

POLS 2110
Brown University
Spring 2011
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POLS 2110 PRO-SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Course Description: Called a field seminar in many departments of the country, this is a survey course. Its purpose is to introduce the key theoretical and conceptual materials in comparative politics since the birth of the field. The course proceeds thematically. Readings cover the classics as well as major works of a more recent vintage. Each week participants discuss a subset of the relevant scholarly literature. Two further points ought to be noted.

- Although this course stresses empirical political analysis, normative concerns do inform the questions to which we seek answers. For example, although we usually normatively privilege democratic participation, representation, and accountability over political order, in many parts of the world lack of personal security effectively debars well-being and expansion of choice unless order is established. We do not engage in primarily normative debates in this class, but normative concerns, wherever necessary, will be kept in mind.
- Key methodological issues will be addressed in context. Careful attention to research design and method is important for ensuring that our normative predilections do not bias the answers we offer to questions. A number of methodological issues will arise throughout the course, even though research design is not a principal focus of our inquiry in this class. Appropriate research designs and theoretical and empirical methods can vary across substantive applications, and we will address these considerations, whenever required.

Requirements: Students must complete all the assigned reading for classes and attend and contribute to seminar discussions each week. **In addition, each student will write three 8-page papers (typed, double-spaced) and make three presentations to the class based on them. Papers must be submitted electronically to the instructor 24 hours ahead of the class, and a brief 2-3 page summary of the paper is to be circulated to class electronically by 9 am on Wednesdays. Students should give me five paper preferences for papers by the second Tuesday of class. The instructor will try his best to select three out of five preferences for each student.**

The object of the papers is to concentrate on the following questions:

1. What is the central thesis of the reading/author?
2. What logic or evidence is presented in support of the central argument?
3. How does the key argument relate to other readings of the week, or those of preceding weeks?
4. Does the central thesis appear to be correct? What possible criticisms can be made?

Grading: Grades will be based 25% on class participation and 25% on each of the three papers. Please note how heavy the participatory component is. Silence is entirely to be discouraged. Speaking only when you are absolutely sure to be right is the wrong way to proceed. A creative and imaginative idea circling in your head, even when you are not sure you are right, is worth articulating. The world of knowledge often advances with “conjectures and refutations”. You will not be judged in this class by how right you are, but by the quality of your argumentation even when you are wrong.

This course is designed in part to help prepare students for the comparative politics comprehensive examination. Students should also attend the CCR seminar talks at the Watson Institute. The CCR seminar series is a leading forum for discussion of cutting-edge comparative research in the country. It will give you a sense of what the leading or rising scholars are thinking about.

Course Materials:

All assigned and some recommended readings have been, or are being, placed on regular or electronic reserve at Rockefeller Library. **The OCRA course password is: comparative** The following books are available for purchase at the Brown University Bookstore:

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso, 2006)
 Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Beacon, 1966)
 Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies* (California, 1981)
 Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton, 1993)
 Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China* (Cambridge, 1979)
 Adam Przeworski et al, *Democracy and Development* (Cambridge, 2000)
 Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies* (Yale, 1977)
 Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship* (Cambridge, 2006)
 James Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant* (Yale, 1976)
 Charles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

Recommended

Gerardo Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics* (Hopkins, 2007).

(A most thoughtful intellectual biography of some major scholars whose works you will read: Barrington Moore, Samuel Huntington, Robert Dahl, Arend Lijphart, James Scott, Alfred Stepan, Adam Przeworski, Robert Bates, David Laitin, Theda Skocpol.)

READINGS

WEEK I (January 26). INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

WEEK II (February 2). MAKING NATIONS

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of*

Nationalism. London: Verso, 1991 (also a Cornell University Press Publication), Chs. 1-3, 5-6, pp. 1-46, 67-112.

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, Oxford : Blackwell, 1983, Chs. 1-6, pp. 1-87.

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837* (Yale University Press, 1992), pp. 1-145.

Clifford Geertz, "The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States," in Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*.

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (California, 1985), ch. 1.

Recommended: (If BOOKS ARE ON THE RECOMMENDED LIST IN THIS CLASS, ONLY THE INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION ARE TO BE READ....UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE)

Eugene Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen* (Stanford, 1976)

WEEK III. Feb. 9. MAKING STATES

Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital and European States* (Blackwell, 1990), chap. 1, "Cities and States in World History;" chap. 3, "How War Made States, and Vice Versa" (OCRA, under chapter titles)

*Thomas Ertman, *Birth of the Leviathan* (Cambridge, 1997), Ch. 1 (1-34), and Ch. 7 (317-24).

Hendrik Spruyt, "War, Trade and State Formation", in *Oxford Handbook*, 211-235,.

*Jeffrey Herbst. "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14 (Spring 1990), pp. 117-39.

Peter Evans, "The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization," *World Politics* 50, 1 (October, 1997): 62-87.

*Peter B. Evans, "Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State," *Sociological Forum* 4 (1989): 561-587.

James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (Yale, 1998), chap. 1.

Recommended:

Margaret Levi, *Of Rule and Revenue* (1988), chap. 2

Catherine Boone, *Political Topographies of the African State: Rural Authority and Institutional Choice* (2003)

Alfred Stepan, *State and Society: Peru in Comparative Perspective*

Stephen Krasner, "Approaches to the State: Alternative Conceptions and Historical Dynamics,"

(Review Article) *Comparative Politics*, January, 1984, pp. 223-245.

Slater, Dan, "Can Leviathan be a Democrat? Competitive Elections, Robust Mass Politics, and State Infrastructural Power." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43:4 (December 2008), pp. 252-272.

WEEK 4. Feb. 16. MAKING DEMOCRACY

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (Yale 1971), Chs 1-2, pp. 1-32.

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Beacon, 1966), Ch. 7-9, 413-483..

*Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), chapters 2-3 (pp. 15-87).

*Adam Przeworski, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, *Democracy and Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, Ch 2, 78-137.

Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968), pp. 1-92.

*Ashutosh Varshney, "Why Democracy Survives", *Journal of Democracy*, July 1997.

WEEK 5. Feb 23. MAKING DEVELOPMENT

*Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Harvard, 1965), Ch. 1, pp. 5-30. (OCRA)

Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies* (Univ. of California, 1981), chaps. 1, 5-8.

Adam Przeworski, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, *Democracy and Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, ch 3, 142-179.

*Atul Kohli, "Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come from?" , *World Development*, pp. 93-136)

Haggard et al. "Japanese colonialism and Korean development: A critique", *World Development*, June 1997.

*Yasheng Huang, *Capitalism With Chinese Characteristics* (Cambridge, 2008), Ch. 5, 233-298.

WEEK 6. March 2. COLLECTIVE ACTION I: REVOLUTIONS, RESISTANCE AND MOVEMENTS

Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action :Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* (Harvard, 1971), pages to be assigned.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France Russia, and China* (Cambridge, 1979), chap. 1 and conclusion. 1-43, 284-293.

James Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant*, Yale U Press, 1976), 1-34, SKIM 35-55.

Samuel Popkin, *The Rational Peasant*, U of California Press, pp. 1-31.

*James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak*, Yale, 1985, pp. 28-47.

*Kevin O'Brien, "Rightful Resistance," *World Politics* 49 (1) (1996): 31-55

*Tarrow, Sidney, *Power in Movement* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 9-27; 62-78

WEEK 7. March 9. COLLECTIVE ACTION II: ETHNIC CONFLICT AND CIVIL WAR

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict" in C. Boix and S. Stokes, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics (Oxford Handbook hereafter, Oxford 2007).*, 274-294.

Ashutosh Varshney, "Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Rationality", *Perspectives on Politics*, March 2003, 84-99.

*James Fearon and David Laitin, "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation", *American Political Science Review*, December 1996, pp. 715-735.

Stathis Kalyvas, "Civil Wars", in Boix and Stokes, *Oxford Handbook*, 416-434.

*Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* (Cambridge U Press, 2006), pp. 1-31, 388-392.

*Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, "Greed and Grievance in Civil War", *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 26, 2004, pp. 563-595.

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War". *APSR*, Vol. 97, no. 1, February 2003, pp. 75-90.

Nicholas Sambanis, "Do Ethnic and Non-Ethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45,3 (2001): 259-282

Recommended: Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond, *World Politics* 53, 3 (2001): 362-398.

WEEK 8. March 16. REGIME TRANSITIONS

Samuel Huntington. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991, pp. 3-92.

*Rustow, Dankwart, "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model," *Comparative Politics*, 2 (April 1970), pp. 337-363.

Giovanni Capocchia and Daniel Ziblatt, "The Historical Turn in Democratization Studies: A New Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond", *Comparative Political Studies*, August 2010 43: 1000-1022

Barbara Geddes. 2007. "What Causes Democratization?" in C. Boix & S. Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, pp. 317-39

*Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown : Brazil," chap. 4, pp. 110-138 in Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America* (Johns Hopkins, 1978)

David Collier, ed., *New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (1979), chaps. 1, "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model," pp. 19-32.

*McFaul, Michael, "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World." *World Politics* 54, no.2 (January 2002): 212-244.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13, 2 (April, 2002): 51-65.

***WEEK 9. March 23. INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONALISM**

Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary Taylor, "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," *Political Studies*, 44 (December 1996).

Lijphart, Arend, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," *Journal of Democracy* (Winter 1991).

Shugart, Matthew S., and John M. Carey, *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics* (Cambridge University Press, 1992), Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-54).

Tsebelis, George, "Veto Players and Institutional Analysis," *Governance* 13: 4 (October 2000): 441-474.

North, Douglass C., and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England," *Journal of Economic History* 49, No 4 (December 1989): 803-832.

*Paul Pierson, "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review* 94, 2 (2000): 251-268.

*Mahoney, James, and Kathleen Thelen, "A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change," in Mahoney and Thelen, eds. *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 1-37.

*Alfred Stepan and Cindy Skatch, "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentary and Presidentialism," *World Politics* 46 (October, 1993): 1-22. (OCRA)

Recommended: Douglas North, *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance* (Cambridge, 1990); (chaps. 4-8) (reviews)

WEEK 10. April 6. PARTIES, PARTY SYSTEMS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Boix, Carles. "The Emergence of Parties and Party Systems," in C. Boix & S. Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Ch. 21, pp. 499-521.

*Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995: 3-61.

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper & Row. Chs. 7-8, pp. 96-141.

Duverger, Maurice, "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties," in Peter Mair, ed. *The West European Party System* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 37-45.

Rein Taagepera. "Electoral Systems", in Boix and Stokes, eds, *Oxford Handbook*, 653-676.

*Bernard Manin, Adam Przeworski, and Susan Stokes, "Elections and Representation," *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999, pp. 30-53.

Gary Cox, "Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination." *American Political Science Review* 93,1, 1999: 145-161

*Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies* (Yale 1977), Skim Ch. 1 (1-20), Read Ch. 2 (21-52).

*Donald Horowitz, *A Democratic South Africa*, California, 1991, pp. 163-203.

Week 11. April 13. POLITICAL CULTURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963, chs. 1 and 13, pp. 1-44, 337-74.

*Ronald Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture," *American Political Science Review*, Dec., 1988, pp. 1203-1230.

David Elkins and Richard Simeon, "A Cause in Search of Its Effect, or What Does Political Culture Explain?" *Comparative Politics*, Jan., 1979, pp. 127-146.

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973), pp. 3-30.

*Lisa Wedeen, "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science," *American Political Science Review* 96, 4 (December, 2002)

*Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Chaps. 1, 4 and 6.

Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life*, (Yale 2002), Ch. 2.

Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics*, 49, 3 (1997): 401-479

Recommended:

Sidney Tarrow, "Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*, *APSR*, vol. 90, no. 2 (June, 1996), pp. 389-397
Special Section: Critique of Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*," *Politics and Society* vol. 24, no. 1, (March 1996) pp. 3-51

Marc Howard, "The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society," *Journal of Democracy* 13, 1 (January, 2002): 157-169. (OCRA)

Tsai, "Solidarity Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review* 101, 2 (May, 2007) :355-372. (OCRA)

WEEK 12: April 20. CORPORATISM, LABOR, AND WELFARE STATES

Robert Dahl, "Pluralism Revisited," *Comparative Politics* 10, 2 (January, 1978): 191-203.

*Philippe Schmitter, "Still the Century of Corporatism?" *Review of Politics* 36 (1974): 85-131.

Suzanne Berger, ed., *Organizing Interests in Western Europe* (Cambridge, 1981), introduction.

*Ruth B. Collier and David Collier, "Inducements vs. Constraints: Disaggregating Corporatism," *American Political Science Review*, Dec., 1979, pp. 967-986

Gosta Esping-Anderson, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, chaps. 1-3, pp. 1-78

Matthew Carnes and Isabella Mares, "The Welfare State in Global Perspective," in Boix and Stokes, *Oxford Handbook*, 868-885.

Peter Swenson, "Bringing Capital Back In, or Social Democracy Reconsidered," *World Politics* 43 (1991): 513-44.

*Paul Pierson, "The New Politics of the Welfare State," *World Politics* 48:2 (January, 1996): 143-179.

Recommended:

Gabriel Almond, "Corporatism, Pluralism, and Professional Memory," *World Politics*, (1983), pp. 245-260.

Suzanne Berger, ed. *Organizing Interests in Western Europe* (1981), chaps. 1, Offe chap., pp. 123-158.

Marino Regini, "The Conditions for Political Exchange: How Concentration Emerged and Collapsed in Italy and Great Britain,": in Goldthorpe, *Order and Conflict*

WEEK 13. April 27. ONE METHOD OR MULTIPLE METHODS?

To be assigned.