

Comparative Politics

Political Science Department
University of California, Irvine
Fall 2008

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and by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of Comparative Politics. The first half of the course offers some basic analytical frameworks—political culture, ideology, state structures, and power—to address a set of questions: Why are some countries rich and others poor? Why does democracy consolidate in some countries and not in others? How does democracy affect growth and stability? Why do some countries achieve nationhood while others collapse under secessionist and ethnic civil wars?

The second half of the course treats diverse regions and countries of the world (France, US, Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, and Venezuela) and provides students with a concrete backdrop to be able to understand and discuss a range of current political events globally.