

Comparative Political Systems (GOVT-121-20)

Georgetown University

July 8-August 9, 2013

Meeting MTWR from 3:15-5:15 PM in ICC 119

Instructor: Jack Santucci (jms346@georgetown.edu)

Office hours by appointment.

Course overview & learning goals

Comparative politics involves a set of topics and method of scientific inquiry. Its aim is to understand *why* things happen in politics.

As a set of topics, it is the subfield of political science concerned with the domestic politics of foreign countries, though some scholars include the United States in their analyses.

As a method, it involves the reasoned comparison of similar (e.g., countries-to-countries, cities-to-cities, voters-to-voters) and dissimilar entities (e.g., countries-to-cities) in order to find general cause-and-effect patterns. Comparativists find these patterns by using comparison to rule out competing hypotheses.

Our goals in this course are to:

- understand what it means to engage in causal analysis,
- learn how to critically read academic literature,
- hone writing skills,
- and learn about major topics and concepts in comparative politics.

Requirements & expectations

Grades will comprise: participation (10%), short paper (20%), longer paper (35%), exam (35%).

- Participation involves attending class daily, ready to answer questions on the day's readings. We will use i>clickers. If a reading appears under a date, complete it for that day's class.
- The short paper is due at the beginning of class any day on or before Monday, July 22. Develop one critique of a causal argument in one of our readings up to that date. You must choose a reading on which I have not yet lectured. The paper must be 1-2 pages.
- The longer paper is due at the beginning class on Wednesday, August 7. Answer one of a set of questions, which I will distribute well in advance of the due date. Extensive outside research is neither required nor expected. The paper must be 4-6 pages.
- The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions.

Blackboard

I use Blackboard to communicate with the class and provide readings. Make sure you have access.

i>clicker

You will need one: new, borrowed, used, or web>clicker. You do not need i>clicker 2. Register it to your GU NetID, or you will not receive credit. Do this for handsets at iclicker.com/registration.

Parameters for papers

I emphasize clarity and critical thinking in grading written work. "A" papers clearly state and develop novel arguments. They do not summarize readings and/or lectures, either exclusively or mostly. They include precise thesis statements, appropriate vocabulary, and logical paragraph structures. I do not grade grammar or spelling - you should have developed these skills before college - unless they harm the clarity of your argument.

Papers should be double-spaced in 12-point font with one-inch margins. I do not care what citation method you use so long as you consistently apply one of the standard approaches. The convention in comparative politics is Chicago author-date (see chicagomanualofstyle.org). In the spirit of conservation, please print double-sided when possible. You do not need a cover page.

Grading

I grade all your work numerically on the usual "0-3-7" system. Final grades will be based on these numerical grades. These numbers translate into letter grades as follows: 93 and up for A, 90-92 for A-, 87-89 for B+, 83-86 for B, 80-82 for B-, and so on.

Extensions

Deadlines are non-negotiable. I realize that life intervenes (e.g., properly documented medical emergency, bereavement), so see me in cases like these. I will not, however, grant extensions in consideration of issues around which you can and should plan (e.g., conflicting deadlines, heavy work loads, job interviews, internships, extracurriculars, flights, family holidays).

Absences

I will excuse class absences for documented medical emergencies and bereavement only.

Classroom technology

Audio recorders, video cameras, and like automated technologies are prohibited. You may use tablets, laptops, and similar note-taking devices. Alas, these can be distracting tools. If using a laptop/tablet affects your class participation, consider leaving it at home.

Honor code & university policies

All university policies on academic integrity, exam rescheduling, etc. apply in this course. See bulletin.georgetown.edu for these.

Schedule of classes & readings

July 8: Course overview. What is comparative politics?

- Almond, Gabriel A. 1996. "Political Science: The History of the Discipline." In *The New Handbook of Political Science*, Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), pp. 50-96. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.

July 9: How do comparativists study politics?

- Mayer, Lawrence. 2009 [1989]. "The Epistemology of Social Science and the Comparative Method." In *Contending Perspectives in Comparative Politics*, Lawrence Mayer, Dennis Patterson, and Frank Thames (eds.), pp. 5-19. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- RECOMMENDED: Lichbach, Mark I. and Alan S. Zuckerman. 1997. "Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction." In *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), pp. 3-16. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (Skim to understand the key "traditions.")

July 10: What are the big causes of political outcomes?

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. "Bourgeois and Proletarians" and "Proletarians and Communists." In *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Online at marxists.org.
- Weber, Max. 1958 [1905]. "Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification" and "The Spirit of Capitalism." In *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Talcott Parsons (trans.), pp. 35-78. New York: Scribner.

July 11: Why is civilization divided among states?

- Tilly, Charles. 1992. "Cities and States in World History." In *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*, pp. 2-37. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

July 15: Where does nationalism come from?

- Anderson, Benedict. 1991 [1983]. "Introduction," "Cultural Roots," and "The Origins of National Consciousness." In *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, pp. 1-46. London: Verso.
- RECOMMENDED: Mann, Michael. 1986. "Conclusion to Chapters 4-6: The emergence of classes and nations." In *The Sources of Social Power: The Rise of Classes and Nation-states, 1760-1914*, pp. 214-251. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

July 16: Why are some states democracies?

- Lipset, Seymour M. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53(1): 59-105. (Focus on interpreting the first half of this long, complicated article.)

- Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan. 2010 [1996]. "Modern Nondemocratic Regimes." In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), pp. 168-171. New York: W. W. Norton. (Focus on the chart and what that information may mean for becoming/sustaining a democracy.)
- RECOMMENDED: Dahl, Robert A. 1971. "Democratization and Public Opposition." In: *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, pp. 1-16. New Haven, CT, Yale University Press.

July 17: How do states become democracies?

- O'Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe Schmitter. 1986. "Opening (and Undermining) Authoritarian Regimes" and "Negotiating (and Renegotiating) Pacts." In *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*, pp. 15-47. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- RECOMMENDED: Munck, Gerardo and Carol S. Leff. 1997. "Modes of Transition and Democratization: South America and Eastern Europe in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Politics* 29(3), pp. 343-362.

July 18: Does civil society matter?

- O'Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe Schmitter. 1986. "Resurrecting Civil Society (and Restructuring Public Space)." In *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*, pp. 48-56. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Sander, Thomas H. and Putnam, Robert D. 2010. "Still Bowling Alone? The Post-9/11 Split." *Journal of Democracy* 21(1): pp. 9-16.
- Foley, Michael and Robert Edwards. 1996. "The Paradox of Civil Society." *Journal of Democracy* 7(3): pp. 38-52. (Focus on the section about the "political variable.")

July 22: Where do political parties come from?

- Lipset, Seymour M. and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." In *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, pp. 1-33. New York: Free Press. (Don't sweat the detail. Read for the authors' "jist" on why parties emerge in the forms they do.)
- RECOMMENDED: Kriesi, Hanspeter. 1998. "The Transformation of Cleavage Politics: The 1997 Stein Rokkan Lecture." *European Journal of Political Research* 33(2), pp. 165-185. (What has changed and why?)
- Your short paper is due by the beginning of class.

July 23: Why do parties behave in different ways?

- Norris, Pippa. 1997. "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems." *International Political Science Review* 18(3), pp. 297-312.
- Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93(3), pp. 609-624.
- RECOMMENDED: Duverger, Maurice 2010 [1957]. "The Number of Parties." In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), pp. 282-286. New York: W. W. Norton.

July 24: Does constitutional design matter?

- Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1), pp. 51-69.
- Stepan, Alfred. 1990. "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model." *Journal of Democracy* 10(4), pp. 19-34.
- RECOMMENDED: Cheibub, Antonio J. 2006. "What Makes Presidential Democracies Fragile?" In *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*, pp. 136-164. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

July 25: Why are some countries rich and others poor?

- Bates, Robert. 2008. "From Fable to Fact," "Political Legacies," and "Policy Choices." In *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-century Africa*, pp. 15-74. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

July 29: What is ethnic conflict, and what are its causes?

- Smith, Anthony D. 1984. "Ethnic Persistence and National Transformation." *British Journal of Sociology* 35(5), pp. 452-461.
- Brubaker, Rogers and David D. Laitin. 1998. "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24, pp. 423-452.

July 30: Ethnic conflict: evidence from the field.

- In-class film: "War: We Are All Neighbours" (May 11, 1993) from the British TV series *Disappearing World* (S1E47).
- Your lack of reading for today is an opportunity to work on your final paper.

July 31: Why are some rich countries more generous than others?

- Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. "The Three Welfare State Regimes." In *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, pp. 9-34. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- RECOMMENDED: Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1996. "Positive-Sum Solutions in a World of Trade-Offs?" In *Welfare States in Transition: National Adaptations in Global Economies*, Gosta Esping-Andersen (ed.), pp. 256-267. London, UK: SAGE.

August 1: Do(es) the United States defy our models? (And discussion of papers.)

- Shafer, Byron E. 1999. "American Exceptionalism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2, pp. 445-463.

August 5: Are city politics different from national politics?

- Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. "The Logic of Political Monopolies." In *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*, pp. 21-43. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review* 35(3), pp. 55-81.

August 6: Does gender affect politics, politics affect gender, or both?

- Lindsey, Linda L. 2011. "The Sociology of Gender: Theoretical Perspectives and Feminist Frameworks." In *Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective*, pp. 1-21. Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Paxton, Pamela, Sheri Kunovich, and Melanie M. Hughes. 2007. "Gender in Politics." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33, pp. 263-284.

August 7: Swing day and review for exam.

- Your longer paper is due at the beginning of class.

August 8: Final exam. Good luck!