

# POL 8601: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Fall Semester 2007  
Mondays 1:25-3:20 SSB 1450  
Professors Ansell and Samuels

This seminar surveys major questions that motivate research in comparative politics. The course introduces PhD students to the subfield and helps them prepare for the comprehensive exam.

## Requirements:

- 1) Weekly readings: The reading load for this course is heavy. Students must come prepared to discuss the readings for the week.
- 2) Presentations: Each student must make one *individual* presentation and one *collaborative* presentation with another student (see below). Students will choose topics the first week of class. (20% of grade for each presentation)
- 3) Course requirements also include ten email posts (to the instructor and other seminar participants). Postings should be made no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of each class meeting to allow time to read them. The postings need not be perfect essays - they should pose a series of questions or general ideas for discussion. The key is to make sure that we have some common talking points in class.
- 4) Written essay: one ten-page paper, submitted in two drafts. Details on the paper will be provided in class. Pose an interesting comparative politics question tell us briefly how others have explored this or related questions, and tell us how you might answer it differently and/or better.

**Readings:** 1) Asterisked readings can be downloaded through the university library website; copies of these will not be made available. 2) All other readings are available on the department's "reading archive." We have not ordered any books through the bookstore but you should consider purchasing some of the books on this list for your own library.

## Week 1 (0): Comparative Politics: Varying Approaches

**Discussion questions:** What is comparative politics? Where did the field come from? What, if anything, unites the subfield of comparative politics? What are the main epistemological, ontological, methodological, political or other divides?

- Gerardo Munck. 2007. "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics." In Munck and Snyder, *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics*. **NEED**
- Brian Barry. 1970. *Sociologists, Economists, and Democracy*, Chs 1, 2, and 8.
- David Laitin, "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline." In Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline* (W.W. Norton, 2002), pp. 630-659.
- \*Kathleen Thelen. 1999. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 369-404.
- \*"Symposium on Interpretivism." APSA Qualitative Methods Section newsletter 1(2): 2-23.

- \*"Symposium on Area Studies." *PS*, 12/01, pp. 787-811
- Charles A. Lave and James G. March. 1993. *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences*, chs. 1-3.

## Week 2 (): Comparative Politics: Methodological Issues

**Discussion questions:** What is "the" comparative method? What are the primary methodological hurdles confronting comparative politics research(ers)?

- \*Arend Lijphart. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *APSR* 65: 682-693.
- \*James Fearon. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science" *World Politics* 43: 169-196.
- Barbara Geddes. 1990. "How the cases you choose affect the answers you get: selection bias in comparative politics." *Political Analysis* 2: 131-50.
- \*Jasjeet Sekhon. 2004. "Quality meets quantity: case studies, conditional probability, and counterfactuals." *Perspectives on Politics* 2(2): 281-93.
- \*John Gerring. 2004. "What is a Case Study and What Is It Good for?" *APSR* 98:341-354.
- James Mahoney. 2003. "Strategies of Causal Assessment in Comparative Historical Analysis." In James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, pp. 337-72. (entire book recommended for exam prep)
- \*Jon Elster. 2004. "Rational Choice History." *APSR* 94: 685-695
- Recommended for exam prep: Henry E. Brady and David Collier. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*.

## Week 3 (): Nation and State I

**Discussion questions:** What is the state and where did it come from? Why do the institutions of the state take on different forms? What is state "strength" and what is its source?

- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. Chapter 14, "From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy."
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. (1651). Pp. 183-188 and 227-228.
- Charles Tilly. 1992. "War-Making and State-Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans *et al.*, *Bringing the State Back In*.
- \*Miguel A. Centeno. 1997. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-century Latin America." *American Journal of Sociology*, 102(6)
- \*Hendryk Spruyt, 2002. "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5:127-49.
- Mahmood Mamdani, 1996. *Citizen and Subject*. pp. 3-8 and 16-27.
- Jeffrey Herbst, 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. pp. 11-31.
- \*Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, 1982. "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and Juridical in Statehood." *World Politics* 35(1): 1-24.
- Margaret Levi. 1988. *Of Rule and Revenue*. Appendix.

## Week 4 (): Democracy

Discussion questions: What is democracy? What do we think we know about where it comes from?

- Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy*. Yale University Press, 1971, ch. 1
- Seymour Martin Lipset. 1960. *Political Man*, pp. 27-58.
- Adam Przeworski *et al.* *Democracy and Development*, pp 13-35.
- Barrington Moore. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, ch. 1.
- James Mahoney, “Knowledge Accumulation in Comparative Historical Research: the Case of Democracy and Authoritarianism.” In Mahoney and Rueschemeyer eds.
- \*Adam Przeworski & Fernando Limongi. 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts.” *World Politics* 49(1): 155-83.
- \*Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, 2003. “Endogenous Democratization.” *World Politics* 55: 517-549.
- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy*. Chs. 1,2 and 7.

### **Week 5 () : Institutions of Democracy**

Discussion questions: what are the main differences in the ways that democratic states are organized? What is the best approach to studying such institutional variation? What consequences does such variation have for political outcomes?

- Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, chapters 1-3
- Matthew Shugart and John Carey, *Presidents and Assemblies*, chapters 1-4.
- G. Bingham Powell, *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*, chapters 1, 10.
- \*George Tsebelis. “Decision making in political systems: veto players in presidentialism, parliamentarism, multicameralism and multipartyism.” *BJPS* 25:289-325.
- Samuels and Hellwig, “Electoral Accountability and the Variety of Democratic Regimes.” Forthcoming (2007), *BJPS*

### **Week 6 () : Political Culture**

Discussion questions: what is “political” culture, where does it come from, and how does it impact political behavior or political outcomes? How should we study political culture? What, if anything, ties the authors we study this week together? What is the difference between state and nation? What is the boundary between state and society? What is nationalism and where did it come from?

- Clifford Geertz. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*, ch. 1.
- \*Lisa Wedeen APSR article
- \*Ronald Inglehart and Wayne Baker, 2000. “Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values.” *ASR*
- David Laitin. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture*. Chs. 1-2, 5
- Benedict Anderson, 1983. *Imagined Communities*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., chs. 1-5. **NEED CLEAN COPY  
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## Week 7: Ethnic Conflict

Discussion questions: what is ethnic identity, where does it come from, and what explains why ethnic groups clash (or not)?

- \*Kanchan Chandra, 2006. “What is Ethnicity and Does it Matter?” *Annual Review of Political Science*.
- Daniel Posner. 2003. “The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages: The Case of Linguistic Divisions in Zambia.” *Comparative Politics* 35(2): 127-146.
- Robin Cohen “The Making of Ethnicity: A Modest Defense of Primordialism.” In Edward Mortimer and Robert Fine (eds.) *People, Nation and State*. London: I. B. Tauris, 1999, 3–11. **NEED**
- Paul Brass, “Elite Groups, Symbol Manipulation and Ethnic Identity among the Muslims of South Asia: Primordialist and Instrumentalist Interpretations of Ethnic Identity.” In Paul Brass, *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1991, pp. 69-89. **NEED**
- \*David Laitin and James Fearon. 1996. “Explaining Interethnic Cooperation,” *American Political Science Review* 90(4)
- Michael E. Brown. 2001. “The Causes of Internal Conflict: An Overview,” in Brown *et al.*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*, revised edition.
- Jack Snyder. 2000. *From Voting to Violence*, chs. 1-2.
- Stuart J. Kaufman. 2001. *Modern Hatreds: The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War*, chs. 1-2.

## Week 8 (): Political Culture and Democratic Quality: Civil Society

Discussion questions: what is “social capital,” why and how is it important?

- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* Chapters TBA
- Joseph A. Schumpeter. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, chs. 21, 22.
- Robert D. Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*, chs. 1, 4-5
- Matthew Cleary and Susan Stokes. 2006. *Democracy & the Culture of Skepticism*. Ch. 1, 4
- Charles Tilly, 2005. *Trust and Rule*, chapters 1-2, 6 **NEED**

## Week 9 (): Parties and Governance

Discussion topic: What are the relevant differences in party systems and what creates them? What are the political consequences of differences in party systems?

- Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. [1967] “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments,” in Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*, pp. 99-138.
- Gary Cox. 1997. *Making Votes Count*, chs. 1-3, 7-8, 10-11.
- Adam Przeworski and John Sprague. 1986. *Paper Stones: A History of Electoral Socialism*, pp. 1-79.
- Pradeep Chhibber and Mariano Torcal. 1997. “Elite Strategy, Social Cleavages, and Party Systems in a New Democracy: Spain.” *Comparative Political Studies* 30: 27-54.

## Week 10 (): Social Movements

- James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak*, Intro and chs. 1-2
- Samuel Popkin, 1987. "Political Entrepreneurs and Peasant Movements in Vietnam." In *Rationality and Revolution*, edited by Michael Taylor.
- Doug McAdam *et al.* 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, Introduction and chs. 1-2, 6. Or McAdam *et al.* *The Dynamics of Contention*
- Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper. 2004. *Rethinking Social Movements*. chs. 1, 13

## Week 11 (): Political Economy I: The Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Discussion question: Why are some countries rich and some countries poor?

- Alexander Gerschenkron, 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, pp. 5-30.
- \*J. Samuel Valenzuela and Arturo Valenzuela. 1978. "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment." *Comparative Politics* 10:4 (July), pp. 535-557.
- Stephan Haggard, 1990. *Pathways from the Periphery*, pp. 23-48.
- Meredith Woo-Cumings. 1999. "Introduction: Chalmers Johnson and the Politics of Nationalism and Development," in Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State*, pp. 1-31.
- James C. Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State*, pp. 193-222.
- Robert Bates. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. pp. 11-29, 81-95.
- \*William Easterly and Ross Levine. 1997. "Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112(4). pp. 1203-07, 1213-1223.
- \*Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson, "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation" *American Economic Review*, 91, 1369-1401. (2001)

## Week 12 (): Political Economy II: Varieties of Capitalism and Varieties of Democracy

Discussion question: What creates incentives for redistribution, and why do such incentives differ across states?

- Gøsta Esping-Anderson. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Introduction.
- \*Pontussen and Kenworthy in *Perspectives on Politics* 2005
- Iversen *Capitalism, Welfare and Democracy*, chapter that extends Iversen and Soskice 2001 APSR paper
- \*Iversen and Wren Equality, 1998. "Employment, and Budgetary Restraint: The Trilemma of the Service Economy" *World Politics* 50(4): 507-546.
- Alberto Alesina *et al.*, "Why does the US not have a European-style welfare State?"
- \*Jonas Pontusson review of Alesina and Glaeser book, in PoP 4(2) June 2006.

## Week 13 (): Political Economy III: The Global Context

- Peter Hall. 1999. "The Political Economy of Europe in an Era of Interdependence," in Herbert Kitschelt, *et al.* (eds.) *Continuity and Change in Contemporary Capitalism*, ch. 5.

- Ron Rogowski. *Commerce & Coalitions*, Chapters 1-2 **NEED**
- \*Jeffrey Frieden. 1991. "Invested Interests." *International Organization* 45: 425-51\*
- Dani Rodrik. 1997. "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate." *Foreign Policy* 107: 19-37.
- \*Torben Iversen and Thomas R. Cusack. 2000. "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" *World Politics* 52 (3): 313-49.
- Wibbels and Arce *World Politics* piece
- Wibbels "Dependency Theory Redux" article

#### **Week 14: Student's Choice Week**

The only we require for this week is that we read and discuss Chapter 1 from Munck and Snyder, "The Human Dimension of Comparative Research" (available at [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Political\\_Science/people/SnyderResearch.html](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Political_Science/people/SnyderResearch.html).) The topic and others readings are up to you.