

Political Science 550
Comparative Political Analysis
State University of New York at Albany
Spring 2008

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Course Description

The objective of this seminar is to provide a critical survey of the field of comparative politics, exposing the student to different methodological approaches and to substantive areas of research. The first half of the course traces the intellectual history of the field with a focus on the bifurcation between theories that emphasize the “universal” (the homogenizing effects of specific processes or variables) and the “particular” (the persistence of distinctive historical legacies and trajectories). It then examines the recent debates between rational-choice, cultural, and structuralist scholars, and discusses the major methodological issues in comparative politics, considering the trade-offs between varieties of formal, quantitative, and qualitative methods. In the second half of the course, the focus shifts to substantive areas of research in the field of comparative politics, including the complex relations among nationalism, nation-states and societies; the origins, consolidation, and patterns of democratic governance; the dynamics behind revolutions and other forms of “contentious politics”; the political economy of development and the emergence of varieties of capitalism; and the relationship between international/global economy and domestic politics and policies. Overall, the course is designed to introduce important issues and debates that comparativists have regularly engaged in, and to provide a broad intellectual map of an extremely heterogeneous field so that the relationships between different kinds of problematiques and approaches can be better understood.

Course Requirements

The seminar depends heavily on students’ participation as it will rely both on lectures, student presentations, and class discussions. The expectation is that you will spend at least five or six hours in preparing for the seminar, and that you will come to class with at least some sense of the diverse arguments and approaches represented by the assigned readings. Bear in mind that this is a survey class and, as such, our focus will be less on the empirics of specific pieces and more on the relations among, and differences between, the conceptual frameworks, substantive theories, and methodological perspectives represented by the assigned pieces. For this purpose, it would be better to distribute your preparation time over the entire set of readings each week, presumably taking notes and jotting down questions and remarks. Our class discussions will address how the readings relate to each other, but this requires that you first make your own attempt to grasp the significance of the various pieces.

Each student will be required to make several presentations, the exact number of which will depend on the number of students enrolled in the seminar. The written assignments will include a mid-term take-home exam and a double-spaced 15-20 page final field paper

surveying and assessing the relative merits of different research traditions and theoretical approaches in the study of a particular topic. You need to go beyond the assigned readings for your selected topic as you generate a wide-ranging critical survey of books and articles that represent competing theoretical arguments and research traditions as these have evolved in the study of that topic. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor in April to make sure that his or her topic and outline are suitable for this review paper, which is due on May 8 in my mailbox before 3 pm. Grades will be assessed as follows: class participation (20%); mid-term exam (30%); and field paper (50%).

There are no books required for purchase as we will read only portions of several works. All the required readings will be included in a course pack available at Mary Jane Books on Western Avenue at Quail Street. Those marked with “available on-line” can be retrieved by clicking on “Journals - Print and Online” from the Libraries web page and typing in the title of the journal in the search box.

January 29: Overview

- Course syllabus

PART ONE: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS AND RESEARCH TRADITIONS

February 5: The Modernization Paradigm, 1950s-70s

- Andrew Janos, *Politics and Paradigms* (Stanford University Press, 1986), 36-64
- Talcott Parsons and Edward Shils, *Toward a General Theory of Action* (Free Press, 1951), 76-91
- Alex Inkeles and David Smith, *Becoming Modern: Individual Change in Six Countries* (Harvard University Press, 1974), 154-175
- Gabriel Almond, “A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics,” in Almond and James Coleman, eds. *The Politics of Developing areas* (Princeton University Press, 1960), 3-25
- Walt W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth* (Cambridge University Press, 1962), 1-15
- Karl Deutsch, “Social Mobilization and Political Participation,” in J. Finkle and R. Gable, eds. *Political Development and Social Change* (Wiley, 1966), 384-405

February 12: Challenges to the Modernization Paradigm

- Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Harvard University Press, 1962), 5-30
- Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (Yale University Press, 1968), 32-92

- Reinhard Bendix, “Relative Backwardness and Intellectual Mobilization,” in J. Bendix, ed., *Unsettled Affinities* (Transaction Books, 1993), 85-102
- Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Rise and Future Demise of World Capitalist System,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16:4 (1974): 387-415 [available on-line]
- Peter Evans and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, “The State and Economic Transformation,” in P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer and T. Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), 44-77
- Gabriel Almond, “The Return of the State,” *American Political Science Review* 82:3 (September 1988): 853-874 [available on-line]
- Timothy Mitchell, “The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and their Critics,” *American Political Science Review* 85:1 (March 1991): 77-96 [available on-line]

February 26: Return of Universalism: “Post-Industrialism” and “Globalization”

- Daniel Bell, *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society* (Basic Books, 1973), 3-45
- Ronald Inglehart, *Modernization and Postmodernization* (Princeton University Press, 1997), 1-33, 100-107, 324-341
- T. N. Clark and S. M. Lipset, “Are Social Classes Dying?” in Clark and Lipset, eds. *The Breakdown of Class Politics: A Debate on Post-Industrial Stratification* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2001), 39-53
- Philip Cerny, “What Next for the State?” in E. Kofman and G. Young, eds. *Globalization: Theory and Practice* (Pinter, 1996), 123-137
- Martin Albrow, *The Global Age* (Stanford University Press, 1997), 119-139
- Peter Evans, “The Eclipse of the State: Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization,” *World Politics* 50:1 (October 1997): 62-87 [available on-line]
- Robert Wade, “Globalization and Its Limits: Reports of the Death of the National Economy are Greatly Exaggerated,” in Suzanne Berger and Ronald Dore, eds. *National Diversity and Global Capitalism* (Cornell University Press, 1995), 60-88
- M. Hout, C. Brooks, and J. Manza, “The Persistence of Class in Post-Industrial Societies,” in Clark and Lipset, eds. *The Breakdown of Class Politics*, 55-72

March 4: Rationality, Institutions, and Culture

- Jon Elster, *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), 22-41, 113-123, 147-158
- George Tsebelis, *Nested Games: Rational Choice in Comparative Politics* (University of California Press, 1990), 18-47
- Dennis Chong, “Rational Choice Theory’s Mysterious Rivals,” in J. Friedman, *The Rational Choice Controversy* (Yale University Press, 1996), 37-57
- Ira Katznelson, “Structure and Configuration in Comparative Politics,” in M. Lichbach and A. Zuckerman, *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), 81-107
- Kathleen Thelen, “Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999): 369-404 [available on-line]

- Harry Eckstein, “Social Science as Cultural Science, Rational Choice as Metaphysics,” in R. J. Ellis and M. Thompson, eds. *Culture Matters* (Westview, 1997), 21-44
- Lisa Wedeen, “Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science,” *American Political Science Review* 96:4 (December 2002): 713-729 [available on-line]
- Charles Lockhart, “Cultural Contributions to Explaining Institutional Form, Political Change, and Rational Decisions,” *Comparative Political Studies* 32:7 (1999): 862-893 [available on-line]
- Margaret Levi, “An Analytic Narrative Approach to Puzzles and Problems,” in I. Shapiro, R. M. Smith and T. E. Masoud, eds. *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, 201-226

March 11: Methodological Issues in Comparative Political Analysis

- John Stuart Mill, *A System of Logic* (University of Toronto Press, 1974), 388-406
- Arend Lijphart, “Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method,” *American Political Science Review* 65 (1971): 682-693 [available on-line]
- Gary King, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1994), ch.1
- Ronald Rogowski, “The Role of Theory and Anomaly in Social-Scientific Inference,” *American Political Science Review* 89:2 (1995): 467-470 [available on-line]
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, “The Methodological Study of Politics,” in I. Shapiro, R. Smith and T. Masoud, eds. *Problems of Methods in the Study of Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), 227-247
- Charles Ragin, “Turning the Tables: How Case-Oriented Research Challenges Variable-Oriented Research,” *Comparative Social Research* 16 (1997): 27-42 [available on-line]
- Robert Bates, Chalmers Johnson, and Ian Lustick, Contributions to “Controversy in the Discipline: Area Studies and Comparative Politics,” *PS: Political Science* 30:2 (June 1997): 166-179 [available on-line]

PART TWO: SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF RESEARCH

March 18: Nations, States, and Societies I: Nationalism and National Identity

- Karl Deutsch, *Nationalism and Social Communication* (MIT Press, 1953), 60-80
- Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell University Press, 1983), 39-62
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso, 1983), 11-49
- Crawford Young, “The Dialectics of Cultural Pluralism: Concept and Reality,” in C. Young, ed. *The Rising Tide of Cultural Pluralism* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1993), 3-35
- Anthony Smith, *National Identity* (Penguin, 1991), 15-42
- Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (Basic Books, 1973), 255-279

- David Laitin, *Hegemony and Culture: Political and Religious Change among the Yoruba* (University of Chicago Press, 1986)136-169
- Michael Hechter, *Containing Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2000), 5-34

April 1: Nations, States and Societies II: State-Formation and State-Society Relations

- Alfred Stepan, “Liberal-Pluralist, Classic Marxist, and “Organic-Statist’ Approach to the State,” in *Arguing Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2001), 39-72
- Charles Tilly, “War-Making and State-Making as Organized Crime,” in P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer and T. Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), 169-187
- Margaret Levi, *Of Rule and Revenue* (University of California Press, 1989), 1-9, 38-47
- Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors* (Princeton University Press, 1994), 153-180
- Joel Migdal, *Strong Societies and Weak States* (Princeton University Press, 1988), 3-41
- Crawford Young, *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective* (Yale University Press, 1994), 43-76
- Joel Migdal, *State in Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), 231-264

April 8: Political Regimes I: Democracy, Democratization, and Democratic Stability

- Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man* (Doubleday, 1959), 27-53, 64-70
- Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture* (Princeton University Press, 1963), 3-26, 473-305
- Harry Eckstein, “The Theory of Stable Democracy,” in H. Eckstein, *Regarding Politics* (University of California Press, 1992), 179-226
- Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), 51-66
- Barbara Geddes, “Initiation of New Democratic Institutions in Eastern Europe and Latin America,” in Arend Lijphart and Carol Waisman, eds. *Institutional Design in New Democracies* (Westview, 1996), 15-41
- Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Tradition in Modern Italy* (Princeton University Press, 1993), 163-185, 240-247
- Adam Przeworski, et al., “What Makes Democracies Endure?” *Journal of Democracy* 7:1 (January 1996): 39-55 [available on-line]

April 15: Political Regimes II: Variation and Consequences of Democratic Institutions

- Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies* (Yale University Press, 1977), 25-52
- Juan Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism,” in L. Diamond and M. F. Plattner, *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 124-142

- Suzanne D. Berger, “Introduction,” in S. D. Berger, ed. *Organizing Interests in Western Europe: Pluralism, Corporatism, and the Transformation of Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1981)
- David R. Cameron, “Social Democracy, Corporatism, Labour Quiescence, and the Representation of Economic Interest in Advanced Capitalist Society,” in John H. Goldthorpe, ed. *Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 1984), 143-178
- Sven Steinmo, “Political Institutions and Tax Policy in the United States, Sweden, and Britain,” *World Politics* 41:4 (July 1989): 198-228
- Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton University Press, 1990), 105-138

April 22: Challenging Political Order: Perspectives on “Contentious Politics”

- Ted Gurr, *Why Men Rebel* (Princeton University Press, 1970), 92-122
- Charles Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution* (McGraw-Hill, 1978), 1-11
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979), 3-43
- James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak* (Yale University Press, 1987), 28-48
- Sidney Tarrow, “States and Opportunities: The Political Structuring of Social Movements,” in D. McAdam, J. D. McCarthy, and M. N. Zald, eds. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), 41-61
- Mark Lichbach, *The Rebel’s Dilemma* (University of Michigan Press, 1995), 3-32
- Meyer N. Zald, “Culture, Ideology, and Strategic Framing,” in D. McAdam et al., eds. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), 261-274
- Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly, “Toward an Integrated Perspective on Social Movements and Revolution,” in M. Lichbach and A. Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), 142-173

April 29: Political Economy I: The State and Economic Development

- Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Beacon, 1944), 56-76
- Albert Hirschman, *The Strategy of Development* (Yale University Press, 1958), 7-28
- Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets* (Basic, 1977), 3-13
- Chalmers Johnson, “Political Institutions and Economic Performance: The Government-Business Relationship in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan,” in F. C. Deyo, ed. *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism* (Cornell University Press, 1987), 136-164
- Robert H. Bates, “Government and Agricultural Markets in Africa,” in R. H. Bates, ed. *Toward a Political Economy of Development: A Rational Choice Perspective* (University of California Press, 1988), 331-358
- Peter Evans, “Predatory, Developmental and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State,” in A. D. Kincaid and A.

- Portes, eds. *Comparative National Development* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994), 84-111
- Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), 1-23
 - Paul Pierson, "Post-Industrial Pressures on the Mature Welfare States," in P. Pierson, ed. *The New Politics of the Welfare State* (Oxford University Press, 2001), 80-104

May 6: Political Economy II: The International Economy and National Politics

- Gunnar Myrdal, *Rich Lands and Poor* (Harper and Brothers, 1958), 3-14, 23-37
- Peter Gourevitch, *Politics in Hard Times* (Cornell University Press, 1986), 17-34
- Barbara Stallings, "The New International Context of Development," in B. Stallings, ed., *Global Change, Regional Response: The New International Context of Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 349-388
- Susan Strange, "The Declining Authority of States," in D. Held and A. McGrew, eds. *The Global Transformation Reader* (Polity Press, 2000), 148-155
- Beth Simmons and Zachary Elkins, "The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy," *American Political Science Review* 98:1 (February, 2004): 171-189 [available on-line]
- Robert Gilpin, *The Challenge of Global Capitalism* (Princeton University Press, 2000), 293-324
- Geoffrey Garrett, *Partisan Politics in the Global Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), 1-25

Reading Day: Political Economy III: The Politics of Economic Reforms

(No class; please read on your own)

- Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), 136-187
- Stephan Haggard and Steven B. Webb, "Introduction," in S. Haggard and S. B. Webb, eds. *Voting for Reform: Democracy, Political Liberalization, and Economic Adjustment* (Oxford University Press, 1994), 1-36
- Dani Rodrik, "The Rush to Free Trade in the Developing World: Why So Late? Why Now? Will It Last?" in S. Haggard and S. B. Webb, eds. *Voting for Reform: Democracy, Political Liberalization, and Economic Adjustment* (Oxford University Press, 1994), 61-88
- Joan Nelson, "Linkages Between Politics and Economics," in L. Diamond and M. Plattner, eds. *Economic Reform and Democracy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995), 226-240
- Susan C. Stokes, "Public Opinion and Economic Reforms: The Limits of Economic Voting," *Comparative Political Studies* 29:5 (1996): 499-520 [available on-line]
- Marcus Kurtz and Andrew Barnes, "The Political Foundations of Post-Communist Regime: Marketization, Agrarian Legacies, or International Linkages," *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5 (June 2002): 524-548 [available on-line]