

COMPARATIVE POLITICS FIELD SEMINAR

PSC 350/550

Fall 2011

Tuesday 12:30-15:15 (Harkness 329)

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OVERVIEW

PSC 350/550 is the required field seminar for the comparative politics field of the Ph.D. program. Comparative politics seeks to develop and test theories that can be used to explain political events and patterns across political systems, largely, but not exclusively, nation-states. In American political science this has largely come to mean description and explanation of politics in countries outside the United States. This course is designed to introduce students to classic and contemporary works across a range of subfields of comparative politics, including: democracy, dictatorship, and development, revolutions and violence, culture and social movements, parties and electoral systems, representation and accountability, institutions of governance, and political economy. It will also introduce various methodological approaches and issues in the comparative field, including research design and case selection. Undergraduates will be permitted to enroll only with consent of the instructors.

REQUIREMENTS

This class is a discussion seminar, not a lecture course. It is essential that students be prepared to discuss ALL of the readings each and every class. Many of the works that we will read are a blend of theory, methods, and substantive empirical analysis, which are aimed at uncovering systematic patterns or solving puzzles. Class participants should thus be prepared to describe and compare the week's required readings from two points of view:

- (1) What are the principal **substantive** arguments being made? What phenomena are the targets of explanation? Are they clearly identified and defined? Are they defined at the level of individuals, groups, institutions, states, or other sorts of entities? What variables are proposed to explain them? At what level are these variables? What causal mechanisms are proposed as linkages?
- (2) What **methodological** approach is taken to enhance the credibility of those arguments and how well does it succeed? What kinds of empirical implications of the theory are examined? For example, over-time changes or corresponding cross-national levels of variables at a single point in time? Evidence of behavioral connections? How are the important variables measured--quantitative/qualitative approaches? What care is taken to specify relationships between multiple variables? How are cases selected?

Student responsibilities include leading discussion of one of the readings in **each** seminar,

drawing the class into describing and comparing the readings substantively and methodologically. (There will be some flexibility about this depending on the size of the class and the readings for the week.) A one-two page handout of notes should be provided. Grades will be based on these presentations and general class discussion (33%); the take-home “midterm,” (33%); and a take-home “final” (33%), covering the 2nd half of the course.

REQUIRED READINGS

You may want to purchase the books marked with a *; if you do not already have them. They are all paperbacks. As many of these are somewhat older works, you may well be able to get them less expensively through half.com or Amazon or other internet sites. Most articles are available through the Voyager electronic journals. Other works will be available on-line through course reserves or in a box in the Political Science Lounge, Harkness 314. Please be sure to return these quickly, so that others can read them

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

September 6. Organizational Meeting.

Syllabus.

September 13 **Democracy, Dictatorship and Development I**

Dahl, Robert. *Polyarchy*, 1971, 1-16, 33-47.

Lipset, Seymour Martin. *APSR*, March, 1959 or *Political Man*, Doubleday 1960, Ch.2.

Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship & Dem.* Beacon 1968, Ch. 1, 7, 9.

Huntington, Samuel. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale 1968, 1-92, 192-237.

September 20 **Development, Dictatorship and Democratization II**

Acemoglu & Robinson, *Economic Origins Dictatorship & Democracy* 2006, Ch. 1-3.

Houle, Christian. “Inequality and Democracy.” *World Politics* 2009 61(4):598-622.

*Przeworski, Adam, et al. *Development and Democracy*, Cambridge 2000, Ch. 1- 2.

Ross, Michael. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 2001 53:325-366.

September 27 **The State, Conflict, and Order**

*Bates, Robert. *When Things Fell Apart*. 2008.

Reuschmeyer, Dietrich, et al. *Capitalist Development & Democracy*, Chicago 1992, 75-99.

Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. 1979, at least 3-42, 161-171.

Tilly, Charles, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime” in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 169-191.

October 4 **Violence and Ethnicity**

- *Kalyvaas, Stathis. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge 2006, Ch. Intro, 4,5,7, 9, 10, Conclusion.
- Fearon, James and David Laitin, D. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War," *APSR* (97) Feb 2003, 75-90.
- Posner, Daniel. "Political Salience of Cultural Difference," *APSR*, Nov. 2004.

October 11 **Culture and Social Movements**

- * Laitin, David, *Hegemony and Culture*, Chicago, 1986, esp. 1,4,6-8, Appendix.
- *Putnam, Robert. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton, 1993. (Skip Ch. 2.)
- Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement*, Cambridge 1994, Ch. 1,2,7,9

October 18 **MIDTERM** A take-home midterm will be arranged for this week.

October 25 **Case Selection and Comparative Politics**

- Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis* 2 (1990), 131-50.
- Gerring, John, "The Case Study," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 90-122.
- *King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry* Princeton 1994: Chapters 4&6, plus pages: 3-9, 36-46,168-9, 176-82, 185-87, 189-93
- Lieberman, Evan, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *APSR* (August 2005) 99 (3): 435-452.
- Elizabeth Woods, "Field Research," in Boix and Stokes,eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 123-146.

November 1 **Parties, Elections and Election Rules**

- Downs, Anthony. *Economic Theory of Democracy*, 1957, Ch. 7-8.
- Boix, Carles. "Setting the Rules..." *APSR*, Sept 1999
- *Cox, Gary. *Making Votes Count*, Cambridge 1997, Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 10,11, 12.
- Moser, Robert and Ethan Scheiner. *Rethinking the Effects of Electoral Systems: The Conditioning Effect of Political Context*. Cambridge 2012, Ch. 9.

November 8 **Voters, Citizens and Clients**

- *Duch, Raymond and Randolph Stevenson, *The Economic Vote*. 2008, Ch. 1, 3, 9 (7).
- *Magaloni, Beatriz. *Voting for Autocracy*. 2006, Chapters 4&5, pages: 122-174.

Stokes, Susan. "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina." *APSR* 99(3):315-325, August, 2005.
Wantchekon, L. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: evidence from a field experiment In Benin." *World Politics* 55: 399-422, 2003.
(Recommended only: Stokes, Susan. "Political Clientelism" in Boix & Stokes, *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford 2007, 604-627.)

November 15 **Institutions**

Ostrom, Eleanor. *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge 1990. Ch. 1, 3 (skim ch. 2).
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.
Greif, Avner, and David Laitin, "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change," *APSR* 98, No. 4 (November 2004): 633-652.
Tsebelis, George, "Decision-Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartism" in *BJPS* 1997: 289-325

November 22 THANKSGIVING WEEK - NO CLASS

November 29 **Representation and Accountability**

*Powell, *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*, Yale 2000, esp. Ch. 1-3, 6-7, 9-10.
*Stokes, *Mandates and Democracy*, Cambridge 2001.
*Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*, 1982, Ch. 1,5, 8, 10.

December 6 **Political Economy I: Developed World**

Iverson & Cossak. "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" 2000. *World Politics* 52(3): 313-49.
Iverson, Torben and David Soskice. "Electoral Institutions and Politics of Coalitions." *APSR* 2006 165-182. 2004.
Hall, Peter A. and David Soskice. *Varieties of Capitalism*. Oxford, 2001, pp. 1-68.
Rogowski, Ronald. *Commerce & Coalitions*, 1989, Ch.1 (or 1987 *APSR* article)

December 13 **Political Economy II: Developing World**

Przeworski, et al. *Democracy and Development*, 2000, Ch. 3-5.
Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. "The Comparative Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation" *American Economic Review* (2001) 91 (5), 1369 – 1401.
Glaeser, Edward L., et al. "Do Institutions Cause Growth?" *Journal of Economic Growth* 9, 271-303 (2004).

Habyarimana, et al. "Why does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provisions?"
APSR (4) 2007, 709-726.

(Recommended" Humphreys and Weinstein, "Field Experiments and the Political Economy
Of Development," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2009.)

TAKE-HOME "FINAL" covering 2nd half of course. (Details to be negotiated)