
Seminar in Comparative Politics Political Science 7970

Prof Wm A Clark
213 Stubbs Hall
poclark@lsu.edu

Spring 2014
Fridays 9-12
210 Stubbs

Course Description

This course is a proseminar, i.e., a course designed primarily to provide the student with an introduction to the major concepts, theories, methods, and debates appropriate to the field of comparative politics. As such, and given the rather diverse nature of the field, a wide range of subject areas are confronted through an examination of prominent and representative samples from the relevant bodies of scholarly literature.

The field of comparative politics is very rich and varied, both substantively and methodologically. These characteristics represent both a strength and a weakness, especially given the task that the course confronts in seeking a balanced and representative introduction to the field. In constructing the course, then, certain judgments must be made, certain compromises must be accepted, and certain values must be balanced off against others. What the course does claim to do is to provide an introduction to important themes and debates through an examination of prominent works and scholars.

Course Requirements

[1] In-Class Performance: Students are expected to come to each seminar meeting prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Everyone must be sure to come to class sessions ready to do his or her part in making the session a worthwhile learning environment. Students rely on each other in many important ways, and you have an obligation to your colleagues to pull your weight in the seminar. Needless to say, this role can be played only if you are in attendance and prepared thoroughly. (20 percent of the course grade)

[2] Three Short Papers: Each student will be obliged on three occasions to prepare a short paper that analyzes and synthesizes a particular week's readings. Each paper should be 6-8 pages (typed, double-spaced, normal fonts, fully cited). These papers are due on the day the topics are discussed in seminar. (15 percent each: 45 percent of the course grade)

[3] Research Paper: Each student will have the opportunity to pursue in more depth one specific area of the comparative politics literature through the execution of a research paper. Because by its nature the course must cover a wide variety of subjects in a single semester, this assignment will provide a chance to develop a deeper understanding of one part of comparative politics that is of particular interest to the student. This paper should be approximately 15-20 pages (typed, double-spaced, normal fonts, fully cited, not including cover page, references, etc.), should take the basic form of a conference paper or journal article, and is due on or before the final class session on May 2, 2014. (35 percent of the course grade)

Required Texts

Each of the following books is required for the course and is available at bookstores that serve the LSU community. In addition to these works, a number of articles and chapters are included on the syllabus that follows.

Benedict Anderson (1983/2006). Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (Verso).

Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (1985). Bringing the State Back In (Cambridge University Press).

Samuel P. Huntington (1968). Political Order in Changing Societies (Yale University Press).

Barrington Moore, Jr. (1966). Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World (Beacon Press).

Robert D. Putnam (1994). Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton University Press).

James C. Scott (1998). Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed (Yale University Press).

Schedule of Weekly Topics and Readings

(Date_

[1] **Introduction to the Course** (1/17)

[2] **The Historical Development of the Field of Comparative Politics** (1/24)

Gerardo L. Munck (2007). "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics," pp. 32-59 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds., Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press).

Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder (2007). "Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics: An Analysis of Leading Journals," Comparative Political Studies, vol. 40, no. 1: 5-31.

Mark Blyth (2006). "Great Punctuations: Prediction, Randomness, and the Evolution of Comparative Political Science," American Political Science Review, vol. 100, no. 4: 493-498.

Gerhard Loewenberg (2006). "The Influence of European Émigré Scholars on Comparative Politics, 1925-1965," American Political Science Review, vol. 100, no. 4: 597-604.

David D. Laitin (2002). "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline," pp. 630-659 in Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner, eds. Political Science: The State of the Discipline (W. W. Norton).

Kees van Kersbergen (2010). "Comparative Politics: Some Points for Discussion," European Political Science, vol. 9, no. 1: 49-61.

[3] Concepts, Methods, and Research Design in Comparative Politics (1/31)

Arend Lijphart (1971). "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method," American Political Science Review, vol. 65, no. 3: 682-693.

Giovanni Sartori (1970). "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," American Political Science Review, vol. 64, no. 4: 1033-1053.

James Mahoney (2007). "Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics," Comparative Political Studies, vol. 40, no. 2: 122-144.

Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers (1980). "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry," Comparative Studies in Society and History, vol. 22, no. 2: 174-197.

Robert W. Jackman (1985). "Cross-National Statistical Research and the Study of Comparative Politics," American Journal of Political Science, vol. 29, no. 1: 161-182.

Michael Bernhard (2009). "Methodological Disputes in Comparative Politics," Comparative Politics, vol. 41, no. 4: 495-515.

[4] What is the State? (2/14)

J. P. Nettl (1968). "The State as a Conceptual Variable," World Politics, vol. 20, no. 4: 559-592.

Mancur Olson (1993). "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," American Political Science Review, vol. 87, no. 3: 567-576.

Charles Tilly (1985). "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," pp. 169-191 in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. Bringing the State Back In (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Michael Mann (1985). "The Autonomous Power of the State," Archives Europeennes de Sociologie, vol. 25, no. 2: 185-213.

Eric Nordlinger (1987). "Taking the State Seriously," pp. 353-389 in Myron Weiner and Samuel P. Huntington, eds., Understanding Political Development (Little, Brown & Co.).

Gabriel A. Almond (1988). "The Return to the State," American Political Science Review, vol. 82, no. 3: 853-874.

[5] **The State and Society** (2/21)

James C. Scott (1998). Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed (New Haven: Yale University Press).

[6] **Democracy and Democratization – I** (2/28)

Mike Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, and Adam Przeworski (1996). "Classifying Political Regimes," Studies in Comparative International Development, vol. 31, no. 2: 3-36.

Seymour Martin Lipset (1959). "Some Social Requisites of Democracy," American Political Science Review, vol. 53, no. 1: 69-105.

Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl (1991). "What Democracy is ... And is Not," Journal of Democracy, vol. 2, no. 3: 75-88.

Lise Storm (2008). "An Elemental Definition of Democracy and its Advantages for Comparing Political Regime Types," Democratization, vol. 15, no. 2: 215-229.

Adam Przeworski, et al. (1996). "What Makes Democracy Endure?," Journal of Democracy, vol. 7, no. 1: 3-26.

Andreas Schedler (2001). "Measuring Democratic Consolidation," Studies in Comparative International Development, vol. 36, no. 1: 66-92.

[7] **Democracy and Democratization – II** (3/7)

Robert D. Putnam (1994). Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

[8] **Non-Democratic Regimes** (3/14)

Paul Brooker (2000). "Theories of Non-Democratic Government," pp. 7-35 in Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government & Politics (St. Martin's Press).

Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski (1965). "The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship," pp. 15-27 in Friedrich and Brzezinski, Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy (Praeger Publishers).

Emilio Gentile (2004). "Fascism, Totalitarianism, and Political Religion: Definitions and Critical Reflections on Criticism of an Interpretation," Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions, vol. 5, no. 3: 326-375.

Amos Perlmutter (1980). "The Comparative Analysis of Military Regimes: Formation, Aspirations, and Achievements," World Politics, vol. 33, no. 1: 96-120.

Guillermo O'Donnell (1994). "Delegative Democracy," Journal of Democracy, vol. 5, no. 1: 55-69.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way (2010). "Introduction," pp. 3-36 in Levitsky and Way, Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

[9] Identities, Groups, Nations, and Nationalism
(3/21)

Benedict Anderson (1983/2006). Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (Verso).

[10] Modernization and Revolution (3/28)

James C. Davies (1962). "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, vol. 27, no. 1: 5-19.

Charles Tilly (1973). "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?," Comparative Politics, vol. 5, no. 3: 425-447.

Theda Skocpol (1976). "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions," Comparative Studies in Society and History, vol. 18, no. 2: 175-210.

Jack A. Goldstone (1982). "The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions," Annual Review of Sociology, vol. 8, no. 1: 187-207.

Ekkart Zimmermann (1990). "On the Outcomes of Revolutions: Some Preliminary Considerations," Sociological Theory, vol. 8, no. 1: 33-47.

Jeff Goodwin (1994). "Old Regimes and Revolutions in the Second and Third Worlds: A Comparative Perspective," Social Science History, vol. 18, no. 4: 575-604.

[11] Economic Development, Social Conflict, and Political Change (4/4)

Barrington Moore, Jr. (1968). Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World (Beacon).

[12] The Relationship between Economic and Political Development (4/25)

Samuel P. Huntington (1968). Political Order in Changing Societies (Yale University Press).

[13] **The Impact of Political Institutions: How Do Institutions Matter?** (5/2)

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary C. R. Taylor (1996). "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," Political Studies, vol. 64, no. 4: 936-957.

Richard Heffernan (2005). "Why the Prime Minister Cannot be a President: Comparing Institutional Imperatives in Britain and America," Parliamentary Affairs, vol. 58, no. 1: 53-70.

Guy-Erik Isaksson (2001). "Parliamentary Government in Different Shapes, West European Politics, vol. 24, no. 4: 40-54.

Scott Mainwaring and Matthew S. Shugart (1997). "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal," Comparative Politics, vol. 29, no. 4: 449-471.

Virgilio Afonso da Silva (2006). "Duverger's Laws: Between Social and Institutional Determinism," European Journal of Political Research, vol. 45, no. 1: 31-41.

Arend Lijphart (1998). "Consensus and Consensus Democracy: Cultural, Structural, Functional, and Rational-Choice Explanations," Scandinavian Political Studies, vol. 21, no. 2: 99-108.