxjld/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.15.ppt?dl=0

**Week 11, November 7 and 9: Movie**

Good Bye, Lenin

**Week 12, November 14 and 16: De-colonization and Ethnic Cleavages: Tuesday November 10-Thursday November 12.**

Eifert, Benn, Miguel Edward, Daniel N. Posner. 2010. “Political Competition and Ethnic

Case study: Nigeria
https://www.dropbox.com/s/fqlwkgubx4pphab/0205109152_Powell_CPT_10e_Ch.18.ppt?dl=0

WEEK 13, NOVEMBER 21: WHY ELECTORAL REFORMS?

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

Case study: Chile

WEEK 14, NOVEMBER 28 AND 30: GENDER POLITICS


WEEK 15: REVIEW AND SECOND EXAM

Review: December 5.
Second Exam: December 7.

EXAMS WEEK: Monday December 17
Turn in Final Paper