

Comparative Politics B | POU22032

Year	Senior Fresh
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 hours of lectures and 4 hours of tutorials
Pre-requisite	POU11011 & POU11012 or POU11033 & POU11034
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Matthias Dilling
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Module Outline

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Describe and outline issues, concepts and empirical findings in the social-scientific study of comparative politics
- Compare and contrast academic arguments that seek to explain differences in political outcomes across modern democracies
- Critically examine and appraise theoretical insights and empirical evidence to investigate the effects of democracies' structural and institutional differences
- Formulate and defend answers to analytical problems around the nature, institutions, and actors of modern democratic states

Module Learning Aims:

This module aims to empower students to explain, examine, and appraise the foundations of the comparative politics of modern democratic states. It makes particular reference to studies in political science, their research designs and methodology, and the role of constitutional differences, institutional choices, and political actors in contemporary democracies.

Module Content:

The module is an introduction to the study of comparative politics across modern democracies and provides an overview of some of the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and analytical methods of this field of study. We study democratic political systems with a view to understanding and explaining their differences and similarities with respect to their political institutions, the behaviour of their key political actors, and wide range of outcomes.

The module examines the building blocks of the comparative approach and investigates the consequences of different political institutions, with a focus on established democracies.

The module unfolds in three parts. Part I will focus on the constitutional variations across democracies (e.g. majoritarian and consensus democracies, presidential and parliamentary democracies.) Part II will zoom in on some of the key institutions of democratic states (e.g. electoral systems, legislative procedures, executive power, judicial review). Part III will then examine some of the key actors in modern democratic politics (e.g. political parties, interest groups, the media) and end with a discussion of the future of democracy in light of recent challenges and crises.

Assessment

Short Assignment 10%

Essay 25%

90 minute in-person end-of-semester examination 65%

Recommended Reading List

Caramani, Daniele. Ed. 2023. *Comparative Politics* (6th edition). Oxford University Press

Elkins, Zachary et al. 2009. *The Endurance of National Constitutions*. Cambridge University Press

Przeworski, Adam. 2019. *Crises of Democracy*. Cambridge University Press