

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
PLS 140 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Teaches basic concepts and methods of comparative politics. Includes analyses of government and politics in a variety of nations around the world. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The general purpose of Introduction to Comparative Politics is to introduce students to the diverse array of governmental systems in the world. Through an improved understanding of the wide array of governmental systems, students will better appreciate how different governments were formed or are changed, and students will appreciate the variety of different forces that have an impact on governments around the world, such as public opinion, media, political parties, interest groups, protest movements, economics, and international relations. Because the world is always changing, the topics and countries receiving focus may be varied from year to year to take advantage of timely issues in the discipline. This course is intended for transfer students, especially those who are considering majoring in political science. Attention may be given to description of other political science course options and consideration of career possibilities.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Ability to use English language correctly and effectively as reflected in satisfactory scores on appropriate English proficiency examination.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Analyze, compare, and contrast the wide variety of government types throughout the world.
- Compare and contrast non-Western governments.
- Critically analyze all aspects of democracies, and to explain how and why differences develop even within the world of democracies.
- Recognize and display an ability to thoroughly discuss similar factors that impact governments of the world.
- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills used in the discipline.
- Prepare a research paper that critically analyzes important differences across three or more nation-states.
- Think analytically in the discipline.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Introduction to comparative politics.
- b. Issues in comparative politics.
- c. Comparing political systems.
- d. Political culture and socialization.
- e. Interest groups and articulation.
- f. Political parties.
- g. Mass media.
- h. Case studies into selected nations.