

MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

PSS455: COMPARATIVE POLITICS: CONCEPTS AND PROCESSES

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the basic concepts and categories of politics
2. To enable students to grasp and compare the working of political systems
3. To enable students to understand the significance of comparative methodology
4. To enable students to analyse political structures and forms of governance.

Course Outcomes: The course will enable equip students to –

1. Have clarity in understanding of the political processes in different countries
2. Identify and distinguish the functioning of various political systems
3. Develop a capacity to assess objectively the outputs of political systems
4. Delineate political and social context of politics of various countries.

Block I: Introduction and approaches

- Unit 1 Comparative Politics - Nature and significance
- Unit 2 Systems theory, structural functionalism
- Unit 3 Institutionalism, Political Economy approach
- Unit 4 Constitution and constitutionalism

Block II: Political structures and forms

- Unit 5 Rule making and Rule implementation
- Unit 6 Rule adjudication; Judicial review
- Unit 7 Interest articulation and interest aggregation; Party systems
- Unit 8 Electoral systems and Elections

Block III: Social context of politics

- Unit 9 Political Culture and Political Socialization
- Unit 10 Political modernisation and Political Decay
- Unit 11 Political Development
- Unit 12 Political communication

Block IV: Political process

- Unit 13 Political authority and bureaucracy
- Unit 14 Unitary and Federal government, Local governments
- Unit 15 Legislature and Committee systems
- Unit 16 Lobbying

Basic Reading

1. Almond, G.A., Comparative Politics Today : A World View, 7th edn., New York, London: Harper/Collins, 2000.
2. Blondel, Jean., Comparative Government, London: Prentice Hall, 1995
3. Hague Rod, Harrap Martine and Breslin Shaun., Comparative Government and Politics : An Introduction, Hampshire: Macmillan, 2004
4. O'Neil, Patrick., Essentials of Comparative Politics, New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2004.
5. Newton Kenneth and Van Deth Jan, Comparative Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
6. Ray S.N., Modern Comparative Politics: Approaches, Methods and Issues, New Delhi: Prentice Hall, 1999,

Suggested Reading

1. Bebler, A., and Seroka, J., eds., Contemporary Political Systems Classifications and Typologies, Boulder Colorado, Lynne Rienner, 1990.
2. Chilcote, H. Ronald., Theories of Comparative Politics: The search for a Paradigm Reconsidered, Oxford: Westview Press, 1994.
3. Chandler, J., Local Government in Liberal Democracies : An Introductory Survey, London and New York: Routledge, 1993.
4. Duverger, M., Party Politics and Pressure Groups : A Comparative Introduction, New York: Cornell, 1972.
5. Eisenstadt, S.N., Modernization : Protest and Change, Englewood Cliffs NJ, Prentice Hall, 1966.
6. Easton, D., The Political System : An Inquiry into the State of Political Science, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1953.
7. Finer, H., Theory and Practice of Modern Governments, London: Methuen, 1969.
8. Holland, K., ed., Judicial Activism in A Comparative Perspective, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1991.
9. Jeffery, Haynes., Comparative Politics in a Globalizing World, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005.
10. Judith, Bara ., and Pennington, Mark., eds., Comparative Politics, Los Angeles: Sage, 2009
11. Landman Todd, Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction, London: Routledge, 2000.
12. La Palombara and Weiner, M., eds., Political Parties and Political Development, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966.
13. Michels, R., Political Parties, New York: Free Press, 1962.
14. Pye L.W., and Verba, S., Political Culture and Development, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966.
15. Sartori, G., Parties and Party System : A Framework for Analysis, Cambridge, CUP, 1976.
16. Stephan, A., Arguing Comparative Politics, Oxford: OUP, 2001..