

PSCI 110: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2010

M, W 11am-12pm, Stiteler Hall B6

Professor Julia Lynch

243 Stiteler Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3:30

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TAs:

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Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to comparative politics. Comparative politics is the application of comparative methods to the study of politics, wherever politics occurs. Thinking comparatively within political science means asking two questions:

- How can we use a comparison of cases (countries, regions, time periods, policies, people, etc.) to derive big ideas about how politics works?
- How can we apply big ideas to explain particular cases or sets of cases?

This course is organized around three big puzzles in the real world that call for some kind of explanation: why some governments are democratic and others are not; why the inhabitants of some countries and world regions experience higher levels of material well-being than others; and when and why social mobilization occurs. We will examine some of the answers that have been proposed on the basis of comparative research. In this way, we will learn about a few of the areas in which comparative political science research is most active and has contributed most significantly to our understanding of important real-world problems. This course organization reflects the instructor's belief that the primary motivation of comparative political research should be to seek explanations for puzzling real-world phenomena. It does not, however, pretend to cover all of the important issues that face students of politics in all parts of the globe!

While the readings in this course emphasize substantive questions (what we study), discussions of methodology (how we study it) play an important part as well. For each of the questions we tackle, the course readings present a set of proposed "answers" from a variety of methodological perspectives. By the end of the course, you will be an expert judge of the strengths and weaknesses of different kinds of arguments, giving you the power to better evaluate the claims that people (politicians, journalists, fellow human beings) make about real-world political issues.

Guest lectures by members of Penn's political science faculty allow students to learn about specific topics from bona fide experts, and to experience a range of teaching styles.

How to Succeed in this Course

Performance in this course will be evaluated based on

20%	Active, informed participation in recitation section
20%	First midterm exam (Feb 15, in class)
25%	Second midterm exam (Mar 31, in class)
35%	Final Exam

In order to do well in each of these areas, please keep in mind the following:

Read critically, and take notes. While lectures will refer to the assigned readings, they will not summarize them, and attending lecture is not a substitute for reading. You should read the selections listed under each section in advance of the class meetings. Throw away that yellow highlighter pen! Get in the habit of taking real notes on what you read. Study for the final exam will be much more difficult if, at the end of the semester, all you have are highlighted passages in texts. Your TA will help you develop effective note-taking strategies.

Listen actively, and participate. Lectures will cover material that is not in the readings, and that may appear on the exams; recitation sections will cover material that is not covered in lecture and that may also appear on the exams. Take notes in lecture! Lecture outlines are generally posted on Blackboard prior to lecture to facilitate note-taking, but the slides are not a substitute for active listening and note-taking. Similarly, be engaged in question and discussion periods, both in lecture and in recitation. Challenge yourself to participate actively, even if you are a shy person!

Think comparatively. Ask yourself how the particular case you are reading or hearing about compares with similar developments in other countries, regions, or periods.

Keep up with current events. Think about how contemporary events relate to the themes addressed in the class. If you do not already do so, get in the habit of checking out the international pages of at least one major national/international paper every day (The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and the Financial Times all have good international coverage). Explore other sources of international news and analysis such as The New York Review of Books, The Economist, The New Republic, The Atlantic, or The New Yorker.

Take advantage of office hours. The TAs and I are here to help if you're having trouble, if you're having ideas, or if you just want to impress us with how much you know!

Course Outline and Assignments

All readings are to be done *in advance* of the class meeting for which they are listed.

Most of the readings for the course are collected in a bulk pack that is available for purchase at Campus Copy (3907 Walnut; 215-386-6410). A few of the readings are not in the bulk pack, but will be posted to the course Blackboard site in advance of lecture. These readings are preceded by the notation “**Bb.**”

Copies of the movies are available on reserve at Van Pelt. They are also available to rent from Netflix, Blockbuster or the like. Optional group screenings of the movies outside of class hours may be arranged depending on student interest and TA availability.

I: The Political Scientist's Toolkit

Jan 13 Introduction to the Comparative Politics

-- **Bb.** Before your first recitation section (if possible), read the syllabus, plus three short items posted under the Resources tab on Bb on “How to brief an article,” “On emailing your professors,” and “Academic freedom in the classroom.”

Jan 20 The comparative method and Mill's methods

-- Ragin, Charles C. 1987. *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapters 1-2
-- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry* Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp 3-12
-- Copi, Irving M, and Carl Cohen. 1994. "Causal Connections: Mill's Methods of Experimental Inquiry." In *Introduction to Logic*. London: Macmillan.

Jan 25 Paradigms of comparative politics research

-- Lichbach, Mark and Alan Zuckerman. 1997. "Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction." In Lichbach and Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chap 1.

Jan 27, Feb 1 Arguing with Evidence in the Real World: *Bowling for Columbine*

-- Watch *Bowling for Columbine*, on reserve at Van Pelt

II. Why are some countries democratic and others...not so much?

Feb 3 What is democracy?

-- Schmitter, Philippe, and Terry Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is...And Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2:3.
-- Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 1997).
-- **Bb.** Freedom House. *Freedom in the World Survey*. Survey instrument and methodology.

Feb 8, 10 Explaining non-democracy: Why did Germany become authoritarian after WWI?

-- Moore, Barrington. 1966. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press, pp. 413-52.

-- Hamilton, Richard. 1982. *Who Voted for Hitler?* Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-7, 361-397, 413-419.

Feb 15 FIRST MIDTERM (in class)

Feb 17 Global dimensions of democratization: Successes and Failures (Guest lecture by Professor Henry Teune)

-- Teune, Henry. 2010. "Democracy, Globalization and Local Politics." Paper based on the Presentation to the International Seminar on Equality, and Justice in the Globalized Societies delivered at Facultad de Ciencias Politicas y Sociales de la UNAM Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico April 8-10, 2003. Revised January 5, 2009 for PSCI 110.

-- Puddington, Arch. 2009. "The 2008 Freedom House Survey. A Third Year of Decline." *Journal of Democracy* 20(2), pp. 93-107.

-- Kapstein, Ethan B. and Nathan Converse. 2008. "Why democracies fail." *Journal of Democracy* 19(4), pp. 57-68.

Feb 22 The quality of democracy

-- O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1994. "On the State, Democratization, and Some Conceptual Problems." In *Latin American Political Economy in the Age of Neoliberal Reform*, edited by C. H. A. William C. Smith, Eduardo A. Gamarra. New Brunswick NJ: Transaction.

-- Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-16, 163-186.

Feb 24 Why does democracy matter?

-- Drèze, Jean, and Amartya Sen. 1989. "China and India." In Drèze and Sen, *Hunger and Public Action*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

III. Why are some countries more "developed" than others?

Mar 1 Guest lecture by Professor Devesh Kapur (Title TBA)

--Bb. Rodrik, Dani. 2007. "Fifty Years of Growth (and Lack Thereof): An Interpretation," in Rodrik *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-55.

Mar 3 What is development

-- Lerner, Daniel. 1958. *The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East*. Glencoe: Free Press, pp. 19-42.

-- Sen, Amartya. 1988. "The Concept of Development." In *Handbook of Development Economics*, edited by H. Chenery and T. Srinivasan. New York: North Holland

SPRING BREAK

Mar 15, 17 Theories of development and underdevelopment

-- Almond, Gabriel. 1991. "Capitalism and Democracy." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 24(3).

-- Gunder Frank, Andre. 1972. "The Development of Underdevelopment." In *Dependence and Underdevelopment*, edited by J. Cockcroft, A. Gunder Frank and D. Johnson. New York: Anchor Books.

-- Jackson, Robert, and Carl Rosberg. 1986. "Sovereignty and Underdevelopment: Juridical Statehood in the African Crisis." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 24(1).

Mar 22, 24 Can governments promote development?

-- Balassa, Bela. 1988. "Lessons of East Asian Development: An Overview." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 36 (3).

-- Bates, Robert. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-6, 81-95, 113-118.

-- Amsden, Alice. *Asia's Next Giant*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1

-- World Bank. 1997. *World Development Report 1997: The State in a Changing World*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp 39-75.

Mar 29 PASSOVER. Optional review session. No office hours this week.

Mar 31 SECOND MIDTERM (In class)

IV. How does political mobilization occur?

Apr 5 Case study of rebellion: *The Battle of Algiers*

-- In class: Watch first 40 minutes of *The Battle of Algiers*, followed by discussion

-- Watch remainder of *The Battle of Algiers*, on reserve at Van Pelt.

Apr 7 What causes peasant protest?

-- Scott, James. 1976. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant* (New Haven: Yale University Press), pp. 1-12.

-- Popkin, Samuel. 1979. *The Rational Peasant* (Berkeley: University of California Press), pp. 1-31.

Apr 12 What causes successful social movements?

-- Gurr, Ted Robert, *Why Men Rebel*, (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1970, pp. 22-58

-- Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp. 1-27.

Apr 14, 19 Explaining Islamism

- Lewis, Bernard. 2001. "The Revolt of Islam." *The New Yorker* (Nov 21, 2001).
- Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 1997. "Islamic Mobilization and Political Change: The Islamist Trend in Egypt's Professional Associations." In Joel Beinin and Joe Stork eds. *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East Report*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 10.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72(3).
- Barber, Samuel. 1992. "Jihad vs. McWorld." *The Atlantic Monthly* (March 1992).

Apr 21 Identity and nationalism (Guest lecture by Professor Ian Lustick)

- **Bb.** Kipling, Rudyard. "The stranger within my gate" (on Blackboard)
- **Bb.** Aviner, Rabbi Shlomo. "What is a nation?" (on Blackboard)
- Posner, Daniel. 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).

Apr 26 Conclusion