

POU22032— Comparative Politics B

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU22032</i>
Module Title	<i>Comparative Politics B</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 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>2 lectures per week, 1 fortnightly tutorial</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	This module primarily focuses on the political systems of emerging democracies and non-democracies, with a view to understanding and explaining their differences and similarities, the behaviour of key political actors, and their policymaking processes and performance. We particularly examine political regime types (e.g., democracy and authoritarianism), asking why and how authoritarian regimes persist and what the origins of democracy are. Other topics covered in depth include the causes of civil war, ethnic violence, corruption, and economic development.
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 and informal institutions in the developing world.
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 • Examine key issues in the comparative politics of developing countries • Identify interesting research questions in the comparative politics of developing countries



Module Content

	• Describe a variety of non-democratic political systems • Explain the importance of informal institutions
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>POU22031</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>