Department: Political Science  
Course Title: Politics of the Developed World  
Course Number: PS 470  
New: Fall 2002

I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours: An examination of the major political, social, and economic issues facing governments of the developed world. 3 credit hours.

II. Prerequisites: PS 103 (American Political Systems) or PS 104 (Comparative Political Systems).

III. Purpose and Objectives of the Course: To familiarize students with the politics, processes, and policies of developed democracies and to elucidate a set of systematic relationships that may exist between certain social, political, and economic variables in these countries. Topics to be covered will include, though not necessarily limited to, nation-building, parliamentary and presidential government, the role of political parties and interest groups, electoral politics, federalism, and policy-making.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- To attend consistently all scheduled classes, read all assigned materials, maintain a set of systematic class notes, and turn in all assignments on time.
- To participate and to engage actively in class discussion and dialogue with other students and the instructor.
- To take three major examinations (including a final exam), composed primarily of analytic essay questions requiring students to demonstrate both comprehension of and critical synthesis of course material.
- To write a critical literature review of one of the major theoretical debates in comparative politics, to develop a research agenda that would contribute to that debate, and to orally present their ideas to the class.

V. Course Content:

A. Topic 1: Core Concepts – 2 weeks
   - Democracy, liberalism, equality, liberty, etc.
   - Majoritarian and consensus forms of democracy.

B. Topic 2: Historical Foundations – 2 weeks
   - Nationalism, nation building and the nation-state system
   - The historic development of societal cleavages.

C. Topic 3: Political Parties and Elections – 3 weeks
   - Electoral systems, party systems, and internal party organization
D. **Topic 4: Regime Types – 3 weeks**
   – Parliamentary and presidential government, government formation, federalism

E. **Topic 5: Interest Groups – 1 week**
   – Pluralism and corporatism compared

F. **Topic 6: The Welfare State – 1 week**
   – The development, characteristics, and future of the welfare state

G. **Topic 7: Globalization – 2 weeks**
   – Supra-nationalism and theories of international integration
   – The European Union

H. **Student Presentations – 2 weeks**

VI. **Text Books:**


   Additional readings will be placed on reserve or provided via electronic links.

   ***Note: The Gallagher, etal. text is the primary text book for the course.***

VII: **Basis for Student Evaluation:**

   - Two midterm examinations: 30%
   - Literature Review: 10%
   - Written Research Agenda: 20%
   - Oral Presentation: 10%
   - Final Exam: 20%
   - Class Participation: 10%