

## COMPARATIVE POLITICS FIELD SEMINAR

PSC 350/550

Fall 2009

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 measurement of concepts. 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 whatever? 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1. Organizational Meeting.

Syllabus.

September 8 **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.

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

Geddes, Barbara. “What Do We Know About Democratization,” *AR* 2, 129-148.

September 15 **Development, Dictatorship and Democratization II**

\*Acemoglu & Robinson, *Economic Origins Dictatorship & Democracy* 2006, 1-3, (4,5) 6-8, 9-11.

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

September 22 **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.

September 29 **Violence and Ethnicity**

\*Kalyvaas, Stathis. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge 2006.

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 6 **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 13 **MIDTERM** A take-home midterm will be arranged for this week.

#### October 20 **Parties, Strategies and Party Systems**

Downs, Anthony. *Economic Theory of Democracy*, 1957, Ch. 7-8.

\*Magaloni, Beatriz. *Voting for Autocracy*. 2006.

Meguid, Bonnie. "Competition Among Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy In Niche Party Success," *APSR*, August 2005

Sartori, Giovanni, "A Typology of Party Systems," in Peter Mair (Ed), *The West European Party System*, Oxford Press, 1990, 316-49.

#### October 27 **Elections and Election Rules**

Boix, Carles. "Setting the Rules..." *APSR*, Sept 1999

\*Cox, Gary. *Making Votes Count*, Cambridge 1997, Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 10,11, 12.

Lipset, S.M. and Stein Rokkan, *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, Free Press, 1967, pgs 1-64

#### November 3 **Voters and Citizen Behavior**

Converse, Philip and Roy Pierce. *Political Representation in France*, Harvard, 1986, Ch. 3

\*Duch, Raymond and Randolph Stevenson, *The Economic Vote*. 2008

Stokes, Susan. "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina." *American Political Science Review* 99(3):315-325, August, 2005.

#### November 10 **Executives and Legislatures**

Laver, Michael & Norman Schofield, *Multiparty Government.*, 1990, Ch. 2, 4,5

\*Shugart, Matthew & John Carey, *Presidents & Assemblies*, 1991, Ch. 1-3,7,8,12, 13

Tsebelis, George, "Decision-Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartism" in *BJPS* 1997: 289-325

November 17 **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.

November 24 THANKSGIVING WEEK - NO CLASS

December 1 **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.

Kayser, Mark. "Surfing the Wave," *APSR* 2005.

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

December 8 **Political Economy II: Developing World**

Sokoloff, Kenneth L. and Stanley L. Engerman. "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Passive Development in the New World" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Volume 14, number three, Summer 2000, pages 217-232.

Acemoglu, Daron, et.al. "Economic and Political Equality and Development: the Case of Cundinamarca, Colombia" in *Institutions and Economic Performance*

Edited by Elhanan Helpman, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 2008.

\* Przeworski, et al. *Democracy and Development*, 2000, Ch. 3-5.

**TAKE-HOME "FINAL" covering 2<sup>nd</sup> half of course. (Details to be negotiated)**