

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

Course Description

Teach concepts and methods of comparative politics. Includes empirical analyses of domestic governmental, political, and societal institutions and norms of countries around the world. The assignments in the course require college-level reading fluency and coherent communication through written reports. **This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course.** Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To acquaint students with scientific methods and concepts for the systematic comparison and contrast of different political units, be they national or subnational. Students will learn to place select country, state of the union, metropolitan, or other cases side-by-side, and examine their similarities and differences across an outcome. Emphasis shall be placed upon the constitutional laws and party politics of different nation-states.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite: ENG 111

Course Objectives

Upon course completion, the student will be able to:

- Proceed through the comparative method
- Identify and discuss key comparative concepts
- Explain presidential and parliamentary systems of government
- Discuss the origins and attributes of Anglo-Saxon democracy
- Recognize dictatorship
- Grasp the outlines of comparative law
- Follow transnational politics and ideology

Major Topics

- Variables
- Dictatorship/democracy
- Parliamentary/presidential
- Constitutional law
- Party politics
- Ideology
- Race, class, gender, religion

