

Fall 2020

**POLS 250 Introduction to the Study of Government Systems**

Prerequisites: None

Have you wondered why liberals and conservatives are so deeply divided on issues, why the president is such a powerful political figure in the United States, while the monarch in the United Kingdom is not? Why women fare, in general, better in China than in India, or why, following mass upheavals, democracy was established in 1989 in Eastern Europe, but not in the Middle East? POLS 250 is a course accessible to anyone trying to make sense, with a critical and objective eye, of their political surroundings (internal and international), teaching the basics of politics that equip the student with the necessary background knowledge for more advanced courses in political science and other disciplines. We learn about politics and what it means for different people around the world, about political ideologies and movements, political systems and institutions (e.g. elections and party systems), democracy vs. autocracy, developed and developing countries, etc. Comparing the American political system to those of other countries in the world provides the student not just with an essential learning tool (we learn by comparing), but also with a broadened view on politics and things political.

