

POU22031 — Comparative Politics A

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU22031</i>
Module Title	<i>Comparative Politics A</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Fresh</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Gail McElroy</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>2 lectures per week, 1 fortnightly tutorial</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	The module is an introduction to the study of comparative politics in modern, industrialised democracies and provides an overview of some of the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and analytical methods of this field of study. We study democratic political systems with a view to understanding and explaining their differences and similarities with respect to their political institutions, the behaviour of their key political actors, and wide range of outcomes.
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to build student's understanding of the basics of comparative politics, research methodology and argumentation in political science, with particular reference to formal institutions in advanced industrialised democracies.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students should be able to: • Describe and assess the study of comparative politics in a systematic, social-scientific way. • Identify interesting research questions in comparative politics. • Describe a variety of democratic political systems • Understand the consequences of the choices surrounding foundational political institutions.

Module Content

	• Understand and contrast different systems of governance, such as presidential vs. parliamentary systems and federal vs. unitary states. • Apply the comparative method to analyse why different countries experience different levels of political stability, economic performance, and/or public policy success.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Caramani, Daniele (2023), <i>Comparative Politics</i> (6th edition). Oxford University Press.

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>Coursework 25%, Exam 65%, Participation 10%</i>
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>