
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE—UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

POLS 879 – CORE SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS – FALL 2016

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm, Thursday 11-12, and by appointment

Class: Monday 2-4:50pm • Oldfather 538

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This seminar introduces graduate students to the subfield of comparative politics. Without the study of comparative politics, we would know much less about the origins of the contemporary state, the causes of ethnic conflict and peace, the origins of democracy and dictatorship, and the sources of economic growth and decline. Since the subfield's founding in the late nineteenth century, the study of comparative politics has tremendously grown in subject matter, theory, and methods. Thus, a course of this scope can only serve as a first foray into a deep, expansive, and fascinating area of inquiry. I hope you leave the course with a greater appreciation of the breadth and depth of the subfield.

The objectives of the course are

1. To better understand the history, major explanatory frameworks, and methods of comparative politics.
2. To gain a command of the arguments, assumptions, and implications of canonical works in the subfield.
3. To see how one does comparative analysis in real life.
4. To start delving into a specific research problematic in comparative politics.
5. To begin preparing for the comparative politics comprehensive exam (if relevant to you).

THE SEMESTER AT-A-GLANCE**A Macro-View of the Subfield**

1. August 22 Introduction
2. August 29 Explanatory Frameworks
September 5 No class: Labor Day
3. September 12 Comparative Methods

Problematic I: Violence

4. September 19 The State
5. September 26 The Dogs That Do Not Bark
6. October 3 Electoral Competition and Violence
7. October 10 Collective Action and Civil War
October 17 No class: Fall break

Problematic II: Democracy

8. October 24 Defining Democracy
9. October 31 Modernization
10. November 7 Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship; Review essay due
11. November 14 Democratic Performance

Problematic III: Political Economy

12. November 21 Institutions
November 28 No class: Thanksgiving week
13. December 5 Conclusion
14. December 12 Mock comp distributed

READINGS

We will read the following books. They have been ordered at the University Bookstore. You may also find the books on 2-hours reserve at Love Library.

1. Gerardo Munch and Richard Snyder. 2007. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
2. David Laitin. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
3. Robert Putnam. 1994. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
4. Frederic Schaffer. 2000. *Democracy in Translation: Understanding Politics in an Unfamiliar Culture*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
5. Steven Wilkinson. 2006. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Other readings in this syllabus are available through the library's website or on Blackboard.

SCHEDULE

[B] on Blackboard

Week 1. Introduction (August 22)

A MACRO-VIEW OF THE SUBFIELD

Week 2. What is Comparative Politics; Explanatory Frameworks (August 29)

Required:

- Gerardo Munch. 2007. "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics." In *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, pp. 32-59. [Brief history of the subfield]
- Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman. 1997. "Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction." In *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* edited by Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman. New York: Cambridge University Press, 3-8. [B] [Overview of explanatory frameworks]
- Barbara Geddes. 2003. "How the Approach You Choose Affects the Answers You Get: Rational Choice and Its Uses in Comparative Politics." In *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, pp. 175-211. [B]
- Lisa Wedeen. 2002. "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science," *American Political Science Review* 96 (4): 713-28. [B]
- Paul Pierson. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review* 94 (2): 251-67. [B]

Discussion prompts

- What is comparative politics?
- In what ways do rationalists, culturalists, and structuralists differ? Compare the assumptions and goals of each framework.
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each explanatory framework?

Optional:

- Craig Parsons. 2007. *How to Map Arguments in Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Rationality:

- Donald Green and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Jeffrey Friedman, eds. 1996. *The Rational Choice Controversy: Economic Models of Politics Reconsidered*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Robert Bates et al. 1998. *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- And books in the Cambridge Series on Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions

Culture:

- Clifford Geertz. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.
- Michael Schatzberg. 2001. *Political Legitimacy in Middle Africa: Father, Family, Food*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Anne Norton. 2004. *95 Theses on Politics, Culture, and Method*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Lisa Wedeen. 2004. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Structure:

- Peter Hall and Rosemary Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44: 936–957.
- Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol. 2002. "Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science." In *Political Science: State of the Discipline* edited by Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner. New York: W. W. Norton, pp. 693-721.
- Paul Pierson, 2004. *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- "David Collier: Critical Junctures, Concepts, and Methods," in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*.

Week 3. Comparative Methods (September 12)

Required:

Foundational text

- Arend Lijphart. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65 (3): 682-93. [B]
- Skim: Arend Lijphart. 1975. "The Comparable-Cases Strategy in Comparative Research." *Comparative Political Studies* 8 (2): 158-77. [B]

Statistical

- Robert Jackman. 1985. "Cross-National Statistical Research and the Study of Comparative Politics," *American Journal of Political Science* 29 (1): 161-82. [B]
- Skim: Aili Tripp and Alice Kang. 2008. "The Global Impact of Quotas: On the Fast Track to Female Representation." *Comparative Political Studies* 41 (5): 338-61. [B]

Experimental

- Donald Green and Alan Gerber. 2003. "The Underprovision of Experiments in Political Science." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 589: 94-112. [B]
- Skim: Rikhil Bhavnani. 2009. "Do Electoral Quotas Work after They Are Withdrawn?"

Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India.” *American Political Science Review* 103 (1): 23-35. [B]

Paired Comparison

- Syndey Tarrow. 2010. “The Strategy of Paired Comparison: Toward a Theory of Practice.” *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (2): 230-59. [B]
- Skim: Mona Lena Krook, Diana O’Brien, and Krista Swip. 2010. “Military Invasion and Women’s Political Representation.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 12 (1): 66-79. [B]

Qualitative Comparative Analysis

- Charles Ragin. 1987. *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 19-33, 69-102. [B]
- Skim: Mona Lena Krook. 2010. “Women’s Representation in Parliament: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis,” *Political Studies* 58: 886-908. [B]

Discussion prompts

- What key considerations do we want to make when using each method?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each method?

Further readings (chronological):

- Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune. 1970. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., pp. 3-46
- James Fearon. 1991. “Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing.” *World Politics* 43 (2): 127-145.
- Charles A. Lave and James G. March. 1993. *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
- Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- James Mahoney and Gary Goertz. 2004. “The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research.” *American Political Science Review* 98: 671-686.
- David Collier and Henry E. Brady, eds. [2004 1st edition] 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, 2nd Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Evan Lieberman. 2005. “Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research.” *American Political Science Review* 99: 435-452.
- Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds. 2006. *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Edward Schatz, ed. 2009. *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- John Gerring. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

PROBLEMATIC I. VIOLENCE

Week 4. The State (September 19)

Required:

- Max Weber. [1919] 2006. "Politics as a Vocation," in Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, eds. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 2nd edition. New York: W.W.Norton and Co., pp. 31-37. [B]
- Charles Tilly. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell, Chapter 1, pp. 1-37. [B]
- Jeffrey Herbst. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 3-31. [B]
- Venelin I. Ganev. 2005. "Post-communism as an Episode of State Building: A Reversed Tillyan Perspective." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 38 (4): 425-445. [B]

Discussion prompts

- What is the state?
- How are states made, according to each author?
- How does each reading build on the prior one?
- If states are made, in part, through violence, what does it mean to be a failed state?

Further readings:

- Theda Skocpol, 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-37.
- Margaret Levi. 1988. *Of Rule and Revenue*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.
- Thomas Ertman. 1997. *Birth of the Leviathan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- James Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Joel Migdal. 1998. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- For political economists: James Robinson. 2002. "States and Power in Africa by Jeffrey Herbst: A Review Essay," *Journal of Economic Literature* XL (June): 510-19.
- Hendrick Spruyt. 2002. "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 127-49.
- Catherine Boone. 2003. *Political Topographies of the African State: Territorial Authority and Institutional Choice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-42.
- Kathleen Collins. 2006. *Clan Politics and Regime Transition in Central Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Robert Bates. 2008. *When Things Fall Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Joel Migdal. 2009. "Studying the State," in Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 208-36.
- James C. Scott. 2010. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Nationalism:

- Benedict Anderson. 1983. *Imagined Communities*. London: Verso.
- Mark Beissinger. 2002. *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rogers Brubaker. 2001. "The Return of Assimilation? Changing Perspectives on Immigration and its Sequels in France, Germany, and the United States." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24 (4): 531-48.
- Ernest Gellner. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Edward Miguel. 2004. "Tribe or Nation? Nation Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics* 56 (3): 327-62.

Week 5. The Dogs That Do Not Bark (September 26)

Required:

- David Laitin. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- "David Laitin: Culture, Rationality, and the Search for Discipline," in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, pp. 601-648.

Discussion prompts

- What is Laitin's central question?
- What is Laitin's central argument?
- Describe the explanatory framework that Laitin uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Laitin uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Laitin's choices?
- What is Laitin's problem with congruence theory (p. 76)? Is Laitin's argument against congruence theory supported by the evidence?

Optional important book on ethnic politics:

- Donald Horowitz. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Reacting to (among others):

- Harry Eckstein. 1966. *Division and Cohesion in Democracy: A Study of Norway*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Arend Lijphart. 1977. *Democracy in Plural Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Influenced (among others):

- James Fearon and David Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90 (4): 715-35.
- Pauline Jones Luong. 2002. *Institutional Change and Political Continuity in Post-Soviet Central Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Daniel Posner. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. OR Daniel Posner. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbakas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98: 529-46.
- Kanchan Chandra. 2007. *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Head Counts in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 6. Electoral Competition and Violence (October 3)

Required:

- Steven Wilkinson. 2006. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Arend Lijphart. 1977. *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, Chapters 1 and 2. [B]
- Skim: "Arend Lijphart: Political Institutions, Divided Societies, and Consociational Democracy," in *Passion, Craft, and Method*, pp. 234-72.

Discussion prompts

- Map out Wilkinson's argument, in detail.
- What are the alternative explanations? What is consociationalism? Are you persuaded that the alternative explanations do not suffice?
- Describe the explanatory framework that Wilkinson uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Wilkinson uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Wilkinson's choices?

Further reading:

- Paul Brass. 1997. *Theft of an Idol: Text and Context in the Study of Collective Violence*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Donald Horowitz. 2001. *The Deadly Ethnic Riot*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Ashutosh Varshney. 2002. *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Reacting to (among others):

- James Tong. 1991. *Disorder under Heaven: Collective Violence in the Ming Dynasty*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Arend Lijphart. 1996. "The Puzzle of Indian Democracy: A Consociational Interpretation." *American Political Science Review* 90 (2): 258-68.

New generation:

- Alexandra Scacco. In progress. *Anatomy of a Riot: Participation in Ethnic Violence in Nigeria*.
- Kristin Michelitch. 2015. "Does Electoral Competition Exacerbate Interethnic or Interpartisan Economic Discrimination? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Market Price Bargaining." *American Political Science Review* 109(1): 43-61.

Party politics and electoral competition could be a standalone seminar:

- Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Harper Collins.
- Ruth Morgenthau. 1964. *Political Parties in French-Speaking West Africa*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Gary Cox. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Martin Shefter. 1981. "Parties and Patronage: England, Germany, and Italy." *Politics & Society* 7: 403-51.
- Herbert Kitschelt. 1992. "The Formation of Party Systems in East Central Europe." *Politics &*

Society 20:7-50.

- Ernesto Calvo and Maria Victoria Murillo. 2004. "Who Delivers? Partisan Clients in the Argentine Electoral Market." *American Journal of Political Science*. 48(4): 742-57.
- Anna Grzymala-Busse. 2007. *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Susan Stokes, Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno, and Valeria Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Week 7. Collective Action and Civil War (October 10)

Required:

- Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- James C. Scott. 1990. *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*. Preface, Chapters 1 and 8 [B]
- "James C. Scott: Peasants, Power, and the Art of Resistance." In *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*: 351-391.

Discussion prompts

- Map out Wood's argument, in detail.
- Describe the explanatory framework that Wood uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Wood uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Wood's choices?
- What does Wood add to Scott?
- What are the alternative explanations?

Inspired (among others):

- Stathis Kalyvas. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil Wars*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jeremy Weinstein. 2006. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Scott Straus. 2008. *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Classics:

- Mancur Olson. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-65.
- Albert O. Hirschman. 1970. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1, pp. 1-20.

PROBLEMATIC II. DEMOCRACY

Week 8. Defining Democracy (October 24)

Required:

- Robert Dahl. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 1-16. [B]
- Frederic Schaffer. 2000. *Democracy in Translation: Understanding Politics in an Unfamiliar*

Culture. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

- “Robert Dahl: Normative Theory, Empirical Research, and Democracy,” in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, 113-49.

Discussion prompts

- What is Dahl’s definition of polyarchy?
- What is Schaffer’s approach to defining democracy?
- Describe the explanatory framework that Schaffer uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Schaffer uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Schaffer’s choices?

or

- Write your reaction as if you were Dahl, Wedeen, Geddes, or Pierson.

A classic:

- Giovanni Sartori. 1970. “Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics.” *American Political Science Review* 44: 1033-1053.

Further readings:

- David Collier and Steven Levitsky. 1997. “Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research.” *World Politics* 49: 430–51.
- Adam Przeworski, Michael E. Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.
- Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices.” *Comparative Political Studies* 35: 5–34.
- David Collier and Robert Adcock. 1999. “Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices about Concepts.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 537–565.
- Robert Adcock and David Collier. 2001. “Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research.” *American Political Science Review* 95: 529– 546.
- Michael Coppedge. 1999. “Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics.” *Comparative Politics* 31: 465–476.
- Michael Coppedge, Angel Alvarez, and Claudia Maldonado. 2008. “Two Persistent Dimensions of Democracy: Contestation and Inclusiveness.” *Journal of Politics* 70 (3): 632–647.
- Zachary Elkins. 2000. “Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations.” *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 293–300.

Week 9. Modernization (October 31)

Required:

- Seymour Martin Lipset. 1959. “Social Requisites of Democracy.” *American Political Science Review* 53 (1): 69-105. [B]
- Samuel Huntington. [1968] 2006. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, Yale University Press, Chapter 1. [B]
- Skim: “Samuel P. Huntington: Order and Conflict in Global Perspective,” in *Passion, Craft, and Method*, pp. 210-33.

- Guillermo O'Donnell. 1973. *Modernization and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, Chapter 2. [B]
- Skim: "Guillermo O'Donnell: Democratization, Political Engagement, and Agenda-Setting Research," in *Passion, Craft, and Method*, pp. 273-304.
- Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49 (2): 155-183. [B]
- Skim: "Adam Przeworski: Capitalism, Democracy, and Science," in *Passion, Craft, and Method*, pp. 456-503.

Discussion prompts

- Describe Lipset's central arguments, assumptions, and implications.
- How does each subsequent author (Huntington, O'Donnell, Przeworski and Limongi) confirm, challenge, and/or contribute to Lipset's theory?

Further readings:

- Karl Deutsch. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *American Political Science Review* 51 (3): 494-514.
- Daniel Bell. 1974. *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: Venture in Social Forecasting*. Heinemann Educational Publishers.
- Alexander Gerschenkron. 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Eugen Weber. 1976. *Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870-1914*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Juan Linz. 1978. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Crisis, Breakdown, and Reequilibration*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds. 1978. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes*. 4 vols. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- James C. Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Modernization Theory revisited:

- Ronald Inglehart. 1997. *Modernization and Postmodernization: Cultural, Economic, and Political Change in 43 Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris. 2003. *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change around the World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 10. Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship (November 7): Review essay due

Required:

- Barrington Moore. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Beacon Press, Forward, Preface, Chapters 7-9, Epilogue. [B]
- "Barrington Moore, Jr.: The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis" in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, pp. 86-112.
- Dietrich Rueschmeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, Chapters 1 and 3. [B]

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2. [B]

Discussion prompts

- Map out Moore's argument in detail. Include the paths to democracy, fascism, and communism.
- Describe the explanatory framework that Moore uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Moore uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Moore's choices?
- Map out Rueschmeyer and his colleague's argument. In what ways does it differ from Moore? In what ways does it build on Moore?
- Map out Acemoglu and Robinson's argument. In what ways does it differ from Moore and Rueschmeyer et al? Do Acemoglu and Robinson make an important contribution, and if so, how?

Further readings:

- Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier. 1991. *Shaping the Political Arena*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Samuel Huntington. 1991-2. "How Countries Democratize," *Political Science Quarterly* 106:4: 576-616.
- Jeffery Paige. 1997. *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Central America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Daniel Ziblatt. 2006. "How did Europe Democratize?" *World Politics* 58 (2): 311-338.
- Edward Friedman. 1998. "Development, Revolution, Democracy and Dictatorship: China versus India," in Theda Skocpol, ed. *Democracy, Revolution, & History*. Cornell University Press, pp: 102-123.
- Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, 2003. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics* 55 (4): 517-549.
- Carles Boix. 2003. *Democracy and Redistribution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ben Ansell and David Samuels. 2014. *Inequality and Democratization: An Elite-Competition Approach*. Cambridge University Press.

Origins of parties:

- Leonardo Arriola. 2012. *Multi-ethnic Coalitions in Africa: Business Financing of Opposition Election Campaigns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Adrienne LeBas. 2011. *From Protest to Parties: Party-Building and Democratization in Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rachel Beatty Riedl. 2014. *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Revolutions:

- Theda Skocpol. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*, Chapter 1.
- Jack Goldstone. 1991. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*.
- Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2000. *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Authoritarianism:

- Lisa Wedeen. 2004. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in*

Contemporary Syria. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

- Beatriz Magaloni. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mai Hassan. 2016. "The Strategic Shuffle: Ethnic Geography, the Internal Security Apparatus, and Elections in Kenya." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Week 11. Democratic Performance (November 14)

Required:

- Robert Putnam. 1994. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- American Association for Higher Education. 1995. "'Bowling Alone': An Interview with Robert Putnam." With Russ Edgerton. <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/assoc/aahe.html> [B]
- Skim: Sheri Berman. 1997. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics* 49 (April): 401-39. [B]
- Skim: Lily Tsai. 2007. "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review* 101 (2): 355-372. [B]

Discussion prompts

- Map out Putnam's central argument, in detail. Why does membership in horizontal associations improve democratic performance?
- Many have criticized Putnam's underlying assumptions. Do you have any criticisms of his assumptions or his argument?
- Describe the explanatory framework that Putnam uses, drawing on Week 2. Describe the methods that Putnam uses, drawing on Week 3. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of Putnam's choices?
- What is Berman's central argument? How does Berman contribute to Putnam's work?
- What is Tsai's central argument? How does Tsai contribute to Putnam's work?

Further readings:

- ECPR News. 2000. "Leaders of the Profession: Robert Putnam – Interview with Ken Newton." *ECPR News* 11, 2.
- Ira Sharkansky. 1969. "The Utility of Elazar's Political Culture: A Research Note." *Polity* 2 (1): 55-83.
- Bingham Powell. 2001. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Redistribution:

- Kurt Weyland. 1996. *Democracy Without Equity: Failures of Reform in Brazil*. University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Torbin Iversen and David Sockice. 2006. "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others." *American Political Science Review* 100 (2): 165-81.
- Michael Ross. 2006. "Are Democracies Good for the Poor?" *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Herbert Kitschelt and Steven Wilkinson. 2007. *Patrons, Clients, and Policies: Patterns of Democratic Accountability and Political Competition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Civil Society:

- Jan Kubik. 2005. "How to Study Civil Society: The State of the Art and What to Do Next." *East European Politics and Societies* 19 (1): 105-20.
- Sarah Henderson. 2002. "Selling Civil Society: Western Aid and the Nongovernmental Organization Sector in Russia." *Comparative Political Studies* 35 (March): 136-67.
- Theda Skocpol, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson, "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Voluntarism in the United States," *American Political Science Review* 94 no. 3 (September 2000), pp. 527-546.
- For a fuller treatment: Lily Tsai. 2007. *Accountability without Democracy: Solidarity Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Civil Society in International Human Rights and Politics:

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Sidney Tarrow. 2005. *The New Transnational Activism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Beth Simmons. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- And the work of Amanda Murdie, Chad Clay, and Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes.

Social Movements:

- Sidney Tarrow. 1994. *Power in Movement: Social Movements, Collective Action, and Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, and Meyer Zald. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sonia Alvarez. 1990. *Engendering Democracy in Brazil: Women's Movements in Transition Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- And research published in *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Mobilization*, and *Social Forces*.

PROBLEMATIC III. POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 12. Institutions (November 21)

Required:

- Douglass North and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutional Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *Journal of Economic History* 49 (4): 803-32. [B]
- Robert Bates. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction, Part II (Chapters 5-7), Commonalities and Variations, pp. 1-8, 81-132. [B]
- Robert Bates. 1983. *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, Chapters 3 and 5. [B]
- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review* 91 (5): 1369-1401. [B]
- "Robert H. Bates: Markets, Politics, and Choice," in *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, pp. 601-648.

Discussion prompts

- Map out North and Weingast's argument in detail.
- Map out Bates's (1981, 1983) arguments. In *Passion, Craft, and Method*, Bates said that chapter 5 in 1983 "gets closer to the truth" than *Markets and States*. Is his 1983 chapter 5 a significant improvement upon his influential 1981 book?
- Map out Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson's argument in detail. In what ways do they build on North and Weingast and Bates (1983, chapter 3)? That is, what do they add to our understanding of economic development?
- What are the implications of these canonical works for economic development?
- What are the scholars' underlying assumptions? Is anything important overlooked?

Further readings:

- Chalmers Johnson. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Anne Krueger. 1990. "Government Failures in Development." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 4 (3): 9-23.
- Douglas North. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Peter Evans. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press
- Joel Hellman. 1998. "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions." *World Politics* 50 (2): 203-34.
- Robert Wade. 2000. *Governing the Market: Economic Theory and the Role of Government in East Asian Industrialization*. Princeton University Press.
- Timothy Frye. 2000. *Brokers and Bureaucrats: Building Market Institutions in Russia*. University of Michigan Press.
- Alice Amsden. 2001. *The Rise of "The Rest": Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- George Tsebelis. 2002. *Veto Players: How Political Institutions Work*. Princeton University Press.
- Atul Kohli. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Paul Seabright. 2004. *The Company of Strangers: A Natural History of Economic Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Edward Glaeser, Rafael LaPorta, Florencio Lopez de Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer. 2004. "Do Institutions Cause Growth?" *Journal of Economic Growth* 9: 271-298.
- Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini. 2005. *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*. MIT Press.

Institutions v. Geography:

- Jared Diamond. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117 (4): 1231-129.
- Dani Rodrik, Arvind Subramanian, and Francesco Trebbi. 2004. "Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions over Geography and Integration in Economic Development." *Journal of Economic Growth* 9 (2): 131-58.

- Jeffrey Sachs. 2003, "Institutions Don't Rule: Direct Effects of Geography on Per Capita Income." *NBER Working Paper* 9490.
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Crown Business.
- James Mahoney. 2010. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Foreign Aid:

- Arturo Escobar. 1994. *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- James Ferguson. 1994. *The Anti-Politics Machine: 'Development,' Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Adam Przeworski and James Vreeland. 2000. "The Effect of IMF Programs on Economic Growth." *Journal of Development Economics* 62 (2): 385-421.
- Nicolas Van de Walle. 2001. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- William Easterly. 2003. "Can Foreign Aid Buy Growth?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17 (3): 23-48.
- Paul Collier. 2007. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Public Affairs.

Informal Institutions:

- Gretchen Helmke and Steven Levitsky. 2004. "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda." *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (4): 725-40.
- Gretchen Helmke and Steven Levitsky. 2006. *Informal Institutions and Democracy in Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Lauren MacLean. 2010. *Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa: Risk and Reciprocity in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Political Economy of Gender:

- Torben Iversen and Frances Rosenbluth. 2010. *Women, Work, and Politics: The Political Economy of Gender Inequality*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Teri Caraway. 2007. *Assembling Women: The Feminization of Global Manufacturing*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Thanksgiving week: No class

Week 13. Conclusion (December 5)

Required:

- Re-read three interviews from *Passion, Craft, and Method*.
- Atul Kohli, Peter Evans, Peter Katzenstein, et al. 1995. "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium." *World Politics* 48 (1): 1-49. [B]
- David Laitin. 2002. "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline." In *Political Science: State of the Discipline* edited by Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner. New York: W. W. Norton, pp. 630-659. [B]
- Mark Lichbach. 1997. "Social Theory and Comparative Politics." In *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* edited by Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 239-276. [B]

Discussion prompts

- What lessons on “doing comparative politics” do you take from the interviews in *Passion, Craft, and Method*?
- How do the major explanatory frameworks and methods fit together? Kohli et al, Laitin, and Lichbach present different answers. Which argument is most compelling to you?
- What is comparative politics?

Further readings:

- Kristin Renwick Monroe. 2005. *Perestroika! Revolution in the Social Sciences*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Susanne Hoeber Rudolph. 2005. “The Imperialism of Categories: Situating Knowledge in a Globalizing World.” *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (1): 5-14.

Week 14. Mock Comps Distributed (December 12): No class

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation 20%

Reaction papers 30%

Review essay 20%

Mock comp and peer evaluation 30%

Participation

I do not dispense Truth, to borrow a phrase from a mentor. This is not a lecture-based course in which one authority gives out objective answers but a discussion-based seminar in everyone is an authority. As such, the quality of our class depends heavily on the quality of each and everyone’s participation. While I will provide context and redirect discussion as needed, I learn from you just as you learn from your peers.

Here are some guidelines about participation:

- I assume that everyone will respect one another and the instructor. (Sighing, rolling one’s eyes, surfing the web, and texting do not scream respect toward whomever is speaking.)
- I pay attention to the *quality* of one’s participation. Does the student talk directly about the readings? Does the student engage with what other students have said? One does not need to talk all the time to do well in the course.
- That said, I value hearing from everyone and reserve the right to call someone on the spot. If one does not speak at all during the semester or consistently needs to be called on, *one cannot earn an A in this seminar-based advanced graduate-level course*.

Reaction papers

To help stimulate meaningful discussion of the readings, students will write a one-page, single-spaced reaction paper using 12-point font and 1-inch margins for ten of the eleven weeks (Weeks 2-12).

Students will post a copy of their reaction paper on Blackboard by 9am on the day of class. Submitting your papers five hours before seminar will help the instructor (and your peers) prepare

for discussion.

Some guidelines about the reaction papers (some apply more to some readings than others):

Before writing, identify the following:

1. What is the purpose of the reading(s)?
2. What is the central argument?
3. What explanatory framework(s) does the author use?
4. What key claims does the author(s) advance?
5. Who or what is the author arguing *against*?
6. Why do you think the reading is so important in comparative politics? What seems innovative about it?
7. Consider how readings speak to one another and to previous weeks or classes.

Don't:

1. Summarize each reading. Assume that we have done the reading.
2. Criticize the writing style.
3. State the obvious.

Do:

1. Try to provide an overarching argument.
2. State your argument upfront, in the first paragraph.
3. React!
4. Identify what new questions the readings raise for you. What do you wish was addressed?

Review essay

At this stage of your academic career, you start become experts in a specific area of inquiry. This assignment is designed to help you dig further into an aspect of comparative politics. You will review three major books in comparative politics on a common theme. A common theme is one that we address in the seminar. Note, however, that we do not directly speak to several main research problematics in comparative politics, such as political parties and party systems, the political economy of industrialized democracies, and voting and electoral systems. If you are interested in writing a review essay on books in one of these "neglected" areas of comparative politics, please let me know.

The style and content of your essay will follow that of review articles in *World Politics*. Some of my favorite examples are Hafner-Burton and Ron (2009) and Young (2002). The essay will be approximately 10 pages double-spaced, using 12-point font and 1-inch margins. More on the review essay to come.

Timeframe

First 4 weeks Students discuss their theme and selection of books with the instructor.
November 7 Students submit a hard copy of the review essay in class.

Mock comp

To help graduate students in the department prepare for the comparative comprehensive exam, students will write two mock comprehensive essays (25%). The mock comp will last for three days. It is open book and open note but not open discussion. The two essays combined will total 12 double-spaced pages.

It is often helpful to solicit feedback from one's peers. And as we see in this class, scholars are frequently in conversation with one another. In that light, students will constructively evaluate two of their peers' mock exam (5%). Peer evaluations will be double blind. That is, rather than writing one's name on the exam, students will use an ID number that the instructor will provide a few days before the mock comp begins.

Timeframe

- December 12 Instructor posts the mock comp questions on Blackboard at **2pm**.
- December 15 Students submit 3 hard copies of their mock comp to me in 540 Oldfather (under my door if I am not there) or in my mailbox in 511 Oldfather by **2pm**. I will put mock comps for students to evaluate in your mailboxes around **4:30pm**.
- December 16 Students will submit a hard copy of their peer evaluations to me (540 or 511 Oldfather) by **4:50pm**.
- December 19 Instructor will deposit your graded mock comp and your peers' evaluations.

Students not planning to take the comparative comprehensive exam have the option of writing a research paper but must gain the instructor's approval by September 23.

CLASS POLICIES

When in doubt, please talk with me.

All work must be original. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and reported to the Graduate Committee.

Late work will be penalized one letter grade (e.g., an A would receive a B) for each day that the assignment is late.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.