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## **INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**FALL 2016**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course offers an introduction to the comparative politics subfield. The course is divided into five units: 1) A brief introduction to the comparative politics subfield and its methods; 2) State, Order and Political Violence; 3) Democracy, Dictatorship, and Democratization; 4) Democratic Institutions; and 5) Democratic Institutions and Social Outcomes.

By the end of the semester, students should have a good understanding of what political scientist know (and don't know) about these topics. In addition, this course prepares students to make, evaluate, and compare arguments about politics, while introducing them to the different methods that political scientists use in their research. As we address the core topics of the class, we will be discussing particular countries. However, the main goal of the class will be to use political science concepts and methods to examine different arguments that seek to explain more general patterns within and across countries. You will also develop analytical, writing and oral communication skills that you will find useful no matter what profession you choose to enter.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After completing this course, students should:

1. Have a good understanding of the fundamentals of comparative politics.
2. Be able to discuss, evaluate, and compare different arguments in the comparative literature about phenomena such as the state, political violence, democracy and democratization, authoritarianism, presidentialism and parliamentarism, federalism, political participation, economic development, and redistribution.

### **READINGS**

Students are expected to read each of the required readings carefully before coming to class. When you read an article or a book chapter, think about the following questions: What's the main argument? Do you believe it? Why? Why not? Is the evidence presented convincing? How broadly would you expect the argument to hold?

There is one required textbook (available at Tulane University Bookstore or online):

Samuels, David. 2013. *Comparative Politics*. Pearson Education.

The rest of the assigned readings are available on Blackboard.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### ***PART I: INTRODUCTION***

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

##### **Class 1: Introduction**

Overview of syllabus and course requirements

##### **Class 2: What is Comparative Politics?**

Samuels, Chapter 1

### ***PART II: THE STATE, ORDER, AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE***

#### **Week 2: The State**

##### **Class 3: The State I**

Samuels, Chapter 2: 28-38

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making as Organized Crime." In Peter Evans et al. (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 161-191.

##### **Class 4: The State II**

Samuels, Chapter 2: 38-57

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 1.

#### **Week 3: Political Violence and State Weakness**

##### **Class 5: Political Violence**

Samuels, Chapter 10

Herbst, Jeffrey, "War and the State in Africa" in *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*.

##### **Class 6: Strong vs. Weak States**

Ross, Michael. 2008. "Blood Barrels: Why Oil Wealth Fuels Conflict." *Foreign Affairs* (May/June): 2-8.

Newspaper Article on Somalia: "As Somali Crisis Swells, Experts See a Void in Aid." November 20, 2007 (by Jeffrey Gettleman). Available at: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/world/africa/20somalia.html?\\_r=2&](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/world/africa/20somalia.html?_r=2&) (pdf version available on Blackboard).

Rotberg, Robert, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," in *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*.

### ***PART III: DEMOCRACY, DICTATORSHIP, AND DEMOCRATIZATION***

#### **Week 4: Democracies and Non-Democracies**

##### **Class 6: Democracies**

Samuels, Chapter 3: 58-65.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 1.

Przeworski, Adam et al. 2000. *Democracy and Development. Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World 1950-1990*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1: 13-36.

##### **Class 7: Non-Democracies**

Samuels, Chapter 4.

#### **Week 5: Explaining Political Regimes I: Cultural Determinants**

##### **Class 8: Civil Culture and Identity**

Samuels, Chapter 5: 123- 125.

Samuels, Chapter 6: 153- 161.

Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 109-126.

Dae Jung, Kim. 1994. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." *Foreign Affairs* (November/December): 189-194.

##### **Class 9: Religion and Politics**

Samuels, Chapter 7.

Stepan, Alfred and Graeme Robertson. 2003. "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Democracy Gap." *Journal of Democracy* 14(3): 30-44.

Beinart, Peter, "Bill Maher's Dark Critique of Islam," *The Atlantic* (October 9, 2014).

#### **Week 6: Explaining Political Regimes II: Economic Determinants, Transitions and Illiberal Democracies**

##### **Class 10: Regime Change I**

Samuels, Chapter 5: 125-129 ("Economic Change")

Inglehart, Ronald. 2009. "How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization." *Foreign Affairs* 88(2): 33-48.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs. 2005. "Development and Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 84(5): 77-86.

### **Class 11: Regime Change II**

Boix, Carles. 2006. "The Roots of Democracy." *Policy Review* 135 (Feb/Mar).

Samuels, Chapter 5: 129-146.

### **Week 7: Mid-Term Review and Exam**

#### **Class 11:**

Mid-Term Review

#### **Class 12:**

Mid-Term

## ***PART IV: DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS***

### **Week 8: Political Participation, Parties, and Elections**

#### **Class 13: Democratic Political Regimes**

Samuels, Chapter 3: 79-87.

#### **Class 14: Collective Action**

Samuels, Chapter 9: 246-253.

Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1.

### **Week 9: Political Participation, Parties, and Elections in Developing Countries: Clientelism and Ethnic Voting**

#### **Class 15: Political Clientelism**

Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina. An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review* 35(3): 55-81.

Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55(3): 399-422.

#### **Class 16: Ethnic Voting**

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): 529-545.

## **Week 10: Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government**

### **Class 17: Parliamentary Democracy**

Samuels, Chapter 3: 66-67 (“Madison’s Dilemma”), 69-79 (“Executive-Legislative Relations”, “Judicial Review versus Parliamentary Supremacy”), and 88-89 (“Conclusion”).

Ansell, Ben and Jane Gingrich. 2013. “Chapter 2: United Kingdom.” In David Samuels (Ed.), *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*: 39-76.

### **Class 18: Presidential Democracy**

Linz, Juan. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism,” *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-70.

Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. “Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: the Difficult Combination.” *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2): 198–228.

## **Week 11: Federalism and Decentralization**

### **Class 19: Constitutional Design and Democracy I**

Samuels, Chapter 3: 67-69 (“Unitary versus Federal Constitutions”)

Stepan, Alfred. 1999. “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model,” *Journal of Democracy* 10(4): 19-33.

Ordeshook, Peter C. and Olga Shvetsova. 1997. “Federalism and Constitutional Design.” *Journal of Democracy* 8(1): 27-42.

### **Class 20: Constitutional Design and Democracy II**

O’Neill, Kathleen. 2003. “Decentralization as an Electoral Strategy” *Comparative Political Studies* 36(9): 1068-1091.

## **PART V: DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES**

## **Week 12: Politics and Economic Development**

### **Class 21: Political Economy of Development I**

Samuels, Chapter 11

### **Class 22: Political Economy of Development II**

Siegle, Joseph, Michael Weinstein and Morton Halpern. 2004. “Why Democracies Excel.” *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct) 83(5): 57-71.

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1993. “Political Regimes and Economic Growth.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7 (3): 51-69.

## **Week 13: Redistributive Politics and the Welfare State**

### **Class 23: Political Economy of Redistribution**

Samuels, Chapter 12

### **Class 24: Fighting Poverty in the Develop and Developing World**

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 6.

Lustig, Nora, “The Influence of Research on the Design, Evaluation and Political Survival of Mexico’s Anti-Poverty Programs,” in *Scholars, Policymakers and International Affairs: Finding Common Cause*, co-ed. by Abraham F. Lowenthal and Mariano E. Bertucci (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).

### **Week 14: Democratic Politics, Quality of Democracy, and The Rule of Law**

#### **Class 25: Debating Democracy**

O’Donnell Guillermo. 1993. “On the state, democratization, and some conceptual problems: a Latin American view with some postcommunist countries.” *World Development* 21(8): 1355–69.

#### **Class 26:**

Review for Exam 2

### **Week 15: Final Exam**

#### **Class 27: Final Exam**

Cumulative Final Exam