Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP361	Comparative Politics	5	3	3	0	3	4

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Compulsory
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	Comparative politics analyzes political systems across countries, cultures, and historical periods. This course introduces its approaches, methods, and contemporary debates, while training students in the design and conduct of comparative research.
Content	Following a detailed introduction defining comparative politics as a field of political science and outlining its evolution from the behavioralist revolution to the present day, the course will focus on the comparative method. An overview of theories and approaches will be presented, with particular emphasis on neo-institutional theories. Equipped with this methodological and theoretical background, students will conduct a comparative study of political structures, institutions, actors, and processes. Special attention will be paid to the study of democracy and the challenges it currently faces. We will organize a comparative research workshop where students can apply their theoretical knowledge and methodological skills by working in pairs on a project; this project will be carried out in four clearly defined stages and presented to the class at the end of the semester.
References	Peters, B. G. (1998). Comparative Politics: Theory and Methods. Vigour, C. (2005). La comparaison dans les sciences sociales : Pratiques et méthodes. https://doi.org/10.3917/dec.vigou.2005.01 Lijphart, A. (2011). Comparative Politics and Comparative Methods. Morlino, L. (2013). Introduction à la politique comparée. https://doi.org/10.3917/arco.rlino.2013.01 Gazibo, M. & Jenson, J. (2015). La politique comparée. Caramani, D. (dir.) (2020). Comparative Politics. Seiler, D.-L. (dir.) (1994). La politique comparée en question. Sartori, G. (1970). Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. APSR. Beroud (2010). Retour sur quelques enjeux de la politique comparée. RIPC (2014). 20 ans de politique comparée. Kohli et al. (1995). The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics. Hall, P. A., & Taylor, R. C. R. (1996). Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. Gazibo, M. (2002). Le néo-institutionnalisme dans l'analyse comparée des processus de démocratisation. Magni-Berton, R. (2014). La théorie du choix rationnel en politique comparée. Lijphart, A. (2012). Patterns of Democracy. Yale University Press. Norris, P., & Inglehart, R. (2019). Cultural Backlash. Cambridge University Press. Acemoğlu, D. & Robinson, J. A. (2012). Why Nations Fail. Crown. Levitsky, S., & Ziblatt, D. (2018). How Democracies Die. Crown. Ressources numériques : Our World in Data, V-Dem, ParlGov, WVS…

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	General introduction: What is comparative politics? Introduction to key debates
2	The emergence and evolution of the discipline: from the behavioral revolution to the present
3	Research objects and questions in comparative politics
4	Method I – How to compare?
5	Method II – Case selection (MSSD, MDSD, and other models)
6	Method III – Variables, hypotheses, and indicators (online databases)
7	Overview of theories and approaches in comparative politics
8	Focus on neo-institutionalist theories: historical, sociological, and rational choice institutionalism

Week	Weekly Contents
9	Structures and institutions: state, legislatures, governments, electoral systems, etc.
10	Actors and processes: parties, public opinion, political participation, social movements, etc.
11	Problems of democracy: democratization, democratic backsliding, cultural backlash, populism(s), etc.
12	Research workshop – preparation of final presentations
13	Oral presentation of projects
14	Synthesis and perspectives