



COURSE: Comparative Politics		
DEGREE: International Studies	YEAR: 2015-16	TERM: 1

WEEKLY PLANNING								
WEEK	SESSION	DESCRIPTION	GROUPS (mark X)		Special room for session (computer classroom, audio-visual classroom...)	WEEKLY PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENT		
			LECTURES	SEMINARS		DESCRIPTION	CLASS HOURS	HOMEWORK HOURS (Max. 7h week)
1	1	Introduction to Comparative Politics				History of the field, main research questions and approaches	1,5	6
1	2	Discussion				Example 1: Lipjhart's The Politics of Accomodation. Example 2: Political divergence between the Christian West and the Muslim world (Blaydes & Chaney 2013). Example 3: Civil wars: motive or opportunity? (Collier & Hoeffler / Fearon & Laitin).	1,5	
2	3	The Nature of Comparative Politics: Methodological Issues, 1				Why should we compare? The problem of causality in the social sciences. Observational and experimental studies. Natural experiments.	1,5	6

2	4	Discussion				Discussion of natural experiments	1,5	
3	5	The Nature of Comparative Politics: Methodological Issues, 2				Similarities and differences. The comparative method. Case studies (small-N). Variable studies (large-N).	1,5	6
3	6	Exercise				Research design, case selection	1,5	
4	7	States and Nations				Concept of the state. Theories of state development. Failed states. Legitimacy. Nation. Nationalism. Ethnic diversity and ethnic conflict.	1,5	6
4	8	Discussion				Discussion about readings on nationalism	1,5	
5	9	Political Regimes: Democracies, 1				Normative and positive definitions of democracy. How to measure democracy? Types of democracy. Consociational democracies.	1,5	6
5	10	Exercise				Measurement of democracy: applied cases	1,5	
6	11	Political Regimes: Democracies, 2				Determinants of democracy: economic development, inequality, resources, international system, religion	1,5	6
6	12	Exercise				Large-n analysis: scatterplots, correlations	1,5	
7	13	Political Regimes: Democracies, 3				Transitions and breakdowns	1,5	6
7	14	Exercise				Case studies of transitions and breakdowns	1,5	
8	15	Political Regimes: Dictatorships, 1				The logic of authoritarian rule. Types of dictatorships.	1,5	6
8	16	Exercise				Case studies of authoritarian regimes	1,5	
9	17	Political Regimes: Dictatorships, 2				Institutional politics within dictatorships. The survival of dictatorships.	1,5	6
9	18	Exercise				Large-n analysis: scatterplots, correlations	1,5	
10	19	Constitutional Design, 1				Constitutions. Division of powers, checks and balances.	1,5	6
10	20	Discussion				Readings on constitutions	1,5	
11	21	Constitutional Design, 2				Electoral systems.	1,5	6
11	22	Exercise				Practical exercises of electoral formulas	1,5	
12	23	Constitutional Design, 3				Legislatures. Governments (presidential and parliamentary).	1,5	6
12	24	Exercise				Large-n analysis: scatterplots, correlations	1,5	

13	25	Constitutional Design, 4				The theory of veto players	1,5	6	
13	26	Exercise				Large-n analysis: scatterplots, correlations	1,5		
14	27	The Welfare State				Varieties of welfare states	1,5	6	
14	28	Discussion				Reading on the welfare state	1,5		
Subtotal 1							42	84	
Total 1 (<i>Hours of class plus student homework hours between weeks 1-14</i>)									

15		Tutorials, handing in, etc							
16		Assessment					3		
17									
18									
Subtotal 2							3		
Total 2 (<i>Hours of class plus student homework hours between weeks 15-18</i>)									

TOTAL (<i>Total 1 + Total 2</i>)							150
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	------------