

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : POLS 322	Course Title : Political Institutions and Culture
Required / Elective : elective	Pre / Co-requisites : n/a
Catalog Description: Analysis of the shaping of political institutions and political culture; cultural processes; cultural patterns; contemporary theories of political culture. Developments and changes in the world; the effects of population, family, socio-economic indicators and urbanization on politics. Universalism and localism; multiculturalism and new political projects.	Textbook / Required Material : reader provided by the instructor
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
Extended Description : Political culture is often and problematically used as a “residual variable” in political science to explain the otherwise unexplained political phenomena. Many studies refer to political culture as an easy means to explain the difference between Western and non-Western societies, and most typically to explain the higher levels of development and democracy in the former, and poverty, authoritarianism, and violence in the latter. The purpose of this class is to provide a different approach to the relationship of culture and politics, and study political culture not as a “variable” but as a context in which political-economic life is situated. The students who take this course will study political culture in order to make sense of the political and economic processes and institutions in different societies, remembering that political culture is not merely a “cause” but a discourse to convey meaning.	
Design content : N/A	Computer usage: required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the cultural context of political-economic institutions and processes in different societies, as well as the political-economic context of cultural phenomena • Develop a critical understanding of the typical approaches to political culture and gain awareness of cultural stereotypes in the world • Compare and contrast Western and non-western societies and political systems, and consider the role of culture in their differences • Use course knowledge to explain the role of culture on the politics and economics of selected countries and deliver class presentations to share their findings with the rest of the class 	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, videotapes/slides	
Assessment methods:	

Class participation: 10%
 Quizzes/Short assignments: 30%
 Take-home essay: 15%
 Final exam: 45%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events		X			
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions			X		
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture			X		
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations			X		
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects			X		
IR6	Understand the international legal framework	X				
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations		X			
PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events				X	
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions				X	
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects		X			
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)		X			
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					X
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought				X	

PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics		X			
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					X
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative		X			
10	Have self-confidence				X	
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					X
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups				X	
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms		X			
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly			X		
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					X
16	Understand, read, and write in English				X	
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					X
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research	X				
19	Understand and interpret statistical data	X				
20	Be prone to team work		X			
21	Possess computer and technological literacy	X				

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading 69 hrs

Lectures 33 hrs

Class discussion 5 hrs

Written assignments 39 hrs

Examinations (Quizzes and midterm) 4 hrs

TOTAL 150 hrs (25X6) 6 ECTS

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