

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI
2025/2026 SESSION**

POL 414: COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF DEVELOPING AREAS
Three Credit Units

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course explores the politics of developing areas across the globe. Comparative politics is a subfield of political science that examines political systems, institutions, processes, and behavior across different countries to identify patterns, similarities, and differences in their development strides. Examples of these areas include Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. This course will use both theoretical and case studies approaches to study the nature and character of developing areas.

Course Objectives:

The major objectives of this course are;

- i. To understand key political concepts related to developing areas.
- ii. To explore comparative political analysis of developing areas.
- iii. To critically assess the role of globalization, colonialism, and history in shaping political systems.
- iv. To understand issues such as state legitimacy, social movements, democratization, and development in developing areas.
- v. To analyze regional variations in political systems within developing areas.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of this contact, students are expected to develop capacity to answer questions such as;

- i. What is development and what accounts for development?
- ii. Why have some countries transitioned from developing to developed and others remain the same?
- iii. What is the connection between the State, democracy, Leadership and development?
- iv. Students will also understand and explain some political issues within developing areas such as the roles of religion, ethnicity and gender in development.

Assessment

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| i. | Attendance to Class | 10% |
| ii. | Class Participation | 10% |
| iii. | Mid Semester Test | 20% |
| iv. | Final Examination | 60%. |

Contents

Module 1: Introduction and Background to Comparative Politics

Conceptualizing Societies

Historical evolution of societies
Nature of Societies
Meaning and Nature of Politics
Forms of Politics
Defining Comparative Politics
Origin of Comparative Politics
Scope of Comparative Politics
Why Compare Politics?
What do we Compare in Politics?

Module 2: Theories in the Study of Comparative Politics

Modernization Theory
Dependency Theory
Systems Theory
Marxist Theory
Political Economy Theory
Functionalism
Institutional Theory

Module 3: Methods of Comparative Study

Political Systems
Comparing Many Countries
Comparing Few Countries
Single- Country Studies
Difficulties in Comparison

Module 4: Historical evolution of Developing Areas

Pre-Colonial
Colonial
Decolonization
Independence

Module 5: Ideology, Leadership, and Development in Developing Areas

Ideology
Leadership
Democracy and democratization
Governance and Development

Module 6: Comparative Political Institutions

Parliamentary System
Presidential Systems
Advantages and Shortcomings of the Systems
Comparing the Parliamentary and Presidential Systems
Judiciary in Comparative Perspectives

Module 7: Security, Conflict and War in Developing Areas

Causes of conflict and instability in developing areas.

Civil wars, ethnic conflict, and the role of international interventions.

Peace-building and conflict resolution strategies.

Suggested Reading List

Adam Przeworski (2007). Is the Science of Comparative Politics Possible? www.researchgate.net/profile/adamprzeworski/publication/287514283Above Essay is an adaption from:

Henry Tuene & Adam Przeworski (1970). *The knowledge of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York: Wiley Interscience.

Daniele Caramani (2017). *Comparative Politics*. (4th ed.). United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Dirk Berg-Schlosser (2012). *Mixed Methods in Comparative Politics, Principles and Applications*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gabriel Abraham Almond & James Smoot Coleman (2015). *The Politics of Developing Areas*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Goran Hyden (2006). *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hague, Rod & Martin Harrop. (2013). *Comparative Government and Politics - An Introduction*. (9th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Jorgen Rasmussen (2009). *The Process of Politics. A Comparative Approach*. New Jersey: Transaction Publishers.

Kenneth Newton & Jan W. Van Deth (2016). *Foundations of Comparative Politics - Democracies of the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mark Kesselman, et al. (2018). *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*. Australia: Cengage.

Richard A. Joseph (2014). *Democracy & Prebendal Politics in Nigeria – The Rise and Fall of the Second Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Warrds, H. J. (2005). *Comparative Politics: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. London: Routledge.

Gundre Gunder Frank, *The Development of Underdevelopment*.

Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*.

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject (Intro)*.

Samuel Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late 20th Century*.

David Easton, *A Systems Analysis of Political Life* (selected chapters)

Paul Collier, *Wars, Guns, and Votes*.

Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars*.