

Professor: Jessica A.J. Rich
Office: Wehr Physics Building, Room 448
Email: jessica.rich@marquette.edu
Office hours: Thursday 2 - 4 or by appointment

Marquette University
Department of Political Science

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This core seminar is intended to provide you with a broad understanding of the main concepts, theories, and debates of comparative politics. In the first two sections of the course, we will focus on gaining a solid understanding of two major concepts: institutions and regimes. In the last section of the course, we will apply these concepts and approaches to understanding some of the substantive issues that most concern political scientists.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Critical reviews and participation (40%):

On the first day of the semester I will break the class into two groups.

On four, pre-assigned days throughout the semester, everyone in your group will be responsible for handing in a reading review. (This is not a group project. Everyone in your group will be individually responsible for preparing a set of reviews.)

- Each review will focus on at least **four** of the required readings within a specific week, unless fewer than four readings are assigned for that week. A good review will concisely:
 - (1) identify the main puzzle/paradox that each reading addresses;
 - (2) identify the main argument/s (thesis) of each reading; and
 - (3) comparatively assess the readings. The following are some different ways you might assess the readings:
 - Identify each reading's major strength/s and major weakness/es
 - Show why the interpretation in one reading is better than another
 - Link readings (either in the same week or from different weeks) in an interesting way
 - Raise neglected issues
 - Assess the validity of general arguments applied to specific national contexts

On the four, pre-assigned days that the other group is writing a critical review, your group's members will be responsible for presenting the basic issues and arguments in the readings to the class to start the day's discussion. (I will choose at random during class which of the readings each of you will present.)

Mid and Final exams (60%):

Each student is expected to complete two take-home exams.

A good exam will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the relevant readings on the syllabus, and additionally connect concepts and themes across different weeks of readings.

WEEK 1 (August 29) INTRODUCTION

INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 2 (September 5) STATES

Marx, Karl. “The Communist Manifesto”

Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation”

Skocpol, Theda. “Bringing the state back in: strategies of analysis in current research,” in P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer and T. Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (1985).

Scott, James. *Seeing Like a State* (Yale University press, 1998), pp. 11-83.

WEEK 3 (September 12) STRONG, WEAK, AND FAILED STATES

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

Branch, Jordan. “Mapping the Sovereign State: Technology, Authority, and Systemic Change.” *International Organization* Volume 65/Issue 1 (January 2011) pp 1 – 36.

Blackwell, Chapter 3. Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapters 1, 4.

Bates, Robert. 2008. *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (chapter selection TBD, professor’s choice).

WEEK 4 (September 19) INSTITUTIONS

[Group 1 review; Group 2 present]

John M. Carey, "Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions," *Comparative Political Studies* 33, 6/7 (August/September 2000), pp. 735-761.

David, Paul A., "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY" (in *Economic History: A Necessary Though Not Sufficient Condition for an Economist*), *American Economic Review*, Vol. 75, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the NinetySeventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association. (May, 1985), pp. 332-337.

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development." *American Economic Review* 91:5 1369-1401.

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

WEEK 5 (September 26) APPROACHES

[Group 2 review; Group 1 present]

Immergut, Ellen. "The Theoretical Core of the New Institutionalism." *Politics and Society* Vol., 26, No. 1 (1998).

Geddes, Barbara. "How the Approach you Choose Affects the Answers you Get" in *Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003).

Pierson, Paul. 2004. *Politics in Time* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press) Chapters 3 and 4

Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, "Framework: Critical Junctures and Historical Legacies," in Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, *Shaping the Political Arena* (Princeton, 1991), pp. 27-39.

REGIMES

WEEK 6 (October 3) DETERMINANTS OF DEMOCRACY

[Group 1 review; Group 2 present]

Seymour Martin Lipset, “Economic Development and Democracy,” excerpts from ch. 2 of *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics* (Garden City, NY: Anchor, 1963), pp. 31-51 (excerpts reprinted).

Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 6.

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Preface, Chapters 7 – 9.

WEEK 7 (October 10) ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

[Group 2 review; Group 1 present]

Linz, Juan. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter 1990) 51-69.

Shugart, Matthew Soberg and John M. Carey, Presidents and Assemblies. *Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), chapters 1-3.

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1- 2.

Howard, Marc Morjé and Philip G. Roessler. 2006. “Liberalizing Electoral Outcomes in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes.” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 2, April 2006 (**read pp. 366 – 369 only**).

WEEK 8 (October 17) MIDTERM EXAM WEEK

WEEK 9 (October 24) NEW RESEARCH IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

TBD

WEEK 10 (October 31) AUTOCRACY

[Group 1 review; Group 2 present]

Haber, Stephen. 2007. "Authoritarian Government." In Barry Weingast and Donald Wittman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*.

Arendt, Hannah. 1951. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Chapter selection TBD.

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and Its Demise in Mexico*. Chapter selection TBD.

Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, 2, Conclusion.

OUTCOMES

WEEK 11 (November 7) PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

[Group 2 review; Group 1 present]

Dahl, Robert. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. Newhaven, CT: Yale University Press. Book 1.

C. Wright Mills. 1956. *The Power Elite*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry E. Brady, Sidney Verba. 1997. "The Big Tilt: Participatory Inequality in America." *The American Prospect* 8, no. 32 (May1-June1).

WEEK 12 (November 14) COLLECTIVE ACTION AND MOBILIZATION

[Group 1 review; Group 2 present]

Olson, Mancur. 1982. *The Rise and Decline of Nations*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 2

Gladwell, Malcolm. "Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted." *The New Yorker* September 28, 2010.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapters 1, 5.

Amenta, Edwin. *When Movements Matter*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter selection TBD.

WEEK 13 (November 21) REBELLION AND REVOLUTION

[Group 2 review; Group 1 present]

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Scott, James C. 1976. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia* New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapters 1 & 7.

WEEK 14 (November 28) DEVELOPMENT

[no review; EVERYONE come ready to present]

W.W. Rostow. 1990. "The Five Stages of Growth – A Summary." *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. 3rd ed., New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2 (4-16) and then skim the preface to the third edition (ix-xxxviii).

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: a Book of Essays*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Read pp. 5-30.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Garay, Candelaria. Forthcoming. *Including Outsiders: Social Policy Expansion in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

WEEK 15 (December 5) PASSION, CRAFT, AND METHOD

Munck, Gerardo and Richard Snyder. 2007. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. (Chapter selections will be assigned to students the week prior to class.)

FINAL EXAM DUE DATE: December 12, 3:30 PM