

## FOUNDATIONS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Government 20 (Fall 2011)

T, Th 10-11am

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This course offers an introduction to major concepts and theories in comparative politics, as well as the basic tools of comparative analysis. It examines competing theoretical approaches (Modernization, Marxist, cultural, institutionalist, and agency-centered) to four important phenomena in world politics: (1) economic development; (2) democratization; (3) revolution; and (4) ethnic conflict. It also explores recent debates about the role of political institutions, civil society, and the state in shaping political outcomes. The course draws on cases from Africa (Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, South Africa), the Americas (Chile, United States), East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan), South Asia (India); Western Europe (Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden), Eastern Europe (Russia, Yugoslavia), and the Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon).

### Course Requirements

- 1) Section participation (15 percent of grade).
- 2) Two short papers (5-7 pages), based on course materials, on topics to be handed out in class. Due **October 6 and November 17** (15 percent of grade each)
- 3) In-Class Midterm Examination: **October 27** (20 percent of grade)
- 4) Final exam (35 percent of grade)

**Late Policy:** Barring an extraordinary excuse, all late papers will be marked down a third of a grade (ex. A to A-) for each day following the due date.

### Course Material

\*The following books are required readings and are available for purchase at the COOP:

Alberto Alesina and Edward L. Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference* (Oxford University Press, 2004)

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982)

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (New York: Penguin, 2002)

\*A course packet containing all other required reading is available at Gnomon Copy (Mass Ave).

\*All assigned readings, including the course packet, are available on reserve at Lamont library.

### **Schedule and Readings**

#### **Week 1: Introduction** (September 1)

Recommended: Irving M. Copi, *Introduction to Logic* (MacMillan, 1953), pp. 327-377

#### **Week 2: The Politics of Economic Development I: Classical Approaches** (Sept. 6, 8)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Part I: The Problem (all) (Penguin 2002 version: pp. 1-36)

Part II: The Idea of the Calling in Ascetic Protestantism

1. The Religious Foundations of Innerworldly Asceticism (read Calvinism but skip Pietism, Methodism, and Baptists) (Penguin version: pp. 67-87)

2. Asceticism and the Capitalist Spirit (all) (Penguin version: pp. 105-122)

*Note: this is tough reading. Don't get bogged down. Focus on the main argument.*

W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge University Press, 1960), pp. 1-12

Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East* (Free Press, 1958), pp. 43-65.

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Harvard University Press, 1962), pp. 5-30.

Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment." In Peter K. Klarén and Thomas J. Bossert, eds. *Promise of Development* (Westview Press, 1986), pp. 111-123.

#### **Week 3: The Politics of Economic Development II: State- and Market-Led Development** (September 13, 15)

Chalmers Johnson, "Political Institutions and Economic Performance: The Government-Business Relationship in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan." In Deyo, ed, *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism*, pp. 136-164.

Robert Wade, *Governing the Market*, pp. 24-29, 334-342, 345-381.

Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* (University of California Press, 1981), pp. 1-3, 11-44, 62-77, and 96-105.

Kiren Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers," *Politics and Society* 21, No. 3 (1993), pp. 245-274.

Joseph T. Siegle, Michael M. Weinstein, and Morton H. Halperin, "Why Democracies Excel." *Foreign Affairs* 57 (2004): 57-66.

#### **Week 4: Democracy and Democratization: Competing Approaches** (September 20, 22)

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy* (Yale University Press, 1971), pp. 1-9; 14-40; 48-61

Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53, No. 1 (March 1959), pp. 69-100 (focus especially on pp.69-85).

Carles Boix, *Democracy and Redistribution* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 1-14.

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Beacon Press, 1966), pp. 413-452.

Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi, "What Makes Democracies Endure?" *Journal of Democracy* 7, No. 1 (January 1996), pp. 39-43.

Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 3-5, 11-21.

Guiseppe Di Palma, *To Craft Democracy* (University of California Press, 1990), pp. 14-23, 27-32; 44-46; 50-61.

S.M. Lipset, "George Washington and the Founding of Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* 9, No. 4 (1998), pp. 24-38.

#### **Week 5: Democracy and Authoritarianism in the Developing World** (September 27, September 29)

Ashutosh Varshney, "India Defies the Odds: Why Democracy Survives." *Journal of Democracy* 9, No. 3 (July 1998): 36-50.

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), pp. 31-108.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 3-24.

M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia: The Failure of Open Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), pp. 30-31; 54-77; 81; 139-141; 156-169; 176-192.

Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Politics* 36, No. 2 (January 2004): 139-57.

Michael Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53, No. 3 (April 2001)  
Required: pp. 325-337; 356-357 (you may skim statistical analysis on pp. 337-356)

Recommended: Tarek Masoud, "The Road to (and from) Liberation Square." *Journal of Democracy* 22, No. 3 (July 2011): 20-34. [On Egypt's recent transition]

### **Short Paper #1 Topics handed out September 27 (Due October 6)**

#### **Week 6: Explaining Social Revolution: Competing Approaches (October 4, 6)**

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," in Christopher Pierson ed., *The Marx Reader* (Polity Press, 1997), pp. 128-146.

James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," *American Sociological Review* 27, No. 1 (1962), pp. 5-19.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, (Cambridge University Press 1979), pp. 3-33.

Theda Skocpol, *Social Revolutions in the Modern World* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), chapter 6

Eric Selbin, "Revolution in the Real World: Bringing Agency Back In," In John Foran, ed. *Theorizing Revolutions* (Routledge, 1997), pp. 123-136.

### **Short Paper #1 Due October 6**

#### **Week 7: Explaining Social Revolution (Cases): Russia and Third World Revolutions (October 11, 13)**

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 1995), chapters 1-3 (pp. 15-92) and chapter 6 (pp. 149-172)

Jeff Goodwin and Theda Skocpol, "Explaining Revolutions in the Contemporary Third World," in Skocpol, ed. *Social Revolutions in the Modern World*.

Fred Halliday, *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East* (London: I.B. Taurus, 1996), pp. 42-75.

#### **Week 8: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Competing Approaches (October 18, 20)**

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (University of California Press, 1985), pp. 3-12; 21-32; 36-54.

Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretations of Culture* (Basic Books, 1973), pp. 255-277.

Robert H. Bates, "Modernization, Ethnic Competition, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa," in Donald Rothchild and Victor A. Olorunsola, eds. *State Cersus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas* (Westview Press, 1983), pp. 152-171.

Joane Nagel, "The Political Construction of Ethnicity," Susan Olzak, ed., *Competitive Ethnic Relations* (Academic Press, 1986), pp. 93-111.

Daniel Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98, No. 4 (2004): 529-545.

Steven I. Wilkinson, *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-9; 12-16; 19-26; 137-146; 169-171.

Michael E. Brown, "The Causes of Internal Conflict: An Overview." In Michael E. Brown et al., eds. *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict* (MIT Press, 1997), pp. 3-25.

### **Week 9: The Politics of Ethnic Violence: The Cases of Rwanda and Yugoslavia (October 25)**

Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton University Press, 2001), pp. 41-59; 73-75; 87-102; 184-218.

Scott Strauss, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Cornell University Press, 2006), pp. 41-52; 201-223.

Mihailo Crnobrnja, *The Yugoslav Drama* (McGill-Queens University Press 1994),  
pp. 16-33 (recommended background)  
pp. 93-114 and 141-188.

Robert D. Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* (Vintage Publishing, 1993), pp. 3-28; 32-43.

V.P. Gagnon, "Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia," In Michael E. Brown et al., eds. *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*, pp. 132-168.

### **Thursday, October 27: Midterm Exam (in Class)**

**Film:** "Vukovar" (date, time, and place to be announced)

**Week 10: Do Institutions Matter? (I) Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism** (November 1, 3)

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* 1, No. 1 (winter 1990): 51-70.

Scott Mainwaring and Matthew S. Shugart, "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29, No. 4 (July 1997).

Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: the Difficult Combination," *Comparative Political Studies* 26, no. 2 (1993).

S.M. Lipset, "The Centrality of Political Culture," in Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, pp. 150-153.

Steven Levitsky and María Victoria Murillo, "Variation in Institutional Strength." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (2009): 115-133.

**Week 11: Do Institutions Matter? (II) Electoral Design, Party Systems, and Ethnic Conflict** (November 8, 10)

Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries* (Yale University Press, 1999), chapter 8 (pp. 143-170).

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 162-174

Guy Lardeyret, "The Problem with PR," in Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, pp. 175-180.

Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies* (Yale University Press, 1977), pp. 1-2; 16-52.

Donald L. Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (University of California Press, 1985), pp. 597-600; 628-651.

Arend Lijphart, "The Puzzle of Indian Democracy: A Consociational Interpretation." *American Political Science Review* 90, No. 2 (June 1996): 258-268.

**Short Paper #2 Handed Out November 8 (Due Nov 17)**

**Week 12: Civil Society and Social Capital** (November 17, 19)

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, (Princeton University Press, 1993),  
Read chapters 1 (pp. 3-7 only), 3, 4, and 6  
Recommended: chapter 5

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond." *World Politics* 53 (April 2001), pp. 362-98.

Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6(1), pp. 65-78.

Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics* 49 (April 1997), pp. 401-429.

### **Short Paper #2 Due November 17**

#### **Week 13: States, State-Building, and State Weakness (November 22)**

Francis Fukuyama, "The Imperatives of State-Building." *Journal of Democracy* 15, No. 2 (April 2004), pp. 17-31.

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In Evans, Rueschemeyer, and Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the State Back In*, pp. 169-191.

Miguel Centeno, *Blood and Debt: War and the Nation-State in Latin America* (Penn State University Press, 2002), pp. 1-26.

Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa* (Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 11-31; 97-130; 251-255.

Robert Bates, *When Things Fall Apart: State Failure in Late Century Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 3-5, 15-29; 97-128.

William Reno, "The Organization of Warlord Politics in Liberia," in Reno, ed. *Warlord Politics and African States* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1998)

#### **Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Break**

#### **Week 14: Pulling Things Together (November 29, December 1)**

#### **November 29: The United States in Comparative Perspective: Explaining "American Exceptionalism" in Welfare State Development**

Alberto Alesina and Edward L. Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference* (Oxford University Press, 2004), Pp. 1-2; 15-44; 77-166; 171-216.

#### **December 1: Prospects for Democracy in Post-Hussein Iraq**

Eva Bellin, "The Iraqi Intervention and Democracy in Comparative Perspective." *Political Science Quarterly* 119, No. 4 (2004-2005), pp. 595-608.

Adeed Dawisha and Karen Dawisha, “How to Build a Democratic Iraq.” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2003.

Peter Galbraith, *The End of Iraq* (Simon and Schuster, 2006), pp. 172-182; 186-190.

Larry Diamond, “What Went Wrong in Iraq?” *Foreign Affairs* 83, No. 5 (Sep-Oct 2004)

Recommended: Larry Diamond, “Can Iraq Become a Democracy?” In Diamond, *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2005), pp. 314-335.