

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 Hoerber Rudolph; Adam Przeworski; Theda Skocpol; Atul Kohli (1995) The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium, *World Politics*, Vol. 48, No. 1. pp. 1-49.

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

Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43: 169-195.

Przeworski Adam (2005) Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible? Working Paper. New York University

Sekhon, Jas (2004) "Quality Meets Quantity: Case Studies, Conditional Probability and Counterfactuals." *Perspectives on Politics*, June: 281-293.

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

Stanley Lieberson, (1992) "Small *N*'s and big conclusions: an examination of the reasoning in comparative Studies based on a small number of cases," in Charles C. Ragin & Howard S. Becker, eds., *What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry* (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press): 105-118

Jackman, Robert. 1985. Cross-National Statistical Research and the Study of the Comparative Politics, *American Journal of Political Science* 29, pp. 161-182.

Week 5: (October 6) States

Polak, Benjamin Polak and Boaz Moselle (2001). A Model of a Predatory State, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*. Pp. 1-33

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in *Bringing the State Back In* edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

William Reno, "War, Markets, and the Reconfiguration of West Africa's Weak States," *Comparative Politics* (July 1997): 493-510.

Week 6 (October 13) Political Regimes and Transitions

Guillermo O'Donnell, Phillipe Schmitter, and Stephen Whitehead, eds., *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Comparative Perspectives* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), Chapters 1-4.

Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. Modernization: theory and facts. *World Politics* 49.2; 155-183

Bratton Michael and Nicholas Van de Walle. 1994. Neo-Patrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa. *World Politics* 46:4

Leonard Wantchekon. 2003. The Paradox of Warlord Democracy: A Theoretical Investigation: *American Political Science Review* 98 (2004): 17--33

Week 7 (October 20): State Capacity and Reform

Acemoglu, Daron (2005) Politics and Economics of Weak and Strong States. *Journal of Monetary Economics* (forthcoming)

Frye, Timothy (2004) Credible Commitment and Property Rights: Evidence from Russia.” *American Political Science Review* 98(3):453-66.

Helmke, Gretchen. 2001. The Logic of Strategic Defection: Court-Executive Relations under Dictatorship and Democracy in Argentina. *American Political Science Review*.

Widner, Jennifer. 1999. Building Judicial Independence in Common Law Africa in Andreas Schedler, Larry Diamond and Mark Plattner (eds), *Self-Restraining State: Power and Accountability in New Democracies*.

Kathryn Firmin-Sellers, (1995)“The Politics of Property Rights,” *American Political Science Review*, 89, 4: 867-881.

Week 8 : (October 27) Political Institutions

Myerson, Roger (1996). Economic Analysis of Political Institutions: An Introduction in *Advances in Economic Theory and Econometrics*, Edited by D. Kreps and K. Wallis, Cambridge University Press.

Arend Lijphart, “The Political Consequences of Electoral Laws, 1945-85” *American Political Science Review* 84 (1990): 481-96.

John Huber, “Restrictive Legislative Procedures in France and the United States, *American Political Science Review* 86/3(1992).

Week 9 (November 3). Political Agency

Acemoglu, Daron (2004) Why not a Political Coase Theorem? Social Conflict, Commitment and Politics, *Journal of Comparative Economics* (forthcoming)

Egorov Georgi and Constantin Sorin (2005) Dictators and their Viziers: Agency Problems in Dictatorships. Working Paper. Princeton University.

Reinikka, Ritva and Jakob Svensson (2003), "The Power of Information: Evidence from a Newspaper Campaign to Reduce Capture," Working Paper, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University.

Besley Tim and Robin Burgess. 2002. The Political Economy of Government Responsiveness: Theory and Evidence from India. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Week 10. (November 10) Corruption

Rose-Ackerman, Susan (2003) Governance and Corruption. Bjorn Lombard, eds, Global Crises, Global Solutions, *Cambridge University Press*, 301-362

Rose-Ackerman and Jana Kunikova (2005) "Electoral Rules and Constitutional Structures as Constraints on Corruption" *British Journal of Political Science* 35 (4)

Olken, Benjamin (2005) Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia. Working Paper.

Week 11. (November 17) Ethnicity

Required:

William Easterly and Ross Levine. 1997. Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 112-4: pp. 1203 - 1250

Miguel, Edward (2004). Tribe or Nation? Nation-Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania. *World Politics* 56.3; 327-362

Fearon, James D. and David Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Ethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 4 pp. 715-35

Recommended:

Chandra, Kanchan. 2004. Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability. *Perspectives on Politics* (forthcoming)

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

Bates, Robert H. 1983. "Modernization, Ethnic Cooperation, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa." In *State versus Ethnic Claims: Africa Policy Dilemmas* Donald Rotshild and Victor Olunsorola, eds. Boulder Colorado, CO: Westview Press

Chandra, Kanchan. 2004. *Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability. Perspectives on Politics* (forthcoming)

Week 12. (December 1) Clientelism

Dixit Avinash and John Londegran. 1996. "The Determinants of Success of Special Interest in Redistributive Politics." *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 58, pp. 1132-1155

Stokes, Susan (2005). Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina. *American Political Science Review* 99:3; 315-327

Scott, C. James. 1972. Patron-Client Politics and Political Change in Southeast Asia. *American Political Science Review*. 66, 91-113.

Wantchekon, Leonard (2003) Clientelism and Voting Behavior: A Field Experiment in Benin: *World Politics* 55: 3; 399-422

Week 13 (December 8) Decentralization

Bardhan Pranab (2002), "Decentralization of Governance and Development," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 16 (2), pp. 185-205.

Falleti Tulia (2005) A Sequential Theory of Decentralization: Latin American Cases in Comparative Perspective. *American Political Science Review* 99:3; 327-347

Escobar-Lemmon, Maria (2001) Political Support for Decentralization: An Analysis of the Colombian and Venezuelan Legislatures. *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (4): 688-97

O'Neill, Kathleen. 2003. Decentralization as an Electoral Strategy. *Comparative Political Studies* 36, 1068-1091

Week 14: (December 15) Conclusion and Review