



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	POLI
Course Number:	2
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Comparative Politics
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Political Science
Course Disciplines:	Political Science
Catalog Description:	In this course students will analyze political systems of different countries in a comparative context. Emphasis will be placed on studying the differences and similarities of governmental systems found in developed democratic nation-states. Developing countries, regional systems, and new democracies will also be analyzed to illustrate the complex nature of creating and maintaining a functioning nation-state system.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Political Science C1000 and eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	prior to fall 1992
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences

	Term:	
	Other:	
	IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
	Term:	
	Other:	
	CalGETC:	
	Term:	
	Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Political Systems In a written essay, the students will discuss and critically analyze both differences and similarities found among different political systems as they pertain to the functions that their institutions perform. SLO #2 Institutional Choices In a written essay, students will demonstrate knowledge and analyze the differences between presidential and parliamentary systems and the impact they have on the policymaking process. SLO #3 Democracy In a written essay, students will demonstrate knowledge of and analyze the various concepts of democracy and how these differences impact the system of government.	
Course Objectives:	1. Identify and assess the basic theory of comparative political analysis and the commonly applied methodology. 2. Identify and evaluate the structures and functions common to all political systems. 3. Analyze the geopolitical, cultural, and historical antecedents of nation-states for comparative analysis. 4. Evaluate cultural-political systems in developing non-democratic nation states. 5. Assess procedures used in democratic political systems in the determination of policy and legislation. 6. Evaluate and examine the major institutions that contribute to the political process.	

	7. Describe and analyze the European Union as a model of regional integration. 8. Identify and evaluate current government systems. 9. Distinguish among regime types and their central features. 10. Assess the ways in which political parties, interest groups, and public opinion effect the political process.
Major Topics:	I. Comparative Politics (2 hours, lecture) A. Politics in Global Relations B. Comparative Tools and Methods C. Defining of Basic Terms II. Survey of Comparative Theory (6 hours, lecture) A. Classic Approach: Aristotle's Typology B. Democratic Political Culture and Political Action C. Grand and Mid-Range Theories D. Theory Regarding Regime Stability and Transitions III. Basics of Constitutional Arrangements in a Democratic Government (4 hours, lecture) A. Types of Institutional Structures Necessary for Governmental Functions B. Procedural and Substantive Requirements of Democracy IV. Current Governmental System of Great Britain: Geopolitical, Cultural, and Historical Antecedents (6 hours, lecture) A. Compare to the United States B. Role and Impact of Political Parties and Interest Groups on the Political Process V. Current Governmental System of France: Geopolitical, Cultural, and Historical Antecedents (6 hours, lecture) A. Parliamentary and Presidential Models

	B. Citizen Participation C. Policy Making Progress VI. Current Governmental System of Federal German Republic: Geopolitical, Cultural, and Historical Antecedents (6 hours, lecture) A. Advantages and Disadvantages of Unitary Versus Federal Systems B. Impact of Different Electoral Systems on Party Politics VII. Current Governmental System of Russia: Geopolitical, Cultural, and Historical Antecedents - Problems in Adopting Democratic Forms of Government (6 hours, lecture) A. Political Development in the Post-Soviet Period B. Judicial Development and Rule of Law VIII. Economic and Political Forces That Push Nation States Toward More Regional and Integrative Forms of Government (7 hours, lecture) A. Geopolitical and Historical Antecedents of the European Union B. Current Institutions: Problems and Prospects for Further Integration C. European Union as a Model for Other Attempts at Regional Integration in the Developing World IX. Current Governmental System of China: Geopolitical, Cultural, and Historical Antecedents (7 hours, lecture) A. Role of Political Parties - Interest Groups and Public Opinion on Political Process B. Compare Problems of Non-Democratic Nation States with Problems of Developing Democracies C. Possibility of Democratization X. Latin America (Brazil and Mexico): Transition Towards Democracy (4 hours, lecture) A. Socio-Historical Antecedents B. Consolidation of Political Systems C. Party Systems and Branches of Government
Total Lecture Hours:	54

Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	For decades, political scientist have struggled to accurately define and apply the word democracy to their research, causing it to circulate, “as a debased currency in the political marketplace” and inhibit our understanding of democracies, democratization, and the successes and failures of perceived democratic societies. In their respective articles, Schmitter & Karl (1991), and Collier & Levitsky (1997) attempt to tackle this issue head on. Read their articles What Democracy Is . . . And Is Not (1991) and Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research (1997) and write a four- to six-page paper in which you critically analyze their assertions of what democracy is and how to properly use the word. Be sure to support your claims.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Many political scientists argue that a parliamentary system is preferable to a presidential one. Write a three- to five-page essay that assesses the reasoning behind this conclusion. Defend your analysis by giving specific examples from one or more countries representing each model, such as the British parliamentary system compared to the United States presidential system.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Research a two-party and a multiparty electoral system in at least two of the countries we have studied. In a three- to five-page essay, explain the advantages and disadvantages of each and analyze Duverger's contention that the number of political parties in each is profoundly affected (if not absolutely determined) by the electoral system used in each country.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Term or Other Papers
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl J. Fields, Don Share. Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics, 3rd ed. W. W. Norton & Company, 2024.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	

Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	Political Science C1000
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	This course involves reading college level textbooks and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhance if they have these skills. Students who have taken Political Science C1000 have knowledge of concepts, theories, and functions of the American political system. This gives them a better chance for success in this course. POLI C1000 - Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system. POLI C1000 - Analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups. POLI C1000 - Examine and assess the implementation of democracy, including the different perspectives of elitism, pluralism, and majoritarianism. POLI C1000 - Evaluate and analyze the interdependence of economics and politics.
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English C1000 or qualification by appropriate assessment
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Student's need well-developed reading skills in order to understand and interpret information in their textbooks and writing skills to develop essays and papers. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	

Course Created by:	Helmut Bader
Date:	01/01/1964
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Josh Casper
Date:	09/25/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026
Course Acronym:	POLI
Course Number:	10
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to International Relations
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Political Science
Course Disciplines:	Political Science
Catalog Description:	In this course students will examine the factors that determine the relations between nations and the problems that result from the interplay of these factors. The conditions that can lead to both conflict and cooperation among nations will be examined. Major topics include international security, issues of international political economy, and international organizations. International law and diplomacy are examined as alternative means of resolving conflict.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Political Science C1000 AND eligibility for English C1000 or qualification by appropriate assessment
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
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Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992

Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	prior to fall 1992
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Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Major Theoretical Approaches In a written assignment, students will demonstrate knowledge of the major theoretical approaches to studying international politics including but not limited to: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Feminism, etc. SLO #2 Causes of War In a written assignment, students will discuss and critically analyze the causes of war within the international system of states. SLO #3 International Political Economy In a written assignment, students will discuss and compare and contrast the major theoretical approaches as they pertain to International Political Economy.
Course Objectives:	1. Identify and discuss the major approaches to the understanding and practice of international politics. 2. Describe and examine the principal historical elements that established the framework within which nations now interact with one another. 3. Identify international institutions. 4. Describe the roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors.

	5. Evaluate the major elements of national power. 6. Assess the components of power in selected countries. 7. Analyze the causes of war. 8. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of the principal approaches to maintaining and/or restoring peace among nations. 9. Define and assess significant reasons for conflict. 10. Explain and discuss the role of economic issues in international relations, their impact on diplomacy, war and peace, and their centrality in relations between developed and developing nations.
Major Topics:	I. Introduction (3 hours, lecture) A. Realism and Idealism in International Politics B. The Behavior of Nations and Leaders C. Methods to Maintain and Restore Peace D. Roles of National, International, Transnational, and Sub-National Actors II. Historical Overview (6 hours, lecture) A. European Roots of State System B. Collapse of Europe - World War I C. Origin and Demise of the Cold War III. Nature and Sources of National Power (5 hours, lecture) A. Power, Influence, and Authority B. Characteristics of Power C. National Core Factors 1. Population 2. Natural Resources

- 3. Geography
- 4. Technology
- 5. Economic Structure

D. Political and Military Organization

IV. The Causes of War (4 hours, lecture)

- A. The Level-of-Analysis Approach
- B. How Wars Commence
- C. The Use of Force
- D. Conditions for the Successful Use of Force

V. Approaches to Peace: The Balance of Power and Collective Security (6 hours, lecture)

- A. The Nature and History of Balance of Power System
- B. Strengths and Weaknesses of Balance of Power Systems
- C. The Nature of Collective Security Systems
- D. Problems and Advantages of Collective Security Systems

VI. Approaches to Peace: Arms Control and Disarmament (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Arms Control and Disarmament in History
- B. The Role of Nuclear Weapons - Deterrence and Defense
- C. Theories of Nuclear Deterrence and Defense
- D. Methods of Arms Control
- E. The Logic of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) - The Balance of Terror

VII. Approaches to Peace: International Law and Diplomacy (5 hours, lecture)

- A. The Nature of International Law - Strengths and Weaknesses
- B. World Peace Through World Law
- C. The Nature of Diplomacy
- D. Traditional Versus Modern Diplomacy
- E. The Uses and Limitations of Diplomacy

	VIII. Implementing Means to Peace: International and Regional Organizations (6 hours, lecture) A. The Function of Regional Organizations B. The European Union C. Trade Organizations 1. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) 2. World Trade Organization (WTO) D. International Organizations E. The League of Nations F. The United Nations 1. Role of Peacekeeping and Peacemaking 2. Social and Economic Activities IX. International Trade (3 hours, lecture) A. Free Trade B. Protectionism X. International Financial System (3 hours, lecture) A. Relations within the Developed World B. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank C. The Role of Multinational Corporations D. Relations with the Developing World XI. The Developing World (6 hours, lecture) A. The Impact of Imperialism B. The Cost of Development XII. International Security and Political Economic Issues (4 hour, lecture).
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0

Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the material in your text on International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies in developing countries. Write a three- to five-page essay that assesses whether these policies are successful in promoting development. Defend and justify your conclusions using specific examples.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	It has been argued by Immanuel Kant, among others, that when citizens have a choice about going to war, they will be unlikely to fight. Write a three- to five- page essay explaining why you agree or disagree with this statement. Analyze and discuss the popular reaction in the United States to the preparation and involvement of the United States in either the 1991 Gulf War, the 2001-2002 war on terror, or the 2003 Iraq War.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Research a contemporary international issue of your choice such as the India- Pakistan dispute over Kashmir, the Israeli-Palestinian issue in terms of proposals for Palestinian statehood, or the United States war on terrorism. In a three- to five-page essay, assess and analyze the situation from the perspective of one of the following: a. a systems-level analyst b. a state-level analyst c. an individual-level analyst.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Joshua S. Goldstein, Jon C. Pevehouse. International Relations. 13th ed. Pearson, 2025.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List	

the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	Political Science C1000
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Students who have taken Political Science C1000 have knowledge of concepts, theories, and functions of the American political system. This gives them a better chance for success in this course. POLI C1000 - Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system. POLI C1000 - Analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups. POLI C1000 - Examine and assess the implementation of democracy, including the different perspectives of elitism, pluralism, and majoritarianism. POLI C1000 - Examine and discuss the process of public policy making in relation to international and domestic policy issues.
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English C1000 or qualification by appropriate assessment
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing written assignments, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Students need well-developed reading skill in order to understand and interpret information in their textbooks and writing skills to develop essays and term papers. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Albert S. Karr
Date:	01/01/1964
Original Board Approval Date:	

Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Eduardo Munoz
Date:	09/25/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026