

Political Science 750  
Theory and Method in Comparative Politics  
Spring 2009  
Prof. John P. Tuman  
Wright Hall A-221  
Office Hours: M, W 1-2:30  
e-mail: john.tuman@unlv.edu

This course provides an overview of the subfield 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, "Research Design and the Comparative Method," examines methodological issues that arise in study of comparative politics. Part II, "Major Theoretical Approaches," discusses the intellectual history of the field and major shifts that have occurred in theories of comparative politics since 1945. Part III, "Recent Research Agendas" focuses on examples of emerging research agendas in the field, including democratization, social capital, and the political economy of advanced industrialized states.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Papers: You are required to write one short paper (10 pages) on any of the readings assigned for a week. This paper is due by **April 2**. In addition, students are required to write a comparative research paper (25-30 pp. in length). The research paper is due by **April 23**. As noted below, students are also required to make a presentation on their research; other students are encouraged to provide peer evaluation of each presentation. Guidelines for the research paper will be discussed during the first week of class.

Presentations: After the second week, students will be asked to make two presentations. One presentation must be on one of the assigned readings. The presentation 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.

The second presentation will be on your research paper for the seminar. This presentation should summarize your research question (and its relevance), the relevant theory, the methods used, the central findings, and any implications or limitations of your research.

Grading: The short literature review counts for 30 percent of your final grade; the research paper counts for 50 percent. Presentations, and general participation, count for 20 percent. Advanced reading of all assigned material is essential for participation. Evidence of inadequate preparation will be taken into consideration when I evaluate student participation grades.

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.

Contact via E-mail: UNLV policy requires students to use Rebelmail accounts in order to contact faculty by e-mail. As the official e-mail system for students, Rebelmail is available to all students who have been admitted to the university. Non-matriculated students should contact the Office of Information Technology at UNLV students for assistance with opening a Rebelmail account.

## 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: Research Design and Comparative Analysis**

#### **Week 1: Introduction to the Course (January 15)**

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

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.

#### **Week 2: Research Design and Comparative Analysis: Formulating Questions, Selecting Cases (January 22)**

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.

Barbara Geddes, “How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias and Related Issues,” in Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 89-131, in ER.

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

**Week 3: Research Design and Comparative Analysis: Operationalization and Measurement of Variables, the Logic of Comparison (January 29)**

Barbara Geddes, "How the Evidence You Choose Affect the Answers You Get," in Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 131-173, 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.

David Collier and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," World Politics 49 (April 1997), pp. 430-451, in Project MUSE.

**Suggested:**

Robert Adock and David Collier, "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," APSR 95, no 3 (2001), in JSTOR.

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

Gary Goertz and Harvey Starr, editors, Necessary Conditions: Theory, Methodology, and Applications (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002).

James Mahoney, Erin Kimball, and Kendra L. Koivu, "The Logic of Historical Explanation in the Social Sciences," Comparative Political Studies, forthcoming 2009 (available as CPS website; search in accepted and forthcoming papers section).

**PART II: Contending Theoretical Perspectives**

**Week 4: Political Culture: Recent Variants (February 5)**

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

Ronald Inglehart, "How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy – And How Can We Measure It? PS: Political Science and Politics, 36, no. 1 (Jan., 2003), pp. 51-57 in JSTOR.

Mitchell A. Seligson, "The Renaissance of Political Culture or the Renaissance of the Ecological Fallacy?" Comparative Politics 34, no. 3 (Apr., 2002), pp. 273-292 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:**

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "A Revised Theory of Modernization," in Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), in ER.

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.

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

### **Week 5 Rational Choice Theory (February 12)**

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.

Avner Greif and David Laitin, "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change," APSR 98, no. 4 (2004), in Academic Search Premier or Article First.

### **Suggested:**

The classic formulation on collective action is: Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (Harvard University Press, 1968), chapters 1-2, in ER.

Robert H. Bates, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, and Jean-Laurent. Analytical Narratives (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998).

Jon Elster, "Rational Choice History: A Case of Excessive Ambition," APSR 94, no. 3 (2000), in JSTOR.

Donald P. Green and Shapiro, Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996).

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

### **Week 6: State-Centered Theories (February 19)**

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

Peter Evans, Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformations (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), chapters 1-4 (Note: titles of the chapters [in e-reserves] are "States and Industrial Transformation," "A Comparative Institutional Approach," "States," "Roles and Sectors,") in ER.

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

**Suggested:**

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.

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.

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

**Week 7: "New" Institutionalism (February 26)**

Kurt Weyland, "Toward a New Theory of Institutional Change," World Politics 60, Number 2, (2008), pp. 281-314 (Article)

Kathleen Thelen and Sven Steinmo, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," in Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992), in ER.

Bo Rothstein, "Labor-Market Institutions and Working-Class Strength," in Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992), in ER.

**Suggested:**

Steven Levitsky and María Victoria Murillo, "Variation in Institutional Strength," Annual Review of Political Science Vol. 12 (2009): 369-404, in Annual Reviews database

Kathleen Thelen, "How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative Historical Analysis," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 208-40.

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

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.

### **Week 8: Constructivism and the Politics of identity (March 5)**

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.

Elliott D. Green, "Understanding the Limits to Ethnic Change: Lessons from Uganda's 'Lost Counties,'" Perspectives on Politics 6, no. 3 (2008): 473-485, in Article First.

#### **Suggested:**

Daniel M. Green, editor, Constructivism and Comparative Politics (Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 2002)

Ira Katznelson, "Working-Class Formation: Constructing Cases and Comparisons," in Katznelson and Zolberg (eds) Working-Class Formation: Nineteenth Century Patterns in Europe and the United States (1986), pp. 3-41.

Hubert L. Dreyfus, Paul Rabinow, Michel Foucault, Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983).

### **PART III: Recent Research Agendas in Comparative Politics**

#### **Week 9: Political Regimes: Explaining the Durability of Authoritarianism (March 12)**

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

Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," Comparative Politics 36, No. 2 (Jan., 2004), pp. 139-157, in JSTOR

M. Steven Fish, "Islam and Authoritarianism," World Politics 55, 1 (2002), pp. 4-37, in Project MUSE.

#### **Suggested:**

H. E. Chehabi and Juan J. Linz, "A Theory of Sultanism 1" and "A Theory of Sultanism 2," in H. E. Chehabi and Juan J. Linz, Sultanistic Regimes (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), pp. 3-48.

### **Week 10: Regime Transitions and Democratization (March 19)**

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

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

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, (Winter, 2000), pp. 89-107, in JSTOR.

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

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

Gerardo L. Munck, ed., Regimes and Democracy in Latin America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

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

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

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.

Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave (1991).

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

### **Week 11: Social Capital and Political Performance in Advanced Industrialized Democracies (March 26)**

Robert D. Putnam and Kristin A Goss, "Introduction," in Democracies in Flux: The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society, ed. Robert D. Putnam (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 3-20, in ER.

Peter A. Hall, "Great Britain: The Role of Government and the Distribution of Social Capital," in Democracies in Flux: The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society, ed. Robert D. Putnam (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 21-59, in ER.

Pamela Paxton, "Social Capital and Democracy: An Interdependent Relationship," American Sociological Review 67, no. 2 (2002), pp. 254-277, in Academic Search Elite

**Suggested:**

Robert G. Putnam, with Robert Leonardi and Rafaella Y. Nanetti, Making Democracy Work: Civic traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton, 1993)

Marcus Alexander, "Determinants of Social Capital: New Evidence on Religion, Diversity and Structural Change," British Journal of Political Science 37, no. 2 (2007): 368-377, in Academic Search Elite or JSTOR.

Pamela Paxton, "Association Memberships and Generalized Trust: A Multilevel Model Across 31 Countries," Social Forces 86, no. 1 (2007), pp.47-76

**Week 12: Political Economy of Advanced Industrialized States (April 2)**

Jeffrey A. Frieden, "The Impact of Goods and Capital Market Integration on European Monetary Politics," Comparative Political Studies. 29, no. 2, (1996), in Article First.

Geoffrey Garrett and Christopher Way, "Public Sector Unions, Corporatism, and Macroeconomic Performance," Comparative Political Studies 32, no. 4 (1999): 411-434, in Article First.

David Bradley, Evelyn 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 13: Spring Break (April 9)**

**Weeks 14-16: Student Presentations on Research Papers**