Course Outline Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

1. Course Outline Objective

Evaluate the essential parameters around which comparativists analyze differing political systems.

 Student Learning Outcome

Given a set of parameters (or variables) the student should be able to identify the principal parameters around which scholars of comparative politics are accustomed to comparing different national political systems--and be able to evaluate why these variables have enduring and near-universal appeal to comparativists. The student will demonstrate this ability through a written test.

1. Course Outline Objective

Underscore the historical and cultural forces that have shaped the political institutions of the countries studied.

Student Learning Outcome

Through a written test, the student should be able to demonstrate knowledge of Cultural and historical factors that are sometimes thought to produce authoritarian regimes and those that are thought to produce democratic regimes and their corresponding institutions of government.

1. Course Outline Objective

Compare and contrast patterns of state involvement in the economic sector of the political systems examined in the course.

 Student Learning Outcome

The student should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the major components of the political economy (public goods, social expenditures, tax policies, regulation, trade policies, money supply, employment, etc) and the contrasting characteristic approaches by which these components of the political economy are handled respectively by liberal democracies, social democracies, and authoritarian regimes. The student should be able to demonstrate this ability through a written test.