

Field Seminar in Comparative Politics
Boston University
Political Science 751
Spring 2020

Last revised: January 14, 2020

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Office hours: Wednesday 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. and by appointment

Class location: 226 Bay State Rd., rm. 504 (History seminar room)

Class time: Wednesday 8:00–10:45 a.m.

Course Description

This course is an seminar-style introduction to comparative politics for graduate students. It provides an overview of the major theoretical approaches and areas of research in the subfield, covering both classic works and more recent contributions. Topics include the origins of states, nations, and political regimes such as democracy and authoritarianism; the role of political institutions, including electoral systems, party systems, and systems of government; and political economy issues such as development, business politics, and the welfare state. For each topic, the focus is on comparing distinct theoretical approaches and/or countries and regions that present empirical contrasts. We examine works that employ a variety of methodological tools, including case studies, statistical analysis, and formal modeling or game theory. For Ph.D. students in political science, this course should form the core of your preparation for the qualifying exam in comparative politics.

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 40%

Term Paper: 50%

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion of the assigned readings. In addition to speaking up during the weekly seminar meeting when you have relevant insights to share, there are several more formal ways that everyone will participate:

Reading comments/questions: Prior to every class (except the first week and the day you are doing a short presentation), each student should post to the Blackboard Discussion Board one comment or question about that day's reading. You can focus on one of the readings or several.

Comments/questions do not need to be extensive; a couple sentences will suffice. I will call on some students during class, asking them to expand on their comment/question and use that as a springboard for discussion. Please submit your comment/question by the night before class. Individual comments/questions are not graded, but I keep track of whether you do them.

Short presentations: Once during the semester, each student will give a short (approximately 5 minutes) presentation related to the readings. A sign-up sheet will be circulated early in the semester; we will generally have two students each day. Presentations should briefly raise several analytic questions related to the readings you are assigned. Presentations should NOT simply summarize the arguments. Assume that everyone has completed the reading and needs no summary; your task is to lay out topics that the class might discuss. Short presentations are graded on a check, check-plus, check-minus basis.

Final Exam

The final exam is intended to mimic the format of the Ph.D. qualifying exam, albeit shorter overall. It will be a closed-book, closed-note exam consisting of several essay questions that you will answer using a laptop computer (if you don't have your own, please let me know so I can arrange for a loaner). Each essay question will cover one or more big themes in the course and will require you to demonstrate broad knowledge of the literature.

Term Paper

The term paper should be approximately 25 pages in length and is due at the end of the semester. For Ph.D. students, the major objective of the term paper is provide a potential base to build upon for the second-year paper requirement or for a dissertation prospectus. The paper can be on any topic in comparative politics, regardless of whether it is covered in the course, but it should involve substantial outside research; no more than one-third of the sources should be drawn from this syllabus. The paper can compare multiple countries/regions or examine one in a broader comparative context. If relevant, you are encouraged to draw upon outside data sources, such as electoral results, economic development indicators, or quantitative measures of democracy. I am open to students building upon prior or concurrent research, such as an undergraduate honors thesis or M.A. thesis, as long as your paper for this course is clearly distinct from the other piece of writing. For example, a BA/MA student whose thesis is about race/ethnicity and voting behavior in the United States might choose to write a paper for this course that looks at race/ethnicity and voting behavior in another country (either on its own or in comparison with the U.S.), with overlaps in terms of the relevant theoretical literature.

Prior to Spring Break, students are required to submit a paper proposal by email, which consists of a paragraph or so describing the intended topic. I will follow up with feedback and suggestions to be sure you are on the right track before you start researching and writing.

Readings

In a seminar such as this one, students are expected to do all of the required readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them. Towards that end, you should take notes as you read

and come prepared with questions, arguments, and points to raise. Depending on your learning style, you may want to coordinate with other students to divide up responsibility for preparing summaries or outlines of the readings and to study for the final exam. Summaries or outlines, along with your own notes, can also be an invaluable resource when it comes time to study for the Ph.D. qualifying exam. That said, group study and summaries or outlines should not substitute for carefully reading the material on your own.

For each week of the course, there are approximately 250 pages of reading assigned (the number of pages for each week/reading is listed below). All readings are available online. For journal articles, search on the title through the library website or <http://scholar.google.com> for links to PDFs. For readings drawn from books, the form of access varies. Check the boldface letter after the entry in the schedule of readings:

O: The book is available online in its entirety through the BU library; search on the title to find it. *NOTE: in a few cases, the number of pages each person can download as a PDF is limited; team up with colleagues to get all the pages that are assigned.*

M: The assigned reading is scanned and available through Mugar Library e-reserves; see <https://www.bu.edu/library/services/reserves/>.

B: The assigned reading is scanned and available through Blackboard at <http://learn.bu.edu>.

Please let me know ASAP if you have any difficulty obtaining online readings. If you prefer print copies of books, you always have the option of purchasing a copy (potentially of interest to Ph.D. students building their professional libraries) or obtaining it from the BU library.

Schedule

NOTE: the number of pages for each reading, and the total for the week, are listed in parentheses.

Week 1 (1/22). Introduction (~192)

Munck, Gerardo L., and Richard Snyder, eds. 2007. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1–2 (62), plus 3 interviews of your choosing. **O**

Week 2 (1/29). Approaches to Comparative Politics (252)

Lichbach, Mark Irving, and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. 1997. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1–4 (109) **B**

Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44, 5: 936-957. (22)

Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Ch. 3. (41) **O**

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 3-9, 34-46, 124-149. (45) **M, B**

Brady, Henry E., and David Collier. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Ch. 1, 6. (35) **M**

Recommended:

Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94, 2 (June): 251-267. (17)

Week 3 (2/5). Origins of States and Nations (226)

Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell. Chs. 1, 3 (66) **M**

Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa." *International Security* 14, 4: 117-139. (22)

Kurtz, Marcus. 2009. "The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the 'Resource Curse' in Third World State Building." *Politics and Society* 37, 4: 479-520. (42)

Slater, Dan. 2010. *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2 (50) **M**

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised ed. London: Verso. Chs. 1-3 (46). **O**

Recommended:

Gellner, Ernest. 2009 [1983]. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chs. 1-6. (84)

Week 4 (2/12). Democracy and Democratization (259)

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53: 69-105. (37)

Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chs. 7-9 (71) **O**

Skocpol, Theda. 1973. "A Critical Review of Barrington Moore's Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy." *Politics & Society* 4, 1: 1-34. (34)

O'Donnell, Guillermo, and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (70) **B**

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2 (47); skim 4 and 6 if you want to get a sense of the formal modeling approach. **O**

Week 5 (2/19). Authoritarianism (249)

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1973. *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism: Studies in South American Politics*. Berkeley, CA: Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Ch. 1-2 (111) **B**

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2 (80) **M**

Gibson, Edward L. 2012. *Boundary Control: Subnational Authoritarianism in Federal Democracies*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2, 6 (58) **O**

Week 6 (2/26). Revolution and Violence (264)

Huntington, Samuel P. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Selection from Ch. 5, pp. 264-315 (51) **M**

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-3 (155) **O**

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44 (October): 7-48. (42)

Fearon, James, and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90. (16)

Week 7 (3/4). Culture and Identity (261)

Almond, Gabriel A., and Sidney Verba. 1989 [1963]. *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. Chs. 1 (An Approach to Political

Culture), 6 (The Sense of Civic Competence), 13 (The Civic Culture and Democratic Stability).
NOTE: these are chapters 1, 7, and 15 in 1963 hardback edition. (114) **B**

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1, 4. (54) **O**

Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chs. 1–2 (76) **O**

Posner, Daniel N. 2004. “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi.” *American Political Science Review* 98, 4 (November): 529-546. (17)

Friday, 3/6: Term paper proposal due to instructor by email

Week 8 (3/18). Electoral Systems (236)

Duverger, Maurice. 1954. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley. Pages 203–255 (53) **B**

Taagepera, Rein, and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1989. *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 1-3, 6-13. (131) **B**

Cox, Gary. 1999. “Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 145-161. (17)

Boix, Carles. 1999. “Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies.” *American Political Science Review* 93 (3 Sep.): 609-624. (16)

Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2007 “Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Institutions.” *American Political Science Review* 101 (August): 373–391. (19)

Recommended

Carey, John M., and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1995. “Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas.” *Electoral Studies* 14:4, 417-39. (23)

Week 9 (3/25). Parties and Party Systems (214)

Duverger, Maurice. 1954. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley. Pages 17–40, 61–124 (88) **B**

Katz, Richard S., and Peter Mair. 1995. “Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party.” *Party Politics* 1, 1: 5-28. (24)

Levitsky, Steven. 2003. *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 (34) **M**

Lipset, Seymour Martin, and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." In Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, eds., *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*. New York: Free Press, 1–64. Read pages 13–56. (43) **M**

Amorim Neto, Octavio, and Gary W. Cox. 1997. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 41, 1: 149-174. (25)

Recommended:

Kirchheimer, Otto. 1966. "The Transformation of Western European Party Systems." In Joseph LaPalombara and Myron Weiner, eds., *Political Parties and Political Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 177-200. (24) **M**

Chhibber, Pradeep and Mariano Torcal. 1997. "Elite Strategy, Social Cleavages and Party Systems in a New Democracy: Spain." *Comparative Political Studies* 30, 1: 27-54. (28)

Week 10 (4/1). Systems of Government (254)

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs. 1-3, 10 (59) **O**

Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1: 51-69. (19)

Shugart, Matthew Soberg, and John M. Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1–3 (54) **M**

Cheibub, José Antonio, and Fernando Limongi. 2002. "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 151-79. (29)

Ziblatt, Daniel. 2006. *Structuring the State: The Formation of Italy and Germany and the Puzzle of Federalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1–2, 5–6 (93) **O**

Week 11 (4/8). Development (257)

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1952. "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective." In Bert F. Hoselitz, ed., *The Progress of Underdeveloped Areas*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 (27) **M**

Rostow, W.W. 1960. *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1–3 (35) **M**

Evans, Peter. 1979. *Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinationals, the State, and Local Capital in Brazil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1–2 (86) **B**

Johnson, Chalmers. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Ch. 1 (32) **M**

Bates, Robert H. 1984. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction and Chs. 1–4 (77) **O**

Recommended:

Hirschman, Albert O. 1981. “The Rise and Decline of Development Economics.” In Albert O. Hirschman, ed., *Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 (24) **M**

Week 12 (4/15). Industrial Organization and Business Politics (243)

Hall, Peter A., and David Soskice. 2001. “An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism.” In Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1–68. (68) **O**

Nölke, Andreas, and Arjan Vliegenthart. 2009. “Enlarging the Varieties of Capitalism: The Emergence of Dependent Market Economies in East Central Europe.” *World Politics* 61, 4: 670-702. (33)

Schneider, Ben Ross. 2013. *Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America: Business, Labor, and the Challenge of Equitable Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 7 (58) **B**

Martin, Cathie Jo and Duane Swank. 2012. *The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth, and Equality*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1–2, 7–8 (84) **O**

Recommended:

McMenamin, Iain. 2012. “If Money Talks, What Does it Say? Varieties of Capitalism and Business Financing of Parties.” *World Politics* 64, 1: 1-38. (38)

4/22: NO CLASS (Instructor out of town)

Week 13 (4/29): The Welfare State and Social Protection (267)

Polanyi, Karl. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 2nd Ed. Boston: Beacon Press. Chs. 6–8 (36) **O**

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Chs. 1–2 (46) **M**

Huber, Evelyne, and John D. Stephens. 2001. *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Policies in Global Markets*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chs. 2–3 (70) **B**

Garay, Candelaria. 2016. *Social Policy Expansion in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1–2 (78) **B**

Pierson, Paul. 1996. “The New Politics of the Welfare State.” *World Politics* 48, 2: 143-79. (37)

Wednesday, 5/6: Final paper due

Thursday, 5/7: Final exam