

Political Science 750  
Theory and Method in Comparative Politics  
Spring 2007

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This course provides an overview of theories in the field of comparative politics. It surveys some of the major theoretical debates that have shaped the field. The course is divided into three sections. Part I, "Major Theoretical Approaches," discusses the intellectual history of the field and major shifts that have occurred in theories of comparative politics since 1945. Part II, "Issues in Comparative Politics" focuses on examples of emerging research agendas in the field, including globalization and democratization. Part III, "Research Design and the Comparative Method," examines methodological issues that arise in study of comparative politics.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Papers: You are required to write three short papers (7-10 pages) on any of the readings assigned for a week. The papers are due by May 4.

Presentations: After the second week, students will be asked to make two presentations. The presentations should outline the central claims and implications of the assigned reading for that week. In preparing the presentations, students might engage the following questions: What are the intellectual origins of the theory presented in the reading? What are the underlying assumptions of the theory; are the assumptions reasonable? Is the theory/argument logically consistent? Does the author propose a mid-level or grand theory? If s/he offers a mid-level theory, under what circumstances could the theory be applied and extended? How does the theory relate to other literatures in comparative politics? What type of research design does the author employ? What kinds of evidence does the author(s) offer in support of his/her/their argument? Is the evidence compelling? What other types of empirical tests could the author(s) use to evaluate the explanation? These questions are intended only to serve as a guide for your presentation; you may offer other questions that you think are relevant for discussion.

Grading: The papers count for 80 percent of your final grade, while participation counts for 20 percent. Advanced reading of all assigned material is essential for participation in the class. Evidence of inadequate preparation will be reflected strongly in your participation grade.

University Policy for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Disability Resource Center (Room 137, Reynolds Student Services Center; 895-0866 [TDD 895-0652]).

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who miss class due to observance of a religious holiday shall be given the opportunity to make up the missed work. Please notify the instructor no later than June 8 if you will miss class because of observance of a religious holiday.

## READINGS

Some of the readings for this course will be placed on the electronic reserve (e-reserves) in the Lied Library. These readings are marked "ER" in the syllabus. A small number of articles are available on-line through the MUSE, JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, or Article First databases in the University Library system. These articles are designated "MUSE," "JSTOR," "Academic Search Premier," or "Article First" in the syllabus.

### **PART I: Major Theoretical Approaches**

#### **Week 1: Introduction to the Course (January 16)**

There is no assigned reading for the first week, but the following readings are recommended for an overview of the field:

Harry Eckstein, "A Perspective on Comparative Politics, Past and Present," in Regarding Politics: Essays on Political Theory, Stability, and Change.

Andrew Janos, Politics and Paradigms (Stanford University Press, 1986), 1-96.

Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, "Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics." Comparative Political Studies, 40, no. 1 (2007), Vol. 40 Issue 1: 5-31.

#### **Weeks 2-3: Cultural Approaches and Modernization Theory (January 23-30)**

Samuel P. Huntington, "Political Order and Political Decay," in Political Order in Changing Societies (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968), pp. 1-92, in ER.

Ronald Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture," APSR, 82, No. 4. (Dec., 1988), pp. 1203-1230, in JSTOR.

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "A Revised Theory of Modernization," and "The Causal Link between Democratic Values and Democratic Institutions," from Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), in ER.

Harry Eckstein, "A Culturalist Theory of Political Change," APSR, 82, No. 3. (Sep., 1988), pp. 789-804, in JSTOR.

Dean C. Tipps, "Modernization Theory and the Comparative Study of Societies: A Critical Perspective," Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Mar., 1973), pp. 199-226, in JSTOR,

Edward N. Muller and Mitchell A. Seligson, "Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships," APSR, Vol. 88, No. 3. (Sep., 1994), pp. 635-652, in JSTOR.

Marc Howard Ross, "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis," in Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure, eds M.I. Lichbach and A.S. Zuckerman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) in ER.

**Suggested:**

Gabriel Almond, "Comparative Political Systems," Journal of Politics 18, No. 3. (Aug., 1956), pp. 391-409, in JSTOR

Carole Pateman, "Political Culture, Political Structure and Political Change," British Journal of Political Science, Vol. 1, No. 3. (Jul., 1971), pp. 291-305, in JSTOR.

Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1973).

Ian S. Lustick, "Lijphart, Lakatos, and Consociationalism," World Politics 50, no. 1 (1997), in MUSE.

Darren W. Davis and Christian Davenport, "Assessing the Validity of the Postmaterialism Index," APSR, 93, no.3 (Sept 1999), p649, in JSTOR.

Arturo Escobar, Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Dan Ottemoeller, "Popular Perceptions of Democracy: Elections and Attitudes in Uganda," Comparative Political Studies 31, no. 1 (February 1998), pp.98-124.

**Week 4: Macro-Structural Approaches (February 6)**

Barrington Moore Jr., "England and the Contributions..." "Evolution and Revolution in France," "Revolution from above and Fascism," "The Democratic Route to Modern Society," and "The Peasants and Revolution," in Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966) pp. 3-110, 413-83, in ER.

Theda Skocpol, "A Critical Review of Barrington Moore's *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*," in Social Revolutions in the Modern World (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 25-54, in ER.

John D. Stephens, "Democratic Transition and Breakdown in Western Europe, 1870-1939: A Test of the Moore Thesis," The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 94, No. 5. (Mar., 1989), pp. 1019-1077, in JSTOR.

**Suggested:**

Harry Eckstein, "The Idea of Political Development: From Dignity to Efficiency," World Politics, Vol. 34, No. 4. (Jul., 1982), pp. 451-486, in JSTOR.

Robert Brenner, "The Agrarian Roots of European Capitalism," (in Symposium: Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe) Past and Present, No. 97. (Nov., 1982), pp. 16-113, in JSTOR.

### **Weeks 5-6 State-Centered Theories (February 13-20)**

Peters Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back in..." in Bringing the State Back In (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), chapters 1 (Skocpol), in ER.

Theda Skocpol, Social Revolutions in the Modern World (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), chapters 4, 6, 11, in ER.

Peter Evans, "States and Industrial Transformation," "A Comparative Institutional Approach," "States," "Roles and Sectors," in Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformations (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), chapters 1-4, in ER.

Joel Migdal, "Studying the State," in Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure, eds M.I. Lichbach and A.S. Zuckerman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) in ER.

Saskia Sassen, "Local Actors in Global Politics" Current Sociology Vol. 52, no. 4 (July 2004), p649-670, in Academic Search Premier Database.

Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get," Political Analysis 2 (1990): 131-50, in JSTOR.

### **Suggested:**

Peter Evans, "The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization," World Politics 50, no. 1 (1997), in MUSE.

Gabriel Almond, "The Return to the State," APSR Vol. 82, No. 3. (Sep., 1988), pp. 853-874, in JSTOR.

Spruyt, Hendrik, "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State," Annual Review of Political Science Vol. 5 (2002): 127-149.

### **Weeks 7-8 Rational Choice/Micro-Political Approaches (February 27 to March 6)**

Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (Harvard University Press, 1968), chapters 1-2, in ER.

Margaret Levi, "A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis," in Comparative Politics, in ER.

Jeffrey A. Frieden, Debt, Development and Democracy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991) Introduction and chapter 1, in ER.

Barbara Geddes, "A Game Theoretic Model of Reform in Latin American Democracies," APSR, Vol. 85, No. 2. (Jun., 1991), pp. 371-392, in JSTOR.

George Tsebelis, "Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis," APSR, Vol. 93, No. 3. (Sep., 1999), pp. 591-608, in JSTOR.

**Suggested:**

Adam Przeworski and Michael Wallerstein, "Structural Dependence of the State on Capital," APSR Vol. 82, No. 1. (Mar., 1988), pp. 11-29, in JSTOR.

**Week 9 SPRING BREAK (March 13)**

**Week 10: The New Institutionalism (March 20)**

Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth, eds., Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992). Chapters 1 (Thelen and Steinmo), "Historical Institutionalism and Comparative Politics," 2 (Rothstein) "Labor-Market Institutions and Working-Class Strength," n ER.

B. Guy Peters, Jon Pierre, and Desmond S. King, "The Politics of Path Dependency: Political Conflict in Historical Institutionalism," Journal of Politics Vol 67, No. 4 (November 2005), pp. 1275-1300, in Academic Search Premier Database.

David Bradley, Evelyne Huber, Stephanie Moller, François Nielsen, and John D. Stephens, "Distribution and Redistribution in Postindustrial Democracies," World Politics 55, no. 2 (2003) 193-228, in JSTOR and Project Muse

**Week 11: Representation, Identity Politics and Post-Modern Approaches (March 27)**

Jeffrey W. Rubin, "Meanings and Mobilizations: A Cultural Politics Approach to Social Movements and States," Latin American Research Review Vol. 39, No. 3 (2004), pp. 106-142, in Project MUSE.

José Antonio Lucero, "Representing 'Real' Indians: The Challenges of Indigenous Authenticity and Strategic Constructivism in Ecuador and Bolivia," Latin American Research Review Vol. 41, No. 2 (2006), pp. 31-56, in Project MUSE.

Charles A. Hale, "Does Multiculturalism Menace? Governance, Cultural Rights and the Politics of Identity in Guatemala," Journal of Latin American Studies 34, no. 3 (2002), pp. 485-524, in Article First Database.

**PART II: Recent Issues in the Field of Comparative Politics**

**Weeks 12-13: Regime Transitions and Democratization (April 3-10)**

Gerardo Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices." Comparative Political Studies, 35, no. 1 (2002), in Academic Search Premier Database.

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Papaterra Limongi Neto, "Modernization: Theories and Facts," World Politics, Vol. 49, No. 2. (Jan., 1997), pp. 155-183, in JSTOR

Terry Lynn Karl, "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America," Comparative Politics Vol. 23, No. 1. (Oct., 1990), pp. 1-21. In JSTOR.

Michael Bratton, "Deciphering Africa's Divergent Transitions." Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 112, No. 1. (Spring, 1997), pp. 67-93, in JSTOR.

Adam Przeworski, Democracy and the Market (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp. 51-95, 136-80, in RF

William I. Robinson, "Neoliberalism, the Global Elite, and the Guatemalan Transition: A Critical Macrosocial Analysis," Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs, Vol. 42, No. 4, Special Issue: Globalization and Democratization in Guatemala. (Winter, 2000), pp. 89-107, in JSTOR.

Larry Diamond, "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," Journal of Democracy, Volume 13, Number 2, April 2002, pp. 21-35, in MUSE

#### **Suggested / Further Reading:**

Bunce, Valerie, "Democratization and Economic Reform," Annual Review Political Science (2001), Vol. 4: 43-65.

Collier, David, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," World Politics - Volume 49, Number 3, April 1997, pp. 430-451, in MUSE

G. O'Donnell, P.C. Schmitter & L. Whitehead (eds.). Transitions from Authoritarian Rule. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1986.

Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle, Democratic Experiments in Africa, chs 4 and 6.

Doh Chull Shin, "On the Third Wave of Democratization: A Synthesis and Evaluation of Recent Theory and Research," World Politics (1997) in MUSE.

H. E. Chehabi and Juan J. Linz, Sultanistic Regimes (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998).

Robert Kaufman and Stephan Haggard, The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Rustow, Dankwart "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model," Comparative Politics 2, 3 (April 1970), pp. 337-63 "

Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave (1991).

Larry Diamond, "Rethinking Civil Society: Toward Democratic Consolidation," Journal of Democracy (1994).

### Part III, RESEARCH DESIGN AND THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

#### Weeks 14-15: Issues in Research Design and the Comparative Method (April 17-24)

Gary King, Robert O Keohane and Sidney Verba, "The Science in Social Science" in Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), pp. 3-33, 128-139, in ER.

Theda Skocpol, "Emerging Agendas and Recurrent Strategies in Historical Sociology," in Vision and Method in Historical Sociology (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984,) pp. 356-391, in ER.

Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get," Political Analysis 2 (1990): 131-50, in JSTOR.

Ronald Rogowski, "The Role of Theory and Anomaly in Social-Scientific Inference," APSR 89, no. 2 (1995), in JSTOR.

David Collier and James E. Mahon, "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis, APSR 87, no. 4 (1993), in JSTOR.

#### **Suggested:**

David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," World Politics 49, no. 1 (Oct., 1996), pp. 56-91, in JSTOR

Douglas Dion, "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study," Comparative Politics 30, 2 (January 1998), pp. 127-45.

#### **Week 16: Informal Meeting**