GS 1500. Comparative Politics (Core)  
Department of Politics  
New York University -- Fall 2005

INSTRUCTOR  
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CLASS MEETING: Thursday  2:00-4:00PM  
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday  4-5:30PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course is an introduction to the methodology and to some of the main themes in  
Comparative Politics. We first study strategies for comparative case studies, cross country large-N studies, and causal inference. We then survey the literature on state-building, political regimes and transitions. Finally, we cover the literature on political institutions, political agency, ethnic divisions, decentralization and clientelism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
In addition to regular attendance and class participation, which will account for 20% of the  
grade, there will be (1) a take home exam on October 6, (2) two 3-5 pages review papers due on  
October 20 and November 3 and (3) a 10-15 pages final paper due on December 16. The take  
home exam will count for 10% of the grade, the review papers 20% and the final paper 50%.

Week 1 (September 8): Introduction

Week 2 (September 15): What is Comparative Politics?

Peter J. Katzenstein; Peter B. Evans -; James C. Scott; Susanne Hoeber Rudolph; Adam  
Przeworski; Theda Skocpol; Atul Kohli (1995) The Role of Theory in Comparative  

Roger Myerson (1995). Analysis of Democratic Institutions: Structure, Conduct and  
Performance, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 9-1, 77-99

Methods of Comparative Political Analysis

Week 3: (September 22) Causal Inference


**Week 4 (September 29): Case Studies versus Large N Studies**


**Week 5: (October 6) States**


**Week 6 (October 13) Political Regimes and Transitions**


**Week 7 (October 20): State Capacity and Reform**


**Week 8 : (October 27) Political Institutions**


**Week 9 (November 3). Political Agency**


Week 10. (November 10) Corruption


Week 11. (November 17) Ethnicity

Required:


Recommended:


Posner, 2003 “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas. are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi” American Political Science Review Vol.98, No.4


**Week 12. (December 1) Clientelism**


**Week 13 (December 8) Decentralization**


**Week 14: (December 15) Conclusion and Review**