

Dr. Petia Kostadinova  
1118 BSB  
Email: pkostad@uic.edu

Office hours: M 2:30-5:30  
and by appnt.  
Ph 312-413-2187

### **Pols 570: Comparative Politics**

This course exposes graduate students to major trends in the study of comparative politics, particularly its theoretical and methodological foundations. Over the course of the semester, the seminar will address a wide range of questions and issues. Since it is intended to be an introduction to the subfield, the material covered is by necessity quite broad in age, methods, and scope. Students will engage in debates about the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies, as well as the validity and generalizability of various hypotheses and theories. Despite a conscious attempt to cover a wide array of topics, students should be aware that the readings are merely samplings of rich research traditions. Each book or article gives only a taste of what comparativists (political scientists who study comparative politics) do. So while the reading load for this course is substantial, the seminar itself is only the first step toward acquiring the knowledge necessary for taking a qualifying examination in Comparative Politics. The department offers a number of additional courses that provide the kinds of depth that an introductory seminar must forego. Still, I made an effort to draw on the subfield's most recent master syllabus when constructing the syllabus for this seminar. If you adequately fulfill your responsibilities in this class (and other classes), then you can be confident that your initial footing in the field will be solid.

In addition to preparing advanced students for the comparative prelim exams, due to its broad scope of this class, this course will also be of students in other fields, particularly those interested in institutions, comparative methods or policies.

**Required Texts:** Like the reading load for the course, the cost of required books for this seminar is considerable. Nevertheless, the cost should be viewed as an investment. These are either classic works in the subfield or excellent examples of comparative politics research. You can expect to read many of them over and over during the course of your academic career (e.g., as you write papers for other courses, as you prepare for your comprehensive exams, as you write your dissertation, or as you prepare lectures for your own classes).

1. Munck, Gerardo and Richard Snyder. 2007. eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
2. Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, University of Michigan Press,
3. Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University Press
3. Linz, Juan. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers
4. Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*
5. Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press

All required texts, except Linz 2000, are available on course reserves at Richard. M. Daley library. Additional **required** readings, marked with \* are available through electronic reserves and Blackboard. In many cases, the articles complement the assigned books. For example, they may introduce a new perspective on the topic being covered with the ideas themselves often subsequently receiving book-length treatment.

Finally, each topic has a selection of suggested additional readings, that either complement the required texts or offer an alternative perspective. Most suggested readings are also available through UIC course reserves. Readings for book reviews will be drawn from the suggested readings.

### **Course Requirements:**

*Weekly attendance and participation: 15%.*

The seminar should be viewed as an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among scholars. We will discuss and evaluate the ideas and concepts presented in the weekly readings. Since students are expected to be able to critically assess the assigned readings, everyone should be able to contribute to the discussion.

Any absence requires an explanation. More than one unexcused absence will likely result in a zero for this component of the course grade.

*Short Papers: 15%*

Each week after week 2 (weeks 3-14) 1-2 students (depending on final class enrollment) will serve as discussion leaders. To prepare for this role, each discussion leader will write a short paper around 1500 words (4-5 double-spaced pages) paper on the week's readings (excluding *Passion, Craft and Method*). The paper should serve as a spring-board for the week's discussion and should address questions such as

What are the central issues at stake in the readings?

What are the principal arguments of the works under study?

How does each relate to the debates in the field?

What are the main theoretical or empirical strengths or weakness of each?

How valuable and viable is the theory or argument that each proposes?

How effectively is evidence marshaled in support of the argument?

Which scholarly disputes have been resolved?

What good further work lies ahead?

Short papers are due via Turnitin.com by 10:00am the day before class (i.e. each Tuesday before a class meeting). These papers will be graded on an A-F scale.

In addition to submitting a short paper on the readings, to prepare for discussion, each leader should submit **3-4 discussion questions** based on the week's readings. Those are due via email to the instructor, also by **10:00am** on the day before class.

*Critical Reaction Papers: 30%*

This course requires active contribution by each student. To facilitate discussion, for each week, starting with week 2, each student, except the discussion leaders, will write a concise up to **600-650 words (two double-spaced pages)** critical reaction paper. Papers should be sent via Turnitin.com by **10:00am** the day before class (i.e. each Tuesday before a class meeting). In these reaction papers students are expected to critically assess the assigned readings. This means you should move beyond the description of main arguments and identify and evaluate the assumptions behind them. Through this approach and papers you will not only become familiar with the main ideas shaping the theoretical debates in the field but will also develop your own research questions. You will not receive a letter grade for this assignment. I will read each critical paper, note any obvious mistakes, and check it with '+' excellent, '√' satisfactory, or '-' for poor quality.

*Book Review: 5%*

To broaden the scope of readings covered in this course students are required to read one of the books listed under suggested readings. You will be given 20 minutes of class time to present a critical assessment of the book's contents, emphasizing those parts that relate to the general topic for the week. Basically, your review should identify the assumptions or arguments presented by the book, provide your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the methods and conclusions and identify your position in relation to the author(s)'s. Each book review should be around **800-900 words (3 double-spaced pages)** long. Book reviews are due via Turnitin.com by **10:00am** on the day when class meets, i.e. each Wednesday. I will read each book review, note any obvious mistakes, and check it with '+' excellent, '√' satisfactory, or '-' for poor quality.

*Final Paper: 35%*

Each student is expected to write a final paper the end of the semester. This paper should reflect your assessment of the capacity of the competing conceptual approaches to solve political problems existing in a particular research area. This final work asks you to find the best fit (or lack of it) between theory and practice in a specific political context. This assignment is purposefully defined in broad terms to accommodate your personal research interests. To give you an early start all students are encouraged to provide their paper topic and a short bibliography by **Oct 5**. Students will be asked to share their paper topics in class. To give you some practice in sharing your work with others, you will present your arguments during the final class on **Nov 30**. Final papers should be around **2500 words long (8-9 double-spaced pages)** and are due via Turnitin.com by **2:00pm** on **Dec 7**. Final papers will be graded on an A-F scale.

Please be sure to observe the word limitation for each assignment. There will be many instances in your careers where you will be confined to a limited amount of space, and being forced to use space wisely often improves one's writing.

Turning late assignments is not acceptable. If for some reason a paper is turned after the cut-off point, the student will be required to write on an additional work of my choosing and the average grade across the two papers will receive a 10% penalty.

**Incompletes** will not be allowed for this class unless for a documented medical emergency resulting in hospitalization of the enrolled student.

## Course Outline

### Week 1 Aug 24: introduction

Snyder, Richard. 2007. "The Human Dimension of Comparative Research." In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 1-31

Munck, Gerardo L. 2007. "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics." In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 32-59

### Week 2 Aug 31 CP as a subfield

Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, University of Michigan Press, pp. 1-27.

\* Macintyre, Alasdair. 1973. "Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible?", in Alan Ryan (ed.), *The Philosophy of Social Explanations*. Oxford University Press, pp. 171-188.

\* Eckstein, Harry. 1998. "Unfinished Business: Reflections on the Scope of Comparative Politics," *Comparative Political Studies*, 31(4): 505-534.

\* Blondel, Jean. 1999. "Then and Now: Comparative Politics," *Political Studies*, 47(1): 152-160

\* Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd Routledge, part 1. pp 4-50

### Suggested Readings

Almond, Gabriel A. 1990. *A Discipline Divided*, Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications

Crotty, William. 1991. (ed.), *Political Science: Looking to the Future*, Vol.2 on Comparative Politics, Policy and International Relations, Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press

### Week 3 Sept 7 Conceptualization in Comparative Politics

David Collier. 2007 "Critical Junctures, Concepts, and Methods" in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 556-600.

\* Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. University of California Press

1. "Basic Sociological Terms," pp. 24-62

3. "Types of Legitimate Domination," pp. 212-301

\* Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64(4): 1033-53

\* Collier, David and James E. Mahon. 1993. "Conceptual „Stretching“ Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 87(4): 845-55

### Suggested Readings

Wilson, Frank. 2002. *Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Comparative Analysis*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall

### **Strategies and Methods in Comparative Politics**

#### **Week 4 Sept 14**

Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 27-174.

\* Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. 1970. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. Wiley-Interscience, pp. 17-46.

\* Sartori, Giovanni. 1991. "Comparing and Miscomparing", *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 3(3): 243-256.

\* Ragin, Charles and David Zaret. 1983. "Theory and Method in Comparative Research: Two Strategies", *Social Forces*, 61(3): 731-754.

#### **Suggested Readings**

Dogan, Mattei and Ali Kazancigli. 1994. *Comparing Nations: Concepts, Strategies, Substance*. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Peters, B. Guy. 1998. *Comparative Politics: Theory and Methods*. New York: New York University Press.

Dankwart, A. Rustow and Kenneth Paul Erickson. 1991. (eds.). *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, New York: Harper Collins.

#### **Week 5 Sept 21**

\* Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-93

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

\* Bates, Robert H. 1997. "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 166-9

\* Locke, R. M. and K. Thelen. 1995. "Apples and Oranges Revisited: Contextualized Comparison and the Study of Comparative Labor Politics" *Politics and Society* 23: 337-367.

\* Snyder, Richard. 2001. "Scaling Down: The Subnational Comparative Method." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 93-110

#### **Suggested readings**

Johnson, C. 1997. "Preconception vs. Observation, or the Contributions of Rational Choice Theory and Area Studies to Contemporary Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 170-4

#### **Week 6 Sept 28**

\* Collier, David and James Mahoney. 1996 "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," *World Politics*, 49(1): 56-91.

- \* Lieberman, Stanley. 1991. "Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases," *Social Forces*, 70(2): 307-320.
- \* Coppedge, Michael; "Theory Building and Hypothesis Testing: Large- vs. Small-N Approaches in Democratization Research," paper presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago. At <http://www.nd.edu/~mcoppedg/crd/mpsacopp02.pdf>
- \* Coppedge, Michael. 1999. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* 31(4): 465-476
- \* Bartolini, Stefano. 1993. "On time and Comparative Research," *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 5(2): 131-136.

### ***Suggested Readings***

- Chilcote, Ronald H. 1994. *Theories of Comparative Politics: The Search for a Paradigm Reconsidered*, 2nd Edition, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.
- Mayer, Lawrence C. 1989. *Redefining Comparative Politics: Promise versus Performance*. Sage.

### **Week 7 Oct 5 Rational Choice**

Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 175-212.

- \* Bates, Robert. 1997. "Comparative Politics and Rational Choice: A Review Essay," *American Political Science Review*, 91: 699-704.
- \* Levi, Margaret. 1997. "A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis", in Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, Cambridge, pp. 19-41
- \* Popkin, Samuel L. 1988. "Public Choice and Peasant Organization," in Robert H. Bates (ed.), *Toward a Political Economy of Development: A Rational Choice Perspective*. University of California Press, pp. 245-71.

### ***Suggested Readings***

- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press
- Tsebelis, George. 1990. *Nested Games: Rational Choice in Comparative Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Green, Donald P. and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

### **Week 8 Oct 12 Culturalist Approach**

David D. Laitin. 2007. "Culture, Rationality, and the Search for Discipline" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 601-648.

- \* Ross, Marc Howard. 1997. "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis", in Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 42-81.

- \* Wilson, Richard W. 2000. "The Many Voices of Political Culture: Assessing Different Approaches," *World Politics*, 52(2): 246-273.
- \* Eckstein, Harry. 1988. "A Culturalist Theory of Political Change." *American Political Science Review* 82(3): 789-804
- \* Lane, Ruth. 1992. "Political Culture: Residual Category or General Theory?" *Comparative Political Studies* 25(3): 362-87

### ***Suggested Readings***

Anthony W. Marx. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa, and Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics

Lane, Jan-Erik. 2002. *Culture and Politics: A Comparative Approach*, Aldershot.

Bowen John R. and Petersen Roger. 1999. *Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **Week 9 Oct 19 Institutional Approach**

- \* March, James and Johan Olsen. 1984. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life". *American Political Science Review* 78(3): 734-749
- \* Thelen, Kathleen and Sven Steinmo. 1992. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics". In Steinmo, Sven, et al (eds.) *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press, pp: 1-32.
- \* Hall, Peter A. and C.R.Taylor Rosemary. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," *Political Studies*, 44(4): 936-957.
- \* Diermeier, Daniel and Krehbiel, Keith. 2003. "Institutionalism as a Methodology." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(2): 123-144
- \* Immergut, Ellen and Anderson Karen. 2008. "Historical Institutionalism and West European Politics," *West European Politics* 31(1-2): 345-369

### ***Suggested Readings***

Steinmo, Sven, et al (eds.). 1992. *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gordon Smith and Moisés Naím. 2000. *Altered States : Globalization, Sovereignty, and Governance*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.

### **Week 10 Oct 26 Modernization and Development**

Samuel P. Huntington. 2007. "Order and Conflict in Global Perspective" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 210-233.

Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University Press

### ***Suggested Readings***

Collier, P. 2007. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What can be Done about it*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Seligson, M. A. and J. T. Passé-Smith. 2003. *Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers

**Week 11 Nov 2 Authoritarian States**

Linz, Juan J. 2007. "Political Regimes and the Quest for Knowledge" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 150-209.

Linz, Juan. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers

\* Gandhi, J. and A. Przeworski. 2007. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40(11): 1279-1301.

**Suggested Readings**

Brownlee, J. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Schedler, A. Ed. 2006. *Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

**Week 12 Nov 9 Transitions, Revolutions and Political Change**

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Beacon Press

Moore, Barrington. 2007. "The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 86-112.

\* Bermeo, Nancy. 1990. "Rethinking Regime Change," *Comparative Politics*, 22(3): 359-377.

**Suggested Readings**

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

Linz, Juan and Albert Stepan. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

**Week 13 Nov 16 Democratic States**

Dahl, Robert. 2007. "Normative Theory, Empirical Research and Democracy" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 113-149.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press

\* Schedler, A. 2001. "Measuring Democratic Consolidation." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 66-92

\* Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, with David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Steven Fish, Allen Hicken, Matthew Kroenig, Staffan I. Lindberg, Kelly McMann, Pamela Paxton, Holli A.



Semetko, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, and Jan Teorell. 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 9(2): 247-267.

***Suggested Readings***

Diamond, Larry. 1999. *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation*. Baltimore, Maryland; Johns Hopkins University Press.

Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Soberg Shugart, (eds). 1997. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Week 14 Nov 23 Variety of Institutions**

Lijphart, Arend. 2007. "Political Institutions, Divided Societies, and Consociational Democracy" In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 234-372.

\* Lijphart, Arend. 1969. "Consociational Democracy." *World Politics* 21(2): 207-225

\* Stepan, Alfred and Cindy Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism Versus Presidentialism." *World Politics* 46: 1-22

\* Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2): 198-228

\* Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decisionmaking in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* 25(3): 289-325

***Suggested Readings:***

Cox, G. W. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Przeworski, A., S. C. Stokes, and B. Manin. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

**Week 15 Nov 30 Conclusions**

Presentations of draft final papers.