

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Comparative Politics  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4102IRP** (126590)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Thom Bolland	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4  
**Credit Value:** 20  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 46  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200  
**Private Study:** 154

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Online	2
Seminar	11
Tutorial	11

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	Report AS1 Produce report comparing two political systems with each other. 1,500 words	40	
Essay	AS2	2,500 word essay	60	

### Aims

1. To familiarise students with the key concepts and methods in the subject area of comparative politics.
2. To equip students with essential knowledge about major political systems and

*their national variances.*

3. *To understand the key debates in the discipline of comparative analysis.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and engage with the methods and concepts employed in comparative politics
- 2 Explain the evolution and variances of different political systems from a comparative perspective
- 3 Identify the key debates in the discipline of comparative analysis.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1,500 word report	1	2	3
2,500 word essay	1	2	3

## **Outline Syllabus**

*Topics covered may include the following:*

- *Theoretical approaches to understanding political systems*
- *What is the state? The importance of domestic politics at the international stage*
- *Why compare governments and politics with each other?*
- *Democratic government and politics*
- *Authoritarian government and politics*
- *Somewhere in between democratic and authoritarian rule*
- *Political parties, political culture, the media and participation*
- *Elections and voting*
- *The role of non-state actors in shaping government and politics - Interest groups from corporate to social movements*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures will provide the grounding in the subject, and seminars will provide an opportunity for students to engage in practical exercises and discussion.

## **Notes**

In order to understand how the state engages with other actors at the international level it is essential to understand how the state functions. It is driven both by theory and practical examples. This module examines the various political models and how

they operate in practice. How does China, for example, operate in the space between authoritarian rule and democracy? Does China's political model offer stability and an example for other states to follow? Can a state lose its democratic identity as well as gain one? These are all the kinds of questions that arise when comparing different political systems, states and societies with each other. It also examines the different components to what makes a state or informs a state's culture such as political parties and the media. A skills specific session will be incorporated in this module.