



POLI 384 Comparative Political Theory

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Andrew Wender

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:

Contemporary global politics exemplifies the importance of striving to respectfully and meaningfully engage with positions other than our own. This course explores a worldwide range of meanings and manifestations of politics, political life, and corresponding theoretical perspectives. Some questions we will ask are: what does it mean to make comparisons among different embodiments of political thought? What are we comparing, and why? What qualifies, or fails to qualify, on the basis of culture, geography, language or religion, as a 'non-Western' political idea and why? Is it possible to compare ideas about a phenomenon like sovereignty across cultures and traditions? If so, which 'canonical' texts (if any) should we use for comparison?

Prerequisites: One of POLI 103, 202 or permission of the department.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, research, analysis, and argumentation
- Explore and compare political thought across cultures and traditions
- Critically examine the concepts of 'political', 'comparative' and 'thought'

Topics may include:

Global historical and contemporary contexts for politics

Theorizing practices

Alternative understandings of 'the Political'

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.