

PS 2200: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Department of Political Science
University of Utah
Spring Semester 2008

Claudio A. Holzner

Lecture: MW 8:05-9:25 am (PAB 103)

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Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of important topics in comparative politics. It does so by encouraging participants to grapple with core questions and intellectual puzzles that have motivated and enlivened research in political science for decades, and that in many cases continue to stump political analysts. Some of the questions we will explore in this class include: What is a state, what are they good for and what happens when they fail? Why are some countries democratic and others not? Why did so many countries suddenly become democratic during the past two decades? How do we explain which citizens participate in political activity, when they participate and how? Is ethnic conflict inevitable? How does globalization impact economic growth, political representation, the spread of social movements, and shape politically relevant identities? Many of these questions are motivated by real-life events and our quest for answers depends on acquiring specific knowledge about countries and their political systems. Therefore, it is important in comparative politics to follow current events and become familiar with how governments work in particular countries.

In addition to becoming acquainted with core questions in Comparative Politics and gaining an understanding of specific political systems, an important objective of the course is to practice doing comparative politics. Comparing individuals, cities, nations and states is the defining feature of comparative politics and we will take advantage of variation across cases to seek explanations for political phenomena. Lectures, discussions, and assignments will be designed to help students acquire the analytical skills necessary to do comparative politics.

Discussions will be an integral part of the course and your grade will depend on your active participation in class. I will lecture for a portion of most class periods, but a part of each class will be dedicated to discussion and debate among students. I encourage – almost require – you to raise questions as they occur to you, even during lecture. Asking questions is not an interruption, rather it is an essential part of learning.

Your Responsibilities

Your primary responsibilities, in addition to completing the required assignments, are to attend all classes and do all of the reading before coming to class. Class lectures will generally not repeat the arguments made in the readings but will complement that material. You will be responsible for all of the material covered in both readings and in lectures. You are also required to participate actively in discussions and class exercises. Part of your grade will depend on it.

Attendance and Make-up exams

Being an active member of the class will determine part of your participation grade, and attendance is a prerequisite to participation. You are allowed three absences (excused or unexcused) before your grade will be affected. If you cannot make it to the midterm you must let me know in advance so that I can make arrangements. Otherwise there will be no make-up exams.

Grading

Grades in this course will be based on in-class participation 3 reading quizzes, a mid-term examination, a final examination. Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm: 25%	Three Reading Quizzes: 10% each (30% total)
Final Exam: 40%	Participation and attendance: 5%

A Note on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty. Don't even think about it. If I suspect that you have plagiarized a paper or cheated on an assignment I will follow university procedures to the letter. Dishonesty has no place in the classroom. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or a violation of academic honesty, consult the student handbook or ask!

Plagiarism is defined as the "use of another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft."

Readings

All of the assigned readings will be available through electronic reserve at the University of Utah main library or online. I suggest you download the material from electronic reserves as soon as possible, all at once if possible. Readings from electronic reserve are labeled (CP).

Country Profiles:

There is no required textbook, but I have assigned required country profiles which are available online. The URL for each country profile is on the syllabus on the date in which we will be discussing it.

You can find more country profiles at:

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=166>

Instruction for accessing country profiles:

Go to the URL associated with the country you are looking for. When you find the country you want, click on Business source premier, then click on 2007 (right hand of the screen), then click on the new 2007 again, which will take you to a document list. In all cases, the relevant document is #4 (Politics), but you may be interested in document #1 which has a map.

For students with disabilities:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

I. INTRODUCTION: WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT

January 7: Introduction

-- NO READING --

January 9: How we know what we know: doing comparative politics

- Read ahead!

II. THE STATE

January 14-16: What are states and what are they good for?

- Almond, Powell, Strom, and Dalton. *Comparative Politics Today*. pp. 4-8, 24-32.
- Charles Tilly. 1992. *Coercion, Capital and the European States*: "How war made states and vice versa." pp. 67-91. (CP)
- [Country Profile: Lebanon](#)

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=171>

INSTRUCTIONS: Go to this address. Then look for "Country Profile Lebanon", click on Business Source Premier, the click on 2006, then click on August 2006, then click on the PDF link to download the article.

III. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY

A. Authoritarian and Democratic Regimes

January 21-February 4: Democracy and Authoritarianism

- Robert Dahl. 1971. *Polyarchy*. pp. 1-32. (CP)
- [Country Profile: UK](#)

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=170>

- [Country profile: Sweden](#)

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=169>

- Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 21-35. (CP)
- [Country profiles: Russia](#)

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=169>

- [Country Profile: Saudi Arabia](#)

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=169>

B. Why are some countries democratic and others authoritarian?

February 6-11: Explaining Democratization: Modernization Theory

- Daniel Lerner. 1958. *The Passing of Traditional Society*: "The Parable of the Grocer and the Chief." (CP)
- Seymour Martin Lipset. *Political Man*. Ch. 2. (CP)

- Deutsch, Karl (1961) "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *American Political Science Review* 55 (3): 493-514. (Focus on pp. 493-502) (CP)

READING QUIZ #1 DUE FEBRUARY 11

February 13-25: Is democracy inevitable?

- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. pp 1-12, 32-58, 78-92 (skim pp. 12-33). (CP)
- O'Donnell, Guillermo. "Toward and Alternative Conceptualization of South American Politics." pp. 239-275. (CP)

IV. UNDERSTANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Why are some countries rich and others poor?

February 27-March 5: Explaining Wealth and Poverty in Nations

- Easterly, William. 2001. "To Help the Poor," from *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press. (CP)
- Collier, Paul and Jan Willem Gunning. 1999. "Why has Africa grown slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13 (3): 3-22. (CP)
- Przeworski, Adam, et. al. 2000. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," from *Democracy and Development*. Cambridge University Press. (CP)
- Gunder Frank, A. 1966. "The Development of Underdevelopment", *Monthly Review*, Sept. 1966: 17-31. (CP)
- Country case: Nigeria

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=168>

Monday, March 10

MID-TERM EXAMINATION IN PAB 103

B. Globalization

March 12: What is Globalization?

- Polanyi, Karl. 1944. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*, in *The Politics of Globalization, A Reader*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007. (CP)
- Country Profile: Mexico

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=168>

SPRING BREAK MARCH 17-21

March 24-31: Globalization and its Discontents

- Review Polanyi and Gunder Frank
- Dollar and Kraay. 2002. "Spreading the Wealth," *Foreign Affairs*; Jan/Feb2002, Vol. 81 Issue 1, p120-133. (CP)

- Kristof, Nicholas and Sheryl Wu Dunn. 2000. "Two Cheers for Sweatshops," *New York Times Magazine*, Sept. 24: 70-71. (CP)
- Millen, Joyce V. and Timothy H. Holtz. 2000. "Dying for Growth Part I: Transnational Corporations and the Health of the Poor," in *Dying for Growth: Global Inequality and the Health of the Poor*, Jim Yong Kim, ed. (CP)
- Milanovic, Branko. 2003. "The Two Faces of Globalization: Against Globalization as we Know It," *World Development Journal* 31 (4): 667-683. (CP)

READING QUIZ #2 DUE MARCH 31

V. CITIZEN POLITICS: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

A. Political Participation

April 2-9: Political Participation: The U.S. in Comparative Context

- Russell J. Dalton. 1996. *Citizen Politics*. Ch. 3: pp. 40-66. (CP)
- *Voter Turnout since 1945: A Global Report*, selections. (CP)
- Rosenstone and Hansen, ch. 2. (CP)
- Country profile: Venezuela

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=170>

B. Social Movements

April 14-23: We're mad and we're not going to take it anymore!

- Marx, Karl. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." (CP)
- Sidney Tarrow. 1998. *Power in Movement*. Ch. 5: "Political Opportunities and Constraints," pp. 71-90. (CP)
- "How Saudi Wealth Fueled Holy War", in the *Chicago Tribune*, February 22, 2004. (CP)
- Wiktorowicz, Quintan. 2002. "Islamic Activism and Social Movement Theory," *Mediterranean Politics* 7 (3): 187-211. (CP)
- Country Profile: Pakistan

<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=629&sid=248830656&menuid=67&lang=en&page=169>

READING QUIZ #3 DUE APRIL 23

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, APRIL 28 FROM 8:00 am – 10:00 a.m.

HELD IN PAB 103