

POLS 3001 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS

FALL SEMESTER 2012

(1st page of 7 page syllabus)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Thomas E. Rotnem

OFFICE HOURS: TTH, 9:30-12:00

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REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS:

- 1) McCormick, John. 2013. *Comparative Politics in Transition*, 7th ed.
Wadsworth Cengage Learning: Boston, MA. ISBN: 978-1-111-83257-5
- 2) Moreover, at least 15-20 brief newspaper/journal articles will be handed out in class; these should be read and their contents are testable.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Comparative politics involves the systematic study and comparison of the world's political systems. It seeks to explain differences, as well as similarities, among countries. Further, it looks for trends, for changes in patterns, and it tries to develop general propositions or hypotheses to describe or explain these trends.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME STATEMENTS: Students will be able to:

- 1.) Demonstrate the value of comparative study in the evaluation of cross- national political phenomena, institutions, and behavior.
- 2.) Evaluate the major strengths and weaknesses of presidential and parliamentary systems, focusing in particular upon the American and British cases.
- 3.) Understand the important distinctions between the opposing regime types of liberal democracies and totalitarian states, while discussing how the Marxist-Leninist ideology informed the development of the latter regime type.
- 4.) Differentiate between the newly industrializing countries (NICs) and the less developed countries (LDCs), while demonstrating an awareness of the different theories that help explain the developmental progress (or lack thereof) in the economic and political realms of such states.

