

Department.: Political Science

Course number: POLS 233W

Title: Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Associate Professor

Catalog Copy: The catalog copy for POLS 233 W is: "POLS233W. Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250." It is a W variant of POLS233 whose catalog copy reads: "A focus on political party and electoral systems around the world, including advanced industrial nations, transitional nations, and less developed nations. Issues such as the relationship between electoral and party systems, democratic reform, voting behavior and organization of political parties are examined."

W Criteria:

a. The focus of the course is on the variety of electoral systems around the world, including advanced industrial nations, transitional nations and less developed nations. Issues such as the relationship between electoral and party systems, democratic reform, voting behavior, strategic voting, campaign coordination, ballot structure, and representation are examined using both traditional and internet sources.

When the course is taught as a W, the class format is a seminar with discussions, a multi-part research paper, and short group research reports. Students are required to write a research paper on a particular country of their choice, which is worth 50% of their final grade, so that students who fail the writing component fail the course. The student cannot pass the course without passing the W component of the course. The paper must be 15-18 pages, and is written in three parts, with 5-6 pages required for each part. The papers must be submitted electronically in draft form. Papers are reviewed, corrected, suggestions made and comments attached to the electronic draft and returned to the student for corrections. Individual meetings will be scheduled with the instructor to clarify any of the suggestions for revisions. All papers must be revised and submitted in final form one week after the initial due date.

Students are expected to correct, return and submit their papers as an integrated whole (electronically and in hard copy) on the last day of class. Students are expected to make brief oral presentations on their findings in class. They must complete a minimum of 15 pages for W credit. Only the final draft is graded.

b. The primary modes of writing instruction will be an initial class discussion, individual conferences with students, and feedback (electronically) on required but not graded first drafts of all three parts of the major paper.

c. All three parts and the final integrated paper will be submitted in draft from at least one week before the final draft is due. The instructor will provide feedback, corrections, commentary, etc., electronically to insure a timely response. For every writing assignment, a draft that will be commented on by the instructor is required.

Role of Grad Students: The department has not relied on graduate students to teach W courses or sections in the past, nor does it intend to do so in the future.

Supplementary Information: None