

COMPARATIVE POLITICS FIELD SEMINAR

PSC 350/550

Spring 2016

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? Observation or experiment? 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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty Be prepared to sign the Honor pledge on all exams and papers.

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 should be able to get them less expensively used through Amazon or other internet sites. (We did not order them through the bookstore.) 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

January 19. Syllabus. – Sign up for presentations AND

Democracy, Dictatorship and Development I

[Dahl, Robert](#). *Polyarchy*, 1971, 1-16, 33-47.

[Lipset, Seymour Martin](#). “Some Social Requisites of Democracy,” *APSR*, March, 1959
or *Political Man*, Doubleday 1960, Ch.2.

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

[Reuschmeyer, Dietrich](#), et al. *Capitalist Development & Democracy*, Chicago 1992, 75-99.

January 26 **Development, Dictatorship and Democratization II**

[Moore, Barrington](#). *Social Origins of Dictatorship & Dem.* Beacon 1968, Ch. 1, 7, 9.

[Acemoglu & Robinson](#), *Economic Origins Dictatorship & Democracy* 2006, Ch. 1-3.

[Boix](#), “Democracy, Development....” *APSR* 2011 809-828.

February 2 **Electoral Authoritarianism**

[Magaloni, Beatriz](#). “The Game of Electoral Fraud and the Ousting of Authoritarian Rule.”
AJPS 54(3):751-765.

Gandhi, Jennifer. *Political Institutions Under Dictatorship*. Cambridge 2008. Ch. 1, 3, 5
*Hyde, Susan. *The Pseudo-Democrats Dilemma: Why Election Monitoring Became An International Norm*. Cornell 2011. Chapters 1-4.

February 9 **Research Design and Comparative Politics**

[Lieberman, Evan](#), "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *APSR* (August 2005) 99 (3): 435-452.

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

*Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge 2012. In ch 1 section 1.5 (27-36); Part 1, ch 2-4; Part IV ch 11.

[Bates, et al.](#) Analytic Narratives. Intro and Ch by Bates.

February 16 **The State, Conflict, and Order**

Huntington, Samuel. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale 1968, [1-92](#), [192-237](#).

[Skocpol, Theda](#). *States and Social Revolutions*. 1979, ch 1,3,4 (3-42, 112-160, 161-171.)

[Geddes, Barbara](#). "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get:

Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," in *Paradigms and Sand Castles* 2003, ch3

[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.

February 23 **Old and New Political Economy of Developing Societies**

*Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. 1982.

* North, Douglass C., 1990, *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapters 1, 4, 7-14; Skim Chapters 2, 3, 5, 6

[Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson](#). "The Comparative Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation" *American Economic Review* (2001) 91 (5), 1369 – 1401.

Bannerjee and Duflo. *Poor Economics: Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. 2012. Ch. 1; Ch. 6, 7, 10. (Others to be announced.)

March 1 **MIDTERM** **A take-home midterm will be arranged for this week.** AND

March 15 **Institutions I**

* [Ostrom, Eleanor](#). *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge 1990. Ch. 1, 3, 5 (skim ch. 2).

[Greif, Avner, and David Laitin](#), "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change," *APSR* 98, No. 4 (November 2004): 633-652.

[Weingast, Barry](#). 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* (June 1997) 91: 245-63.
Przeworski, Adam. *States and Markets* 2003, Ch. 7.

March 8 **SPRING Break - NO CLASS**

SELECTIONS to be announced March 15. Institutions II

Shugart and Carey. *Presidents and Assemblies*. Cambridge 1992. Ch 1-3, 7,8.
[Tsebelis, George](#), "Decision-Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism" in *BJPS* 1997: 289-325 .
Elkins and Ginsburg. *Endurance of National Constitutions*. Cambridge 2009. Ch ? .
Helmke *Institutions on the Edge: Inter-branch Crises in Latin America*. Ch ?

March 22 **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.
[Iverson, Torben and David Soskice](#). "Electoral Institutions and Politics of Coalitions." *APSR* 2006 165-182.

SELECTIONS to be announced. April 5 Voters, Citizens and Clients

*Duch, Raymond and Randolph Stevenson, *The Economic Vote*. 2008, Ch. 1, 3, 9 (7).
[Stokes, Susan](#). "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina." *APSR* 99(3):315-325, August, 2005.
Stokes and Dunning. *Brokers, Voters and Clientelism*. Cambridge 2013. Ch ?
[Kitschelt and Kselman](#) "Eco Dev & Linkage" *CPS* 2013

April 5 **Representation and Accountability**

*Powell, *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*, Yale 2000, esp. Ch. 1-4, 6, 7, 9-10.
*Stokes, *Mandates and Democracy*, Cambridge 2001.
Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*, 1982, Ch. 1,5, 8, 10.
[Martin and Vanberg](#). 2014. "Parties and Policymaking in Multiparty Governments," *AJPS* 58(4): 979-96.

April 12 **Violence, Ethnicity and Cleavages**

*[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.
[Rogowski, Ronald](#). *Commerce & Coalitions*, 1989, Ch.1 (or 1987 *APSR* article)

SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. April 19 Culture and Social Movements

Chandra, Kanchan. Ed., *Constructing Social Identity*. Oxford 2012. ch. 2-4, 8?

*Putnam, Robert. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*,
Princeton, 1993. (Skip Ch. 2.)

*Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement*, Cambridge 2011, selections?

SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED . April 26 Doing Comparative Politics. Faculty
working papers, field work, experiences.

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