**Course Title:** Comparative Politics  
**Course Number:** PLSC 341  
**Period:** 2018 Spring Semester  
**Time:** Two 1’20” sessions per week (Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:20-3:35 p.m.)  
**Professor:** Claudio Lodici (clodici@luc.edu)  
**Classroom:** Room TBA  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays (by appointment)  
**Recommended:** *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Arend Lijphard, Yale University Press, 1999  

**Course description:** To offer an informative introduction to the complexities of government in some selected countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, regardless of their ideology, size, and economic development. Finally, to provide students with a civic background whatever their academic specialization. This will imply tentative answers to questions such as the purpose of government, the functions of political institutions, and the real actors of political processes in the global era. Constitutions, legislatures, administrations, social forces, interest groups, political parties, and elections will be scrutinized in turn.  

**Course objectives:** By the end of this course students will have an understanding of:  
- Various terms used in comparative political science such as political systems, regimes, governments, states, and ideologies;  
- The major aspects of liberal democratic and non-democratic ideologies;  
- The major political economic features of democratic and authoritarian regimes;  
- The political history, key institutions, political cultures, political parties, interest groups; political issues, cleavages, of the major political conflicts of contemporary political systems;
- Some understanding of the relationship between a) political ideologies and political regimes, and b) political regimes and economic systems in the countries explored in the course;
- Politics as the struggle between freedom and equality.

Course procedure: Students are expected to have completed their reading before the end of the semester. They are also expected to actively participate in all sessions, and their participation will be taken into consideration. Some sessions are in seminar format.

Credits: Three credit hours

Evaluation: Class participation and daily readings. There are 80 points awarded at the discretion of the instructor for attendance, participation (it is not necessary to speak, but it is necessary to be "present"), and questions. Students will be expected to bring to class each Tuesday one question related to the chapter from the McCormick’s text for that week. As you read the chapter[s], there should be something that either is of interest to you or that is not clear to you. The success of this class depends upon the quality of the dialogue in class. It is expected that students will attend every class and that they will be fully prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Class participation grades will reflect their attendance record, the frequency of their contributions to class discussions, and the quality of their questions, observations, and conclusions.

There will be daily readings worth 40 points. Each of the students will report once on a short reading assignment on class days. Students are to read one or two chapter sections summarizing the most significant or revealing points in the day's readings.

There will be a term project worth 200 points. Each student will also write a paper of approximately 3000 words (or about 12 double-spaced typewritten pages) analyzing one aspect of contemporary government in one of the political systems explored. Students should choose their topic in consultation with the instructor. The completed paper will be due by April 12.

The following schedule will be strictly observed:
1. Consultation with the instructor on your research idea (by February 1).
2. A typed project proposal, including the central questions, a plan for research, and a preliminary bibliography (due February 15).
3. A rough draft of the paper (due March 22).
4. A final draft (due April 12).

**Plagiarism:**

Students of this university are called upon to know, to respect, and to practice a high standard of personal honesty. Plagiarism is a serious form of violation of this standard. Plagiarism is the appropriation for gain of ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient public acknowledgement that the material is not one’s own. Plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result in failure and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

**Examinations:**

There will be two examinations (Midterm: essay, with some choice--1 of 3, e.g.; Final: 10 short answer essays). The Midterm exam will be worth 200 points, the final will be worth 400 points. 

**Travel plans or other personal commitments may not interfere with examinations.**

The first exam will cover the first half of the class; the final exam will be cumulative.

Each student will write a book review of approximately 600 words. Students will have the ability to make their own choice as long as the book deals with comparative government. This will be submitted no later than April 5. Each review should include a brief synopsis, followed by the reader’s reaction. What was the author’s point. What did the editor provide. What do you think of the book. What did you learn. What did you like about the book. What didn’t you like about the book. How did the book relate to your understanding of democracy and government today. Why was the assignment worthwhile. Why wasn’t the assignment worthwhile. **THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE WORD PROCESSED, SPELL CHECKED AND PROOF READ.** Failure to follow these directions will result in either a lowered grade or having the assignment returned ungraded to be resubmitted. Late assignments (including those returned for resubmission) may have points deducted for each day late.

Reviews are worth a possible 80 points.
Added together, the total number of points is 1,000.

Please note that there is often, although not always, a positive correlation between class attendance and "participation" and the student's ability to earn a better than average grade.

The grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Pass with credit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum passing grade for a course taken under the Pass/Fail option will be C minus (C-)

I  Incomplete
W  Withdrawal
WF  Withdrawal Failure
C- will be the minimum acceptable grade for university undergraduate requirements, such as the University Core Curriculum and the Values Across the Curriculum requirements.

Grade Tabulation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tem project</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that there is often, although not always, a positive correlation between class attendance and participation and the student's ability to earn a better than average grade.

Grading philosophy: A  Excellent. Indicates the highest level of achievement in the subject and an outstanding level of intellectual initiative.
B Good. Indicates a good level of achievement, intelligent understanding and application of subject matter.
C Satisfactory. Indicates academic work of an acceptable quality and an understanding of the subject matter.
D Poor. Minimum credit. Indicates the lowest passing grade, unsatisfactory work and only the minimum understanding and application.
F Failure. Indicates the lack of even the minimum understanding and application.

Attendance policy: Students are expected to attend each class session unless they have a valid reason for being absent. Students who miss a single class for a medical reason must make a reasonable effort to contact me in advance, and upon return to class, present me with a note which acknowledges that the information provided is accurate.

Two unexcused absences lower the final course grade by 5%. The final course grade will be lowered an additional 2% for each class missed over and above the first three. Arriving late counts as either ¼ or ½ of a missed class.

There are no make-up exams, tests, or quizzes unless students demonstrate in advance that a significant life-event prevents them from attending class or if they have a documented emergency. The following are not acceptable excuses: scheduled flights or trips, job interviews, picking up relatives at the airport, etc.

Attendance and punctuality are basic requirements for an effective course. Beyond that, each person's frequency and quality of contribution to the class discussion will be assessed and reflected in the class participation score. If students cannot attend a class it is a courtesy to inform me in advance if possible.

Disagreement: Political attitudes and opinions tend to reflect one's social background and self-interest, and since we all have different backgrounds and interests there is no reason why we should be expected to agree. A student does not have to agree with the professor to get a grade in this class. It is both legitimate and desirable for you to disagree with me and independently and critically evaluate the material. I will exercise my academic freedom and say what I think is accurate about politics; you have the same right. Political
Science is a way of thinking about politics, not a set of right answers and airing your disagreements is an excellent way to learn how to think. So please, if you feel I am wrong, challenge me. Former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn had two bits of advice for the new members: "Learn to disagree without being disagreeable", and "Don't turn political differences into personal differences".

**Behavior:**

Civility and toleration are essential for an academic atmosphere conducive to learning. **Incivility in the classroom will not be tolerated.** Students should make sure to **turn off cellular phones** and other electronic devices before class. Students are **not allowed to eat, drink, or smoke** in the classrooms.

**Honor Code:**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

**Examinations:**

As stated above, travel plans or other personal commitments may **not** interfere with midterm and final examinations.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**WEEK**

**TOPIC**

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 2-55 *)

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 57-109)*

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p.110-149)*

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p.150-191)*

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 193-247)*

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 248-287)*

**March 1: Midterm examination**

**March 2-11: Spring semester break**

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 248-287)*

   *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 289-341)*

10. March 27-29: Newly Industrializing Countries - India.  
    *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 342-383)*

**March 30 - April 2: Easter recess**

    *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 385-442)*

12. April 10-12: Islamic Countries - Iran.  
    *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 443-494)*

    *(Comparative Politics in Transition, p. 495-548)*

**Sat, Mon-Thu April 21, 23-26 Final examinations**

*Please note that students must complete the reading assignments listed above by Thursday in the current week.*