

Political Science 440A: Theories of Comparative Politics

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Autumn 2021

Class time: Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 pm
Class location: Encina West, Room 400

Course Overview

This seminar is designed to serve the following goals:

1. To acquaint students with many of the leading theories within the field of comparative politics. The weekly themes center on dependent variables, and the readings are oriented toward leading theories (or proposed independent variables) that account for the variation in these crucial explananda. This course seeks to balance traditional macro-sociological and contemporary micro-analytic approaches. Students will be exposed both to classic texts and to the state-of-the-art books and articles. However, we will not address some major areas of comparative politics, including comparative electoral behavior, voting rules, and legislatures. These topics, which are fundamental to comparative politics, are addressed in other graduate coursework offered by the department.
2. To provide examples of how best to prepare papers for their future submissions to field journals. Papers from the leading journals in the field, including the *American Political Science Review*, will be included in the readings. Students will be expected to read these journals on a regular basis not only to keep up with trends in the field, but also to learn the styles and forms of contributions to comparative politics.
3. To sensitize students to the question of research strategies. The seminar will expose students to diverse methodological tools, in preparation for PS 440C in which students will be asked to use a diverse set of tools to answer a well-specified and theoretically-interesting question whose answer is worth knowing.
4. To develop seminar skills. Students will be asked to write short papers to be delivered to the seminar group, to present the weekly readings, and to engage in critical discussions of the presented papers.

Course Requirements

1. Reading

- Required Reading: students are expected to read all items listed for common reading that immediately follow the topic of the week.

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- Optional Reading: For optional books, specific pages will not be assigned; students should attempt to extract as much as possible from the book in a few hours of reading. The purpose is to capture the broad contribution of these works rather than their specifics.
- Reading Fellow Students' Papers: All students should read the papers of the other students before the seminar meets.

2. Writing

- For two of the course sessions, students will write a paper, to be completed by noon on the day before the seminar, with copies posted on the class website. These papers should be from 1,000 to 1,500 words. The criteria for an exemplary paper are ones that:
 - Propose and defend a thesis that relates to the topic of the week;
 - Address anticipated objections to the thesis; and
 - Synthesize, in the course of the thesis defense, some of the relevant literature for that week such that students who read the paper but who have not read the pieces under discussion would be able to grasp their principal arguments and data employed in supporting them.

3. Presentation

- Students will be responsible for presenting the readings during class each week and leading the seminar. Each student should sign-up to present twice over the course of the quarter. We encourage students to write for the sessions that they choose to present but this is not required.

4. Examination

- In the 10th week, a take-home exam will be handed out for submission during final exam week. If a student chooses to enroll in the course for 3 units (rather than 5 units), a final exam will not be required.

Agenda of Topics and Readings

Week 1: Origins of the State and State Capacity

Karen Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization* (Cornell University Press, 1994), chs. 1 and 6.

Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton University Press, 2000), chs. 2 and 5.

Mancur Olson, "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *American Political Science Review* 87.3 (September 1993), pp. 567-576.

Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and its Competitors* (Princeton University Press, 1994), Introduction, chs. 5 and 8.

Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States: AD 990-1990* (Blackwell Publishers, 1992), ch. 1.

Optional

— Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (Yale University Press, 1968).

— Margaret Levi, *Of Rule and Revenue* (Cambridge University Press, 1988).

— Joel Midgal, *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World* (Princeton University Press, 1988).

Week 2: History, Structure, and Regime Type

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson, "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117.4 (November 2002), pp. 1231-1294.

Lisa Blaydes and Eric Chaney, "The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE," *American Political Science Review* 107.1 (January 2013), pp. 16-34.

Avner Greif, "Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies," *Journal of Political Economy*, 102.5 (October 1994), pp. 912-950.

Douglass North and Barry Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England," *Journal of Economic History*, 49.4 (December 1989), pp. 803-832.

David Stasavage, "When Distance Mattered: Geographic Scale and the Development of European Representative Assemblies," *American Political Science Review* 104.4 (November 2010), pp. 625-643.

Optional

— Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (Crown, 2012).

— Reinhard Bendix, *Kings or People: Power and the Mandate to Rule* (University of California Press, 1980).

— Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*, (Norton, 1997).

Week 3: Economic and Political Foundations of Regime Type

Carles Boix, *Democracy and Redistribution* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Introduction.

Carles Boix, "Democracy, Development, and the International System," *American Political Science Review* 105.4 (November 2011), pp. 809-828.

Gregory M. Luebbert, "Social Foundations of Political Order in Interwar Europe," *World Politics* 39.4 (July 1987), pp. 449-478.

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Beacon Press, 1993), chs. 1-2.

Barry Weingast, "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law," *American Political Science Review* 91.2 (June 1997), pp. 345-263.

Optional

— Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

— Isabela Mares, *From Open Secrets to Secret Voting: Democratic Electoral Reforms and Voter Autonomy* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

— Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez, Jose Antonio Chieub, and Fernando Limongi, *Democracy and*

Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990 (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Week 4: Revolution, Rebellion, and Resistance

Timur Kuran, "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989," *World Politics* 44.1 (October 1991), pp. 7-48.

Roger Petersen, *Resistance and Rebellion: Lessons from Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), ch. 1.

Arturas Rozenas and Yuri Zhukov, "Mass Repression and Political Loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's 'Terror by Hunger'," *American Political Science Review* 113.2 (May 2019), pp. 569-583.

James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* (Yale University Press, 1990). ch. 6.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge University Press, 1979), chs. 2-3.

Optional

— Jack Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World* (University of California Press, 1991).

— Ted Gurr, *Why Men Rebel* (Princeton University Press, 1970).

— Elizabeth Jean Wood, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Week 5: Identity and Nationalism

Kanchan Chandra, "What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006), pp. 397-424.

Ernest Gellner, "Nationalism," *Thought and Change* (University of Chicago Press, 1965).

David Laitin, "Marginality: A Microperspective." *Rationality & Society*. 7.1 (January 1995), pp. 31-57.

Daniel Posner, *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), chs. 5 and 10.

Ronald Rogowski, *Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments* (Princeton University Press, 1989), ch. 1.

Optional

— Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso, 1983).

— David Laitin, *Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad* (Cornell University Press, 1998).

— Adria Lawrence, *Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Week 6: Conflict

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97.1 (February 2003), pp. 75-90.

Stathis Kalyvas, "Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria," *Rationality & Society* 11.3 (August 1999), pp. 243-285.

Stathis Kalyvas and Laia Balcells, "International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict," *American Political Science Review* 104.3 (August 2010), pp. 415-429.

Jason Lyall, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai, "Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan," *American Political Science Review* 107.4 (November 2013), pp. 679-705.

Jeremy Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), chs. 1-2.

Optional

— Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (University of California Press, 1985).

— Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civil Life: Hindus and Muslims in India* (Yale University Press, 2003).

— Steven Wilkinson, *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Week 7: Cooperation

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation," *American Political Science Review* 90.4 (December 1996), pp. 715-735.

James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101.4 (November 2007), pp. 709-725.

Joseph Henrich and Michael Muthukrishna, "The Origin and Psychology of Human Cooperation," *Annual Review of Psychology* 72 (2021), pp. 207-240.

Saumitra Jha, "Trade, Institutions, and Ethnic Tolerance: Evidence from South Asia," *American Political Science Review* 107.4 (November 2013), pp. 806-832.

Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. (Cambridge University Press, 1991), chs. 2-3.

Optional

— Avner Greif, *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy: Lessons from Medieval Trade* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

— David Laitin, *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba* (University

of Chicago, 1986).

— Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined* (Viking-Penguin, 2011).

Week 8: Authoritarianism

Lisa Blaydes, *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), chs. 3 and 6.

Barbara Geddes, "What do we know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2.1 (June 1999), pp. 115-144.

Beatriz Magaloni, *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), Introduction, chs. 1 and 8.

Philip Roessler, "The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa," *World Politics* 63.2 (August 2011), pp. 300-346.

Milan Svobik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), chs. 1-2.

Optional

— Lisa Blaydes. 2018. *State of Repression: Iraq under Saddam Hussein* (Princeton University Press, 2018).

— Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz, *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization and Collapse* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

— Lisa Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria* (University of Chicago Press, 1999).

Week 9: Social Order

Benjamin Lessing and Graeme Denyer Willis, "Legitimacy in Criminal Governance: Managing a Drug Empire from Behind Bars," *American Political Science Review* 113.2 (May 2019), pp. 584-606.

Beatriz Magaloni, Edgar Franco, and Vanessa Melo, "Killing in the Slums: Social Order, Criminal Governance, and Police Violence in Rio de Janeiro," *American Political Science Review* 114.2 (May 2020), pp. 552-572.

Jennifer Pan, *Welfare for Autocrats: How Social Assistance in China Cares for Its Rulers* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), ch 1.

James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (Yale University Press, 1998), Introduction and ch. 2.

David Skarbek, "Governance and Prison Gangs," *American Political Science Review* 105.4 (November 2011), pp. 702-716.

Optional

— Robert Bates, *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development* (W.W. Norton, 2001).

— Diego Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection* (Harvard University Press,

1996).

— Douglass North, John Joseph Wallace and Barry R. Weingast, *Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Week 10: Accountability

Gary Cox, *The Efficient Secret: The Cabinet and the Development of Political Parties in Victorian England* (Cambridge University Press, 1987), chs. 3, 6 and 9.

Saad Gulzar and Benjamin Pasquale, "Politicians, Bureaucrats, and Development: Evidence from India," *American Political Science Review* 111.1 (February 2017), pp. 162–183.

Benjamin Olken, "Direct Democracy and Local Public Goods: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia," *American Political Science Review* 104.2 (May 2010), pp. 243–267.

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton University Press, 1994), chs. 1 and 4.

Lily Tsai, "Solidarity Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review* 101.2 (May 2007), pp. 355–372.

Optional

— Melani Cammett, *Compassionate Communalism: Welfare and Sectarianism in Lebanon* (Cornell University Press, 2014).

— Jonathan Rodden, *Hamilton's Paradox: The Promise and Peril of Fiscal Federalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

— Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Note for Students with Documented Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, (650) 723-1066.