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Pols 570: Comparative Politics

This course exposes graduate students to major trends in the study of comparative politics, particularly its theoretical and methodological foundations. Over the course of the semester, the seminar will address a wide range of questions and issues. Since it is intended to be an introduction to the subfield, the material covered is by necessity quite broad in age, methods, and scope. Students will engage in debates about the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies, as well as the validity and generalizability of various hypotheses and theories. Despite a conscious attempt to cover a wide array of topics, students should be aware that the readings are merely samplings of rich research traditions. Each book or article gives only a taste of what comparativists (political scientists who study comparative politics) do. So while the reading load for this course is substantial, the seminar itself is only the first step toward acquiring the knowledge necessary for taking a qualifying examination in Comparative Politics. The department offers a number of additional courses that provide the kinds of depth that an introductory seminar must forego. Still, I made an effort to draw on the subfield's most recent master syllabus when constructing the syllabus for this seminar. If you adequately fulfill your responsibilities in this class (and other classes), then you can be confident that your initial footing in the field will be solid.

In addition to preparing advanced students for the comparative prelim exams, due to its broad scope of this class, this course will also be of students in other fields, particularly those interested in institutions, comparative methods or policies.

Required Texts: Like the reading load for the course, the cost of required books for this seminar is considerable. Nevertheless, the cost should be viewed as an investment. These are either classic works in the subfield or excellent examples of comparative politics research. You can expect to read many of them over and over during the course of your academic career (e.g., as you write papers for other courses, as you prepare for your comprehensive exams, as you write your dissertation, or as you prepare lectures for your own classes).

1. Munck, Gerardo and Richard Snyder. 2007. eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
2. Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, University of Michigan Press,
3. Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University Press
4. Linz, Juan. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers
5. Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Beacon Press
6. Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press

7. Bunce and Wolchik. 2011. *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries*. Cambridge University Press. *This book was not ordered thru UIC bookstore but is available thru multiple online retailers, including as a kindle book.*

Additional **required** readings, marked with * are available through Blackboard (unless noted otherwise). In many cases, the articles and chapters complement the assigned books. For example, they may introduce a new perspective on the topic being covered with the ideas themselves often subsequently receiving book-length treatment.

Finally, each topic has a selection of suggested additional readings, which either complement the required texts or offer an alternative perspective. Readings for book reviews will be drawn from the suggested readings.

Course Requirements:

Weekly attendance and participation: 15%.

The seminar should be viewed as an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among scholars. We will discuss and evaluate the ideas and concepts presented in the weekly readings. Since students are expected to be able to critically assess the assigned readings, everyone should be able to contribute to the discussion.

Any absence requires an explanation. More than one unexcused absence will likely result in a zero for this component of the course grade.

Short Papers: 15%

Each week after week 2 (weeks 3-13) 1-2 students (depending on final class enrollment) will serve as discussion leaders. To prepare for this role, each discussion leader will write a short paper around 1500 words (4-5 double-spaced pages) paper on the week's readings (excluding *Passion, Craft and Method*). The paper should serve as a spring-board for the week's discussion and should address questions such as

What are the central issues at stake in the readings?

What are the principal arguments of the works under study?

How does each relate to the debates in the field?

What are the main theoretical or empirical strengths or weakness of each?

How valuable and viable is the theory or argument that each proposes?

How effectively is evidence marshaled in support of the argument?

Which scholarly disputes have been resolved?

What good further work lies ahead?

Short papers are due via Turnitin.com by 10:00am the day before class (i.e. each Tuesday before a class meeting). These papers will be graded on an A-F scale. *Instructions and password for Turnitin.com will be provided during the second week of the semester.*

In addition to submitting a short paper on the readings, to prepare for discussion, each leader should submit **3-4 discussion questions** based on the week's readings. Those are due via email to the instructor, also by **10:00am** on the day before class.

Critical Reaction Papers: 30%

This course requires active contributions by each student. To facilitate discussion, for each week, starting with week 2, each student, except the discussion leaders, will write a concise up to **600-650 words (two double-spaced pages)** critical reaction paper. Papers should be sent via Turnitin.com by **10:00am** the day before class (i.e. each Tuesday before a class meeting). In these reaction papers students are expected to critically assess the assigned readings. This means you should move beyond the description of main arguments and identify and evaluate the assumptions behind them. Through this approach and papers you will not only become familiar with the main ideas shaping the theoretical debates in the field but will also develop your own research questions. You will not receive a letter grade for this assignment. I will read each critical paper, note any obvious mistakes, and check it with '+' excellent, '√' satisfactory, or '-' for poor quality.

Book Review: 5%

To broaden the scope of readings covered in this course students are required to read one of the books listed under suggested readings. You will be given 20 minutes of class time to present a critical assessment of the book's contents, emphasizing those parts that relate to the general topic for the week. Basically, your review should identify the assumptions or arguments presented by the book, provide your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the methods and conclusions and identify your position in relation to the author(s)'s. Each book review should be around **800-900 words (3 double-spaced pages)** long. Book reviews are due via Turnitin.com by **10:00am** on the day when class meets, i.e. each Wednesday. I will read each book review, note any obvious mistakes, and check it with '+' excellent, '√' satisfactory, or '-' for poor quality. Book reviews will start after week 2.

Final Paper: 35%

Each student is expected to write a final paper the end of the semester. The paper should have the following components: (1) research question, (2) literature review of the topic of your choice (addressing the research question), culminating in a set of hypotheses/theoretical propositions drawn from the existing scholarly literature, (3) research design section addressing how you propose to answer the research question, including suggested methodology, and proposed/suggested data for addressing the question.

I understand that many of you are in your first year as Ph.D. students and/or have not yet taken the research design and methods class. Therefore, I am not asking you to produce a full research paper, complete with data analysis. I do, however, expect that by this end of this seminar you will be able to (1) identify and select a research question related to the seminar's topics; (2) review and summarize the existing scholarly literature pertaining to the selected research question; (3) generate testable hypotheses based on the literature review; and (4) come up with ideas/suggestions as what kind of data you will need to 'test' your hypotheses and address the research question you have selected.

To give you an early start all students are expected to provide their paper topic and a short bibliography by **Oct 9**. Students will be asked to share their paper topics in class. To give you some practice in sharing your work with others, you will present a draft of your papers during the final class periods on **Nov 27 and Dec 4**. I will randomly assign the date of your draft paper presentation. Hard copies of draft papers are due to the instructor by **11:00am** on the day of your presentation in 1118BSB. After the presentation, I will provide written feedback to your paper and suggestions of how to improve it. Based on this feedback, the discussion in class and questions from your colleagues, you will be able to revise your paper and produce a final version. Final papers should be around **3500-4000 words long** and are due via Turnitin.com by **2:00pm on Dec 11** with a hard copy in 1118BSB. Final papers must follow the APSA style of citation and referencing and will be graded on an A-F scale.

The papers written for this class may not substantially duplicate a paper you have written for another class.

Please be sure to observe the word limitation for each assignment. There will be many instances in your careers where you will be confined to a limited amount of space, and being forced to use space wisely often improves one's writing.

Turning late assignments is not acceptable. If for some reason a paper is turned in after the cut-off point, the student will be required to write on an additional work of my choosing and the average grade across the two papers will receive a 10% penalty.

Incompletes will not be allowed for this class unless for a documented medical emergency resulting in hospitalization of the enrolled student.

Academic Integrity Policy

A student who submits work, at any stage of the writing process, which in whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without acknowledgment (quotation marks, citation, etc.) has plagiarized. Maintain your integrity when completing assignments and be overzealous to give credit where it is due. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including a failing grade on a particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the university. In cases of academic dishonesty, my policy is to file a complaint with the Office of the Dean of Students. For more information about violating academic integrity and its consequences, consult the website of the UIC Office of the Dean of Students at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>

*****I reserve the right to change the course schedule and readings with sufficient notice. No change in the type of assignments will be made*****

Course Outline

Week 1 Aug 28: introduction

Week 2 Sept 4 Comparative Politics as a subfield

- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, University of Michigan Press, pp. 1-27.

Robert H. Bates: Markets, Politics, and Choice” in *Passion, Craft, and Method*

- Snyder, Richard “The Human Dimension of Comparative Research.” in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*.

- Munck, Gerardo L. “The Past and Present of Comparative Politics.” in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

* Blondel, Jean. 1999. “Then and Now: Comparative Politics,” *Political Studies*, 47(1): 152-160

* Bates, Robert H. 1997. “Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 166-9.

* Johnson, C. 1997. “Preconception vs. Observation, or the Contributions of Rational Choice Theory and Area Studies to Contemporary Political Science.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 170-4.

Suggested Readings

Almond, Gabriel A. 1990. *A Discipline Divided*, Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications

Crotty, William. 1991. (ed.), *Political Science: Looking to the Future*, Vol.2 on Comparative Politics, Policy and International Relations, Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press

Week 3 Sept 11 Conceptualization in Comparative Politics

- David Collier “Critical Junctures, Concepts, and Methods” in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*.

- Phillippe C. Schmitter “Corporatism, Democracy, and Conceptual Traveling” in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*

* Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. “Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics.” *American Political Science Review* 64(4): 1033-53

* Collier, David and James E. Mahon. 1993. “Conceptual „Stretching“ Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis.” *American Political Science Review* 87(4): 845-55

* Collier, David, and Robert Adcock. 1999. “Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices about Concepts.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 537-65

* Bevir, Mark and Asaf Kedar. 2008. “Concept Formation in Political Science: An Anti-Naturalist Critique of Qualitative Methodology.” *Perspectives on Politics*. 6(3): 503-17

Suggested Readings

Wilson, Frank. 2002. *Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Comparative Analysis*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall

Week 4 Sept 18: Strategies of Comparative Inquiry

- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 27-174.

- * Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-93
- * Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94(2): 251-267
- * Sartori, Giovanni. 1991. "Comparing and Miscomparing", *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 3(3): 243-256.
- * Snyder, Richard. 2001. "Scaling Down: The Subnational Comparative Method." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 93-110
- * Lieberman, E. S. 2005. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research." *American Political Science Review* 99 (3): 435-452
- * Coppedge, Michael. 1999. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* 31(4): 465-476

Suggested Readings

- Dogan, Mattei and Ali Kazancigli. 1994. *Comparing Nations: Concepts, Strategies, Substance*. Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Peters, B. Guy. 1998. *Comparative Politics: Theory and Methods*. New York: New York University Press.
- Dankwart, A. Rustow and Kenneth Paul Erickson. 1991. (eds.). *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, New York: Harper Collins.
- * Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. 1970. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. Wiley-Interscience, pp. 17-46.
- * Ragin, Charles and David Zaret. 1983. "Theory and Method in Comparative Research: Two Strategies", *Social Forces*, 61(3): 731-754.
- * Locke, R. M. and K. Thelen. 1995. "Apples and Oranges Revisited: Contextualized Comparison and the Study of Comparative Labor Politics" *Politics and Society* 23: 337-367.

Week 5 Sept 25 Coming up with Research Questions; puzzle solving

- Bunce and Wolchik, *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries*

- * Grofman, Bernard. 2001. "Introduction: The Joy of Puzzle Solving." In *Political Science as Puzzle Solving*, Bernard Grofman (ed). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 1-11. *Will be posted on Blackboard at a later date.*
- * Golden, Miriam. 2001. "Why Do Trade Unions Call Strikes That Seem Sure to Fail?" In *Political Science as Puzzle Solving*, Bernard Grofman (ed). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 43-63 *Will be posted on Blackboard at a later date.*

Suggested Readings

Wedeen, Lisa. 2008. *Peripheral Visions: Publics, Power, and Performance in Yemen*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Week 6 Oct 2 Rational Choice

- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 175-212.

- * Bates, Robert. 1997. "Comparative Politics and Rational Choice: A Review Essay," *American Political Science Review*, 91: 699-704.
- * Levi, Margaret. 1997. "A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis", in Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, Cambridge, pp. 19-41
- * Popkin, Samuel L. 1988. "Public Choice and Peasant Organization," in Robert H. Bates (ed.), *Toward a Political Economy of Development: A Rational Choice Perspective*. University of California Press, pp. 245-71.
- * Ostrom, Elinor. 1991. Rational Choice Theory and Institutional Analysis: Toward Complementarity. *American Political Science Review* 85(1) March 237-243

Suggested Readings

- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press
- Tsebelis, George. 1990. *Nested Games: Rational Choice in Comparative Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Green, Donald P. and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Week 7 Oct 9 Institutional Approach

- * March, James and Johan Olsen. 1984. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life". *American Political Science Review* 78(3): 734-749
- * Thelen, Kathleen and Sven Steinmo. 1992. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics". In Steinmo, Sven, et al (eds.) *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press, pp: 1-32.
- * Hall, Peter A. and C.R. Taylor Rosemary. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," *Political Studies*, 44(4): 936-957.
- * Diermeier, Daniel and Krehbiel, Keith. 2003. "Institutionalism as a Methodology." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(2): 123-144
- * Immergut, Ellen and Anderson Karen. 2008. "Historical Institutionalism and West European Politics," *West European Politics* 31(1-2): 345-369
- * Remmer, Karen L. 1997. Theoretical Decay and Theoretical Development: The Resurgence of Institutional Analysis. *World Politics* 50(1) 34-61.

Suggested Readings

- Steinmo, Sven, et al (eds.). 1992. *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gordon Smith and Moisés Naím. 2000. *Altered States : Globalization, Sovereignty, and Governance*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.

Week 8 Oct 16 Culturalist Approach

- David D. Laitin. "Culture, Rationality, and the Search for Discipline" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*

- * Wilson, Richard W. 2000. "The Many Voices of Political Culture: Assessing Different Approaches," *World Politics*, 52(2): 246-273.

- * Eckstein, Harry. 1988. "A Culturalist Theory of Political Change." *American Political Science Review* 82(3): 789-804
- * Lane, Ruth. 1992. "Political Culture: Residual Category or General Theory?" *Comparative Political Studies* 25(3): 362-87
- * Fearon, James and David Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90(4): 715-35
- * Lyall, Jason. 2010. "Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechen War." *American Political Science Review* 104 (1): 1-20.

Suggested Readings

- Anthony W. Marx. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa, and Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics
- Lane, Jan-Erik. 2002. *Culture and Politics: A Comparative Approach*, Aldershot.
- Bowen John R. and Petersen Roger. 1999. *Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- * Ross, Marc Howard. 1997. "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis", in Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 42-81.

Week 9 Oct 23 Modernization and Development

- Samuel P. Huntington. "Order and Conflict in Global Perspective" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University Press

Suggested Readings

- Collier, P. 2007. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What can be Done about it*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Seligson, M. A. and J. T. Passé-Smith. 2003. *Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers

Week 10 Oct 30 Authoritarian States

- Linz, Juan J. "Political Regimes and the Quest for Knowledge" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*.
- Linz, Juan. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers

- * Gandhi, J. and A. Przeworski. 2007. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40(11): 1279-1301.

Suggested Readings

- Brownlee, J. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schedler, A. Ed. 2006. *Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Week 11 Nov 6 Transitions, Revolutions and Political Change

- Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Beacon Press

- Moore, Barrington. "The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*

*Timur Kuran. 1991. "Liberalization and Democratization in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics*. 44(1), pp. 7-48. Available thru UIC library but not downloadable. Read online thru UIC library, not on Blackboard. I will try to print and scan later in the semester.

* Beissinger, Mark R. 2007. "Structure and Example in Modular Political Phenomena: The Diffusion of Bulldozer/Rose/Orange/Tulip Revolutions." *Perspectives on Politics* 5(2): 259-76

Suggested Readings

O'Donnell, Guillermo, Philippe C. Schmitter and Laurence Whitehead (eds). 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore, Maryland; Johns Hopkins University Press.

Linz, Juan and Albert Stepan. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Week 12 Nov 13 Democratic States

Dahl, Robert. 2007. "Normative Theory, Empirical Research and Democracy" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 113-149.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press

* Schedler, A. 2001. "Measuring Democratic Consolidation." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 66-92

* Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, with David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Steven Fish, Allen Hicken, Matthew Kroenig, Staffan I. Lindberg, Kelly McMann, Pamela Paxton, Holli A. Semetko, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, and Jan Teorell. 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 9(2): 247-267.

* Muller, Edward N. and Mitchell A. Seligson. 1994. "Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships." *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 635-52

Suggested Readings

Diamond, Larry. 1999. *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation*. Baltimore, Maryland; Johns Hopkins University Press.

Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Soberg Shugart, (eds). 1997. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Week 13 Nov 20 Institutions and Change

Lijphart, Arend. "Political Institutions, Divided Societies, and Consociational Democracy" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*

Alfred Stepan: Democratic Governance and the Craft of Case-Based Research"

in Passion, Craft, and Method

- *Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies." *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 96-109
- * Stepan, Alfred and Cindy Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism Versus Presidentialism." *World Politics* 46: 1-22
- * Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2): 198-228
- * Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decisionmaking in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* 25(3): 289-325
- * Mahoney, James and Kathleen Thelen. 2010. "A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change." In *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power*, James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen (eds). New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-37 *will be posted on Blackboard later in the semester.*
- * Reenock. Christopher, Jeffrey K. Staton, and Marius Radean. 2013. "Legal Institutions and Democratic Survival." *The Journal of Politics* 75(2): 491-505

Suggested Readings:

- Cox, G. W. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Przeworski, A., S. C. Stokes, and B. Manin. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Week 14 Nov 27 Presentations of draft final papers: group 1

Week 15 Dec 4 Presentations of draft final papers: group 2