

Political Science 505: Seminar in Comparative Politics

Fall Semester 2004

Thursdays, 6-9pm, 518 Ross

Professor Eric McGlinchey

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Office Hours: M, W 1-4

Course Description:

This course provides a rigorous introduction into the field of comparative politics. Its goal is to familiarize M.A. students with both the methodology and literature of comparative political analysis. Students will explore the leading approaches to comparative politics: quantitative and qualitative analysis, rational choice, new institutionalism and political culture. Particular emphasis will be placed on questions of state formation and change, states and markets, and interest aggregation. By the close of the course, students will be able to identify and critically analyze the central debates within comparative politics.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to attend *all* classes and are expected to have completed the readings *before* class. This course will be taught in a seminar format. We will discuss the readings together. Students will be asked to share their thoughts. *In addition to regular class participation, students will be asked to write 5 précis of 500-750 words each.* Précis should critically analyze one of the week's readings and will be graded on students' clarity of writing and understanding of central issues. *Précis should be sent to me electronically by 5pm on Wednesday, the day before our Thursday evening meeting. I will publish your précis on WebCT; they will be required reading for the seminar. Given that the précis will provide the foundation for seminar discussion, they will not be accepted after class.* There will be two in class exams and one final. I will discuss the exams in greater detail during class.

Grading

5 Précis / Class Participation	=	30 %
2 In Class Exams	=	40 %
1 Comprehensive Final	=	30 %

Readings

All readings are available on reserve at the library, through web ejournals, or on "e-reserve." We will be reading many classics in comparative politics. I will highlight these during the first class and you are encouraged to order these monographs on-line.

Special Needs

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6624). DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

Part I—Introduction to the Discipline

Week 1, August 26

Class introduction and introduction to comparative politics—no reading

Week 2, September 2—Causality, Thinking and Writing in Comparative Politics

**Charles King, http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/Teaching_and_Learning.htm

“How to Think.”

"Writing a Political Science Essay"

"The Six Evil Geniuses of Essay Writing"

**David Collier and James Mahoney, “Research Note: Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research,” *World Politics* (October 1996), pp. 56-91. (web—ejournals)

Part II—The State and Theories about State Change

Week 3, September 9—The State

**Jeffrey Herbst. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. (pay close attention to chapters 1 and 9, skim rest)

**Mancur Olson, "The Criminal Metaphor," pp. 1-24 in *Power and Prosperity: Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships*, 2000.

Week 4, September 16—Modernization Theory

**Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society*. 1958. Chapter 1.

**Seymour Martin Lipset, “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy,” *American Political Science Review* 53 (March 1959), pp. 69-105, esp. pp. 69-85, 102-103. (web—ejournals)

**Robert Dahl. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1971. Chapters 1,2,3,5

Week 5, September 23—Critiques of the Modernization Perspective

**Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1968. Part 1, pp. 1-92.

**Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," in Cockcroft, Frank and Johnson, eds., *Dependence and Underdevelopment* (1972), pp. 3-17.

Week 6, September 30—Revolutions and Violent Change

**Jeff Goodwin. *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991*. Cambridge University Press, 2001, Chapters 1,2, 9 and skim one of the following: Part 2, Part 3, or Part 4, pp. 3-64, 289-306, and your choice.

**Timur Kuran, "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989," *World Politics*, 1 (October 1991), pp. 7-48. (web—ejournals)

Week 7, October 7—1st In Class Exam

Part III—Levels of Analysis

Week 8, October 14—Institutions

*Kathleen Thelen, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999), pp. 369-404. (web—ejournals)

**Douglass C. North, *Structure and Change in Economic History*, New York: Norton, 1981. Chapters 1-6, 15, and any two of 7-14, (pp. 1-68, 199-209, and your selection)

Week 9, October 21—Culture

*Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963, ch. 1, pp. 1-44.

*David J. Elkins and Richard Simeon, "A Cause in Search of Its Effect, or What Does Political Culture Explain?" *Comparative Politics* 11 (January 1979), pp. 127-146. (web—ejournals)

*Ken Jowitt, "The Leninist Legacy," in Ivo Banac, ed., *Eastern Europe in Revolution* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1992), pp. 207-24.

Week 10, October 28—Collective Action

**Mancur Olson. *The Rise and Decline of Nations*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982, chapters 1-3, pp. 1-74.

Albert Hirschman. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970, chapters 1-4., pp. 1-54.

**Margaret Levi, "A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis," ch. 2 in Lichbach and Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure*, pp. 19-41.

Part IV: Interest Aggregation

Week 11, November 4—Social Movements

**Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 1998, pages to be assigned.

**Jillian Schwedler, "Islamic Identity: Myth, Menace, or Mobilizer?," *SAIS Review* 21:1 (Summer 2001), pp. 1-17. (Web e-journals)

Week 12, November 11—Political Parties

**Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 1-3, pages 3-50.

**Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System* (reserve)

Joseph LaPalombara and Myron Weiner, "The Origin of Political Parties" (25-30)

Otto Kirchheimer, "The Catch-all Party" (50-60)

Maurice Duverger, "The Two-Party System and the Multiparty System," (285-95)

**Robert Michels. 1915/62. *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*, pp. 333-371.

Week 13, November 18— Second In Class Exam

Thanksgiving Break, November 22-26

Week 14, December 2—Nationalism and Identity

**Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (revised edition, 1991), pp. 1-65, skim ch. 5. (reserve)

**David Laitin, "Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*, pp. 285-316. (reserve)

Week 15, States and Markets, December 9

*Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* (1981), pp. 1-132 skim, though pay careful attention to the introduction. (reserve)

*Michael L. Ross, "The Political Economy of the Resource Curse." *World Politics* 51 (January 1999), 279-322. (web—ejournals)