

FOUNDATIONS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Government 20 (Fall 2019)
T, Th 10:30-11:45am
Tsai Auditorium (CGIS S-010)

Instructor: Dr. George Soroka

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Office Hours: Monday 1-3 pm, and by appointment

Head TF: Julia Coyoli <julia_coyoli@g.harvard.edu>



This course is designed to provide an introduction to major concepts in comparative politics, as well as to familiarize you with the basic tools of comparative analysis. During our time together we will read a number of foundational works, as well as contemporary scholarship. We will also focus on both theory and empirical case studies from around the globe as we survey and address some of the most pressing political questions of today, including: What causes revolutions? Why are some countries democratic and others not? What is the role of leadership in regime change? How do economic factors influence political development?

Gov 20 is both reading and writing intensive. As a result, it is critical that you keep up with the readings and attend lecture and section regularly. While forming study groups may be a useful strategy to prepare for exams, *the expectation is that students will make a good-faith effort to complete the assigned readings on their own.*

Course Requirements:

- 1) Section participation (15 percent of grade)
- 2) Two short papers (15 percent of grade each): 6-8 pages, double spaced, addressing topics handed out in class the prior week (no outside research is required); **due Oct 10 and Nov 21**
- 3) In-class midterm exam (20 percent of grade) **Oct 22**
- 4) In-class final exam (35 percent of grade) **TBD by Registrar**

Late Policy:

Late papers will be marked down a third of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-) for each day late. Only in exceptional circumstances will extensions be granted, and they must be approved by the Head TF or Instructor.

Academic Honesty/Collaboration:

The free and open exchange of ideas is essential to academic life, and you are thus encouraged to discuss course-related topics outside of class. However, you must be responsible for all your own work. *Collaborative writing is specifically prohibited.* Likewise, it is your responsibility to make sure you correctly cite sources in your papers. Gov 20 has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, intentional or otherwise. For more information, see <https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/what-constitutes-plagiarism>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students requiring academic adjustments or accommodations due to a documented disability must present the Instructor with a Faculty Letter from Harvard's Accessible Education Office (AEO) no later than the second week of class. All conversations will remain confidential, but AEO (and your TF) may be contacted to discuss appropriate implementation plans.

Laptops/Mobile Phones:

You may use laptops to take notes during lecture, but are asked to refrain from checking email, surfing the web, or otherwise engaging in non-course-related activities while in class. (It is very easy to spot such activity from the Instructor's vantage!) Mobile phones must be turned off for the duration of class.

Course Materials:

The following books are required reading and may be purchased from the Harvard COOP (they will also be available on reserve at Lamont). All additional readings are available online through the course website, or you may purchase a course packet from Gnomon Copy (1308 Mass Ave; available by the second week of class).

- Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Penguin 2002)
- Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (Crown 2012)
- Alberto Alesina & Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe* (Oxford 2004)
- James Gelvin, *The New Middle East* (Oxford 2017)
- Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (Vintage 1999)
- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford 2017 [4th ed.])
- Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton 1994)

Schedule and Readings:

Week 1: The Comparative Method & Key Concepts (Sept. 3, 5)

Sept. 3: What is Comparative Politics?

Jeffrey Kopstein, Mark Lichbach & Stephen Hanson, "What Is Comparative Politics?" in *Comparative Politics: Interests, Identities, and Institutions in a Changing Global Order* (Cambridge UP, 2014 [4th ed.]), pp. 1-13

Recommended:

Stephen Van Evera, "Hypotheses, Laws, and Theories: A User's Guide," in *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell UP, 1997), pp. 7-48

Sept. 5: States, Regimes, & Governments

Francis Fukuyama, "The Imperative of State-Building," *Journal of Democracy* 15.2 (April 2004): 17-34

Juan Linz & Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Johns Hopkins UP, 1996), pp. 38-54

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

Recommended:

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge UP, 1985), pp. 169-187

Week 2: Economic Development & Politics I (Sept. 10, 12)

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World* (Princeton UP, 2007), pp. 1-16

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Penguin, 2002 [1905]), pp. 1-36, 67-87, 105-122

Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," in *The Marx Reader* (Polity, 1997), pp. 128-146

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

W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge UP, 1960), pp. 4-12

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

Week 3: Economic Development & Politics II (Sept. 17, 19)

Rudiger Dornbush, "The Case for Trade Liberalization in Developing Countries," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 6.1 (Winter 1992): 69-85

Kiren Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers," *Politics and Society* 21.3 (1993): 245-274

Chalmers Johnson, "Political Institutions and Economic Performance: The Government-Business Relationship in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan," in *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism* (Cornell UP, 1987), pp. 136-164

Sven Beckert & Seth Rockman, eds., *Slavery's Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development* (U. of Pennsylvania 2018), pp. 1-27

Ramon Grosfoguel, "Developmentalism, Modernity, and Dependency Theory in Latin America," *Nepantla: Views from the South* 1.2 (2000): 347-374

Week 4: Democratization and Democratic Consolidation (Sept. 24, 26)

Seymour Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," *American Political Science Review* 53.1 (March 1959): 69-105

Dankwart Rustow, "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model," *Comparative Politics* 2.3 (April 1970): 337-363

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy* (Yale UP, 1971), pp. 1-16, 33-47

Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy* 2.2 (Spr. 1991): 12-34

Sheri Berman, "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy* 18.1 (2007): 28-41

Carles Boix & Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics* 55 (2003): 517-549

Week 5: Authoritarianism and Regime Change (Oct. 1, 3)

Oct. 1: Post-Communist Transitions in Europe

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (Vintage, 1999), pp. 11-60, 78-130, 157-167

George Soroka, "Assessing Domestic Security Challenges in Post-Maidan Ukraine: Two Critical Dimensions," in *Ukraine after Maidan* (ibidem, 2018), pp. 93-134

Oct. 3: Assessing the Arab Spring

James Gelvin, *The New Middle East* (Oxford, 2017), pp. 24-109

Tansa George Massoud, John A. Doces & Christopher Magee, "Protests and the Arab Spring: An Empirical Investigation," *Polity* 51.3 (July 2019): 429-65

Recommended:

Stephen Haber & Victor Menaldo, "Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse," *APSR* 105.1 (Feb. 2011): 1-26

Jorgen Andersen & Michael Ross, "The Big Oil Change: A Closer Look at the Haber-Menaldo Analysis," *Comparative Political Studies* 47.7 (2014): 993-1021

Week 6: Social Revolutions I (Oct. 8, 10)

1st short paper due Oct 10 before class

James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," *ASR* 27.1 (1962): 5-19

Theda Skocpol, "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 18.2 (Apr. 1976): 175-210

Jeff Goodwin & Theda Skocpol, "Explaining Revolutions in the Contemporary Third World," *Politics & Society* 17.4 (1989): 489-509

John Foran, "A Theory of Third-World Social Revolutions: Iran, Nicaragua, and El Salvador Compared," *Critical Sociology* 19.2 (1992): 3-27

Week 7: Social Revolutions II (Oct. 15, 17)

Oct. 19: The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford UP, 2017 ed.), pp. 15-92, 149-172

Oct. 21: Third World Revolutions and the Case of Iran

Said Amir Arjomand, "Iran's Islamic Revolution in Comparative Perspective," *World Politics* 38.3 (Apr. 1986): 383-414

Nikki Keddie & Richard Yann, *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution* (Yale UP, 2006 ed.), pp. 214-262

Tuesday Oct. 22: midterm exam (in class)

Week 8: Political Institutions & State Outcomes (Oct. 24)

Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (Crown, 2012), pp. 7-44, 70-123, 368-390, 404-414

Guillermo O'Donnell, "The Quality of Democracy: Why the Rule of Law Matters," *Journal of Democracy*, (15.4 (2004): 32-46.

Week 9: Political Institutions & Electoral Systems (Oct 29, 31)

Oct. 29: Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* 1.1 (1990): 51-70

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP, 1996), pp. 162-174

Quentin Quade, "PR and Democratic Statecraft," in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP, 1996), pp. 180-186

Scott Mainwaring, "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal," *Comparative Politics* 29.4 (July 1997): 449-471

Oct. 31: Constitutional Design and Its Limits

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

Gretchen Helmke & Steve Levitsky, "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda," *Perspectives on Politics* 2.4 (2004): 725-740

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and George Downs, "Intervention and Democracy," *International Organization* 60.3 (2006): 627-649

Week 10: Ethnic Conflict I (Nov. 5, 7)

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (U. of CA, 1985), pp. 3-12

Barry Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," in Michael Brown (ed.), *Ethnic Conflict and International Security* (Princeton UP, 1993), pp. 103-124

Daniel Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *APSR* 98.4 (2004): 529-545

James Fearon & David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *APSR* 97.1 (2003): 75-90

Zoltan Barany, "The Rohingya Predicament: Why Myanmar's Army Gets Away with Ethnic Cleansing," *IAI Papers* 19 (March 7, 2019): 1-27

Week 11: Ethnic Conflict II (Nov. 12, 14)

Nov 12: The Breakup of Yugoslavia

Mark Wolfgram, *Antigone's Ghosts: The Long Legacy of War and Genocide in Five Countries* (Bucknell UP, 2018), pp. 132-143, 158-170

V.P. Gagnon, "Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia," *International Security* 19.3 (Winter 1994/1995): 130-166

Mihailo Crnobrnja, *The Yugoslav Drama* (McGill-Queens UP, 1994), pp. 141-188

Nov 14: The Rwandan Genocide

Film: Hotel Rwanda (2004); date and time of in-person viewing to be announced

Scott Straus, *Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa* (Cornell UP, 2015), pp. 273-321

Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton UP, 2001), pp. 76-102, 185-218

Recommended:

Look through the first-hand testimonies collected by the Genocide Archive of Rwanda:
<http://genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw/index.php/Category:Testimonies>

Week 12: Civil Society, Social Capital & Political Culture (Nov. 19, 21)

2nd Short paper due before class Nov. 21

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton UP, 1994), pp. 83-185

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond," *World Politics* 53 (Apr. 2001): 362-398

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

Gabriel Almond & Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture* (Princeton UP, 1963), pp. 1-30

Week 13: Modern Welfare States (Nov. 26)

No class Nov 28: Happy Thanksgiving!

Alberto Alesina & Edward Glaser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference* (Oxford UP, 2004), pp. 77-216

Week 14: Immigration, Integration and National Identity (Dec. 3)

Tarik Abou-Chadi, "Political and Institutional Determinants of Immigration Policies," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 42.13 (2016): 2087–2110

Heaven Crawley & Dimitris Skleparis, "Refugees, Migrants, Neither, Both: Categorical Fetishism and the Politics of Bounding in Europe's 'Migration Crisis,'" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44.1 (2018): 48-64

Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity* (Simon & Schuster, 2005), pp. 3-36, 224-260

René D. Floresa & Ariela Schachter, "Who Are the 'Illegals'? The Social Construction of Illegality in the United States," *ASR* 83.5 (2018): 839–868