

POLS 579, Fall 2005
Topics in Comparative Politics: Themes and Issues

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2pm-3pm or by appointment, BSB 1134

The assumption underlying the idea of comparative politics is that one can learn a political system better by placing it in a comparative perspective. Although every country is in some sense unique, there are always grounds for comparison and more importantly there are questions that can be answered only through comparing nations. This course **first** seeks to familiarize students with some of the most important concepts used in **comparative** politics. Its **second** objective is to enable students to understand and make reasoned comparative judgments about political phenomena and their effects across a variety of national contexts.

Required Books: available in UIC Bookstore

Brown, Bernard, B. *Comparative Politics—Notes and Readings*. Wadsworth 2006.

Brown, John, and Roger Petersen. *Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Karklins, Rasma. *The System Made Me Do it: Corruption in Post-Communist Societies*. M.E. Sharpe, 2005.

Linz, Juan J. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes* Lynne Rienner, 2000.

Putnam, Robert D. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993.

Additional required and recommended readings will be listed in the 2nd version of the syllabus.

Course Requirements

This course requires active contribution by each student. To facilitate seminar discussions each student will write a concise two-page critical discussion paper focusing on the analytical approaches presented in the assigned readings. Papers should be sent via e-mail **by 3 pm the day before** class. In these discussion 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 become familiar with the main ideas shaping the theoretical debates in the field and this will help you to develop your own research questions.

Your grade for this course will be based on your seminar participation (20%), discussion paper (25%), one in-class essay exam (25%) and a short research paper (30%). There may be an option to substitute an analytical book review for the latter, this is to be agreed upon with the instructor.

Topics and Readings:

August 25: Introduction, Overview of Course

September 1: What is Comparative Politics? Readings: B. Brown, pp. 1-47

September 8: Regime Types I: Non-Democracies. Readings: B. Brown, pp. 237-265; Linz, pp.49-142.

September 15: Non-Democracies II: Linz pp. 1-48;143-271.

September 22, 29: Democratic Regimes. Readings: Brown, pp. 175-201; Karklins, Ch.6; Putnam, entire.

October 6: Approaches to Political Parties. Readings: Brown, pp.311-352. Recommended: Richard M. Katz and Peter Mair, "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy," *Party Politics*, vol.1,no.1 (January 1995) pp.5-28; Abby Innes, "Party Competition in Postcommunist Europe," *Comparative Politics*, October 2002, pp. 85-104.

October 13: In-Class exam

October 20: Aspects of Political Corruption: Karklins, entire.

October 27: Social Movements and Protest: Brown, ch.5; Bert Klandermans, Dirk Oegema, "Potentials, Networks, Motivation, and Barriers: Steps Towards Participation in Social Movements," *American Sociological Review*, vol. 52 (Aug. 1987): 519-531; Rasma Karklins, *Ethnopolitics and Transition to Democracy*, ch.4; Kathrin Zippel, "Transnational Advocacy Networks and Policy Cycles in the European Union: The Case of Sexual Harassment," *Social Politics*, Vol. 11, no.1, 2004, pp.57-85.

November 3: Political Culture: Ross, Marc Howard; "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis," in Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, Cambridge, 1997, pp. 42-81; Ronald Inglehart, "Culture and Democracy," in *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, eds. Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington, Basic Books, 2000, pp.80-96; Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "Political Culture and Democracy, Analyzing Cross-Level Linkages," *Comparative Politics*, October 2003, pp.61-79; Tom W. Rice and Jan L. Feldman, "Civic Culture and Democracy from Europe to America," *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 59, no. 4 (Nov. 1997) pp.1143-72.

Recommended: John Brown and Roger Petersen. *Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 1999, ch. 7 and 9.

November 10: Civil Society; Transitions to Democracy. Robert D. Putnam *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, 1993, ch. 5 and ch.6; Bernard Brown, *Notes and Readings*, ch.7; Valerie Bunce, "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience," *World Politics*, vol. 55 (Jan. 2003), pp. 167-92.

November 17: Identity and Nationalism. Rasma Karklins, *Ethnopolitics and Transition to Democracy*, ch. 3; Lowell W. Barrington, "'Nation' and 'Nationalism': The Misuse of key Concepts in Political Science," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, December 1997, pp.712-716, David D.Laitin, "National revivals and violence, in John Brown and Roger Petersen. *Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 1999, ch. 2; Liah Greenfeld, "Varieties of Nationalism," in Bernard Brown, *Notes and Readings* pp. 96-99; Donald L. Horowitz, "A Right to Secede?" in Brown, *Notes and Readings* pp. 100-106; Fareed Zakaria, "Islam, Democracy, and Constitutional Liberalism," in B.Brown, pp. 279-291..

November 24: Thanksgiving, No Class (Make-up TBA)

December 1: Globalization and Its Impact: Brown, *Notes and Readings*, Ch.4; Quan Li and Rafael Reuveny, "Economic Globalization and democracy: An Empirical Analysis," *British Journal of Political Science*, 33,29-54; Martin Wolf, "We need more globalisation..." *Financial Times*, May 10, 2004.

Recommended readings: (also see Prelim list for Comparative Politics)

Bunce, Valerie. "The Postsocialist Experience and Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 34, no. 4 (Dec. 2001), pp. 793–95^[RG1].

———. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience," *World Politics* 55 (Jan. 2003), pp. 167–92: 168.^[RG2]

Immergut, Ellen N. "The Theoretical Core of the New Institutionalism," *Politics & Society* 26, no. 1 (Mar. 1998), pp. 5–34.

Karklins, Rasma. "Explaining Regime Change in the USSR," *Europe-Asia Studies* 46, no. 1 (Jan. 1994), pp. 29–45.



Levine, Daniel H. "Paradigm Lost: Dependence to Democracy," *World Politics* 40, no. 3 (Apr. 1988), pp. 377–94.



Linz, Juan. "Transitions to Democracy," *Washington Quarterly* 13, no. 3 (Summer 1990), pp. 143–64.

Linz, Juan J., and Alfred Stepan. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Lipset, Seymour Martin, and Gabriel Salman Lenz. "Corruption, Culture, and Markets," in *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, L.E. Harrison and S.P. Huntington, eds. New York: Basic Books, 2000, pp. 112–24.

Mishler, William, and Richard Rose. "What Are the Origins of Political Trust? Testing Institutional and Cultural Theories in Post-Communist Societies," *Comparative Political Studies* 34, no. 4 (Feb. 2001), pp. 30–62.

Pateman, Carole. "Political Culture, Political Structure and Political Change," *British Journal of Political Science* 1 (July 1971), pp. 291–305.