

Course Code	Comparative Political Systems UNYP 77229
Level	Lower-level course in a Bachelor's degree program
Credits	3 semester credits / 6 ECTS
Pre-requisite(s)	C- or better in Introduction to Political Science

Scheduled meetings	45 hours
Average preparation time	105 hours
Total student work time	150 hours

Description

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the study of democratic political systems using comparative methods. This module covers the study of the main characteristics that define the democratic political systems and the different variations that can be found among them. It also makes an analysis of some of the most paradigmatic democratic political systems both in Europe and outside linking institutional developments with socio-political conditions in those societies.

Learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

- understand the basic characteristics of each of the political systems that are studied in the course;
- relate the institutional behaviors and dispositions with political, historical or social developments in each country;
- compare and critically assess the same kind of institutions from different countries and draw conclusions about their common and dissimilar features;
- critically analyze any given political system in the world in the light of its institutional and other societal developments relating it to countries studied in the course;
- be able to relate current political events to the particularities of the political systems of the countries involved;
- develop a critical attitude and an ethical position towards the different kinds of political systems that exist.

Study literature

Gregory S. Mahler, *Comparative Politics; An Institutional and Cross-National Approach*, fourth edition (Upper Saddle River, Prentice Hall, 2003).

Gabriel Almond, Bingham Powell and others, *Comparative Politics Today, A World View* (London: Longman, 2003).

Additional readings available on UNYP E-Learn or in the UNYP Library.

All courses are taught in English, with the exception of language courses. UNYP's 3-year and 4-year Bachelor's programs are accredited by the Czech Accreditation Commission, a part of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and lead to the award of a *bakalář* (Bachelor's) degree. UNYP's 3-year Bachelor's of Business degree is also accredited by the the U.S.-based International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), a CHEA-recognized accreditor.