

Introduction to Comparative Politics (POL 221)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In-person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2:30 PM – 5:20 PM)

Instructor: Hafiz Muhammad Salman Rafi

Description:

Comparative politics is a vast field that attempts to study the domestic politics of nation-states and develop generalizations about key political themes such as democratization, revolution, state and nation formation and the evolution of political institutions. In this course we start by discussing the state of comparative politics within the discipline of political science, comparative research methods, and theoretical approaches used to explain change and stability. To this end, we emphasize cultural and institutional explanations (rational choice and historical institutionalism). The course also deals with the thematic issues of state-building, transitions to democracy, revolutionary change, civil war and insurgency, politics of nation-formation, ethnicity, and state-society relations. To enrich our study of these themes we will examine empirical examples from both the developing and developed parts of the world in class.