

POLS90024 Approaches to Comparative Politics

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2010, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: A 2-hour seminar per week. If enrolments exceed 30, the 2nd hour of the seminar may be split into 2 or 3 small classes. Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	Admission to the Master of International Politics, Master of International Relations, Political Science or International Studies Honours, Postgraduate Diploma / Certificate in Arts (Political Science or International Politics) -
Corequisites:	none
Recommended Background Knowledge:	A degree in Political Science or cognate discipline would be a distinct advantage.
Non Allowed Subjects:	none
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Prof Leslie Holmes
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Subject Overview:	The principal aim of this subject is to provide an awareness and advanced critique of the major post-war (WWII) theories, approaches and methodologies in the sub-discipline of political science known as "comparative politics". Methods of comparing very different kinds of political unit are considered. The term unit is broadly understood, to include, for instance, political systems, political ideologies and political cultures.
Objectives:	By the end of the course, students should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # familiar with the main developments in the sub-discipline since 1945. # able to provide a critical overview of each of the discrete developments identified. # capable of deciding which, if any, of the approaches will be of greatest value to them in their own subsequent research or work programs.
Assessment:	5 x 500 word briefing papers, each worth 10% due throughout the semester, and a 2500 word essay worth 50% due at the end of semester.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Bookshop. Either D. Caramani (ed.), Comparative Politics (2008) - an introduction to comparative politics, but one that is suitable at the postgraduate level - for those students with little background in political science Or M. Lichbach & A. Zuckerman (eds.), Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture & Structure (2nd ed.)(2009) - an advanced book, for those who have already studied comparative politics.
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.

Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Research: through competent use of the library and other information sources (inc. online), and the definition of areas of inquiry and methods of research. # Critical Thinking and Analysis: through recommended reading, briefing and essay writing, and seminar discussion, and by determining the strength of an argument. # Thinking in Theoretical Terms: through seminar discussion, essay writing and engagement in the methodologies of the humanities and social sciences. # Thinking Creatively: through essay writing, seminar discussion and presentations, conceptualising theoretical problems, forming judgements and arguments from conflicting evidence and by critical analysis. # Understanding of Social, Ethical and Cultural Context: through the contextualisation of judgements, developing a critical self-awareness, being open to new ideas and possibilities and by constructing an argument. # Communicating Knowledge Intelligibly and Economically: through briefing and essay writing, and seminar discussion. # Written Communication: through briefing and essay preparation and writing. # Oral Presentation: through seminar discussion and informal class presentations. # Time Management and Planning: through managing and organising workloads for recommended reading, essay and assignment completion. # Group Work: through group discussions.
Related Course(s):	Master of International Politics Master of International Relations Master of International Studies
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	International Politics International Politics International Studies Political Science Political Science