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V53.0500

Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, which is defined as the study of domestic politics anywhere in the world. As a way of cutting into this vast topic, we specifically focus on the process of democratic transition by analyzing the democratic revolution that has swept the globe during the last thirty years. In turn we will explore the causes of democratization, threats to democratization, and factors that may aid in a successful consolidation of democracy. As part of this process, students will be exposed to a wide range of topics in comparative politics, including the politics of economic reform, party systems and voting, theories of ethnic politics, and social capital.

Requirements

The course is taught in two lectures (M, W, 11:00 – 12:15) and one section each week. Grading is based on a final exam (50%), a mid-term (20%), a 5-7 page paper (20%, due December 5th), and section participation (10%).

Readings

This course is *not* taught from a textbook. Students are welcome to purchase a comparative politics textbook if they like, but there is no particular text for this class. Instead, readings will be drawn from 5 books recommended for purchase (also available on reserve at Bobst Library) and a course pack that contains a collection of articles and book chapter. The course pack can be purchased at New University Copying on 11 Waverly.

All students are expected to have completed the relevant reading **before** the section meeting each week. There are approximately **100 – 150** pages of reading a week; some are more and some are less. In particular, the weeks on the moment of transition, economic reform, and social capital have heavy reading requirement. Please plan ahead accordingly! Please note that both the **mid-term** and **final** will have questions that draw directly from the readings.

The following books are recommended for purchase and are available for purchase at the NYU Book Store:

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton University Press, 1993)
Jeffrey Sachs, *Poland's Jump to the Market Economy* (MIT University Press, 1994)
Timothy G. Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, (Vintage Books, 1993)
Larry Diamond et. al. (eds.) *The Global Resurgence of Democracy 2nd Edition*, (Johns Hopkins, 1996)
Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Johns Hopkins, 1996)

Readings not contained in these books can be found in the course pack or on Professor Tucker's website: <http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/>

Office Hours

Professor Tucker will hold office hours on Thursdays from 10:30 – 12:00 in his office in room 430 at 19 West 4th Street. If you need to schedule a time to meet outside of the scheduled office hours, please email Professor Tucker directly.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction to Comparative Politics: Sept 5, 10

Almond, Powell, Strom and Dalton, *Comparative Politics Today* (8th Edition), 31-45

Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek, *Analyzing Politics*, Ch.9: 220-259

Hirshman, Albert (1970). *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Response to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press., Ch. 1-3, p.1-43

II. Regimes: Sept. 12, 17

Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation, Ch 1, 3, 4 (p.3-15, 38-65)

Global Resurgence: Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy is..." Ch.4, 49-62

Dahl, Robert, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, Yale University Press, 1971, Ch.1-3, p.1-47

III: The Moment of Transitions: Sept. 19, 24

Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, all

Global Resurgence: Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave", Ch.1, p.3-25

Global Studies: Russia, "Central-Eastern Europe: From Dictatorship to Democracy", p.97-115

IV: Forms of Government after Transition: Presidential vs. Parliamentary: Sept 26, Oct. 1

Global Resurgence, Ch. 8–12 (111-161)

Lijphart, Arend (ed) *Parliamentary vs. Presidential Government* :Intro (p.1-31); Ch 13 (p.111-117)
Ch.15 (128-132) Ch.18 (p.142-149)

Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." *World Politics* 48:297-323.

IVA: Forms of Government: Federalism vs. Unitary Government: Oct 3 (No Class Oct. 8)

Ordeshook, Peter, and Olga Shvetsova. 1997. "Federalism and Constitutional Design." *Journal of Democracy* 8 (1):27-42.

Alfred Stepan, "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model," *Journal of Democracy* 10: 4 (October 1999), p. 19-33.

Weingast, Barry. 1995. "The Economic Role of Political Institutions: Market-Preserving Federalism and Economic Growth," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 11: 1-31.

V: Electoral Systems: Oct 10, 15

Norris, Pippa, 2004, ch.2, "Classifying Electoral Systems" p.39-65.

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Chapter 7, p.166-191.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 17th

VI: Four Approaches to Voting and Elections

October 22: Sociological Approach to Voting

Dalton, 2006, Chapter 8 "The Social Bases of Party Support", p.148-176,

Flanigan, William H., and Nancy H. Zingale. 1998. *Political behavior of the American electorate*. 10th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press., Chapter 5 "Social Characteristics of Partisans and Independents", p.99-116.

October 24: A Rational Approach to Voting

Downs, Anthony (1957). *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 1-3, (p3-50)

George Rabinowitz and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. 1989. "A Directional Theory of Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 83:93-121.

October 29: Economic Voting

Kinder, Donald R. and D. Roderik Kiewiet (1981). "Sociotropic Politics: The American Case." *British Journal of Political Science* 11(1): 129-61.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, et al. (1992). "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy." *American Political Science Review* 86(3): 597-611.

Powell, G. Bingham and Guy D. Whitten (1993). "A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Voting: Taking Account of the Political Context." *American Journal of Political Science* 37(2): 391-414.

Tucker, Joshua A. (2005) *Transitional Economic Voting*, manuscript, download from http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/Tucker_2004_TEV.pdf

October 31: Strategic Voting

Cox, Gary W., (1997) *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*, Chapters 2 & 4 (p.13-36, 69-98)

Meirowitz, Adam, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2007. "Run Boris Run: Strategic Voting and Information Transmission in Sequential Elections" *The Journal of Politics* 69 (1):88-99.

(Note: don't worry about the details of the model – try to get the basic insight of how authors think about strategic voting, and how it may differ from Cox's conception of strategic voting;)

VII. Parties and Party Systems: November 5, 7

Mair, Peter. 2002. "Comparing Party Systems," (Chapter 4) in *Comparing democracies 2 : new challenges in the study of elections and voting*. Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris, eds. London: Sage: 88-107.

Mair, Peter, ed. *The West European Party System*, Oxford Press 1990: Ch. 3 (37-45) 5 (50-60) 20, 21, 22 (285-310)

Kitschelt, Herbert. "The Formation of Party Systems in East Central Europe," *Politics and Society*, March 1992, p.7-50

VIII. Partisan Identification: November 12, 14

Flanigan, William H., and Nancy H. Zingale. 1998. *Political behavior of the American electorate*. 10th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press., Chapter 3 “Partisanship”, p.57-76.

Campbell, Angus et al. “The Impact and Development of Party Identification” in *Classics in Voting Behavior*, eds Richard G. Niemi, Herbert F. Weisberg. Washington, DC : CQ Press, 1992, ch.22, p.224-34.

Dalton 2006, Chapter 9 “Partisanship and Electoral Behavior”, p.177-200.

Brader, Ted, and Joshua A. Tucker, 2006, “Reflective and Unreflective Partisans? Experimental Evidence on the Links between Information, Opinion, and Party Identification,” unpublished ms., download from <http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/ReflectiveandUnreflectivePartisans.pdf>

IX: Politics of Economic Reform: November 19, 21 26

Sachs, Jeffrey, *Poland’s Jump to the Market Economy* – all

Diamond, Larry and Marc F. Plattner, *Economic Reform and Democracy*, ch.1-2, 6 p.1- 27, 74-85

Hellman, Joel, “Winners Take All: The politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions” *World Politics*, vol.50 (January 1998) p.203-34

Murrell, Peter, “What is Shock Therapy? What Did it do in Poland and Russia?” *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 9 (2) (1993) p.111-140.

November 26th: Paper topics assigned in class

X: Corruption: November 28

Johnson, Roberta Ann, “About Corruption”, in Johnson, Roberta A., ed, *The Struggle Against Corruption* (2004), p.1-20.

Matirossian, Jasmine, “Russia and Her Ghosts of the Past”, in Johnson, Roberta A., ed, *The Struggle Against Corruption* (2004), p.81-108

Tucker, Joshua A. Tucker, “Enough! Electoral Fraud, Collective Action Problems, and Post-Communist Colored Revolutions”, download from http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/Tucker_EFCA_2005.pdf

XI: Ethnic Conflict: December 3, 5

Horowitz, Donald, "Democracy in Divided Societies", *Journal of Democracy*, vol.4, no.4, (Oct 1993), p.18-38

Kanchan Chandra, "What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2006, Vol. 9, p.397-424.

Noel Malcolm, *Bosnia: A Short History* (New York: NYU Press, 1996), pp. 213-71.

Noel Malcolm, *Kosovo: A Short History* (New York: NYU Press, 1998), p.334-56

Global Studies: Russia, The Eurasian Republics, and Central/Eastern Europe "The Republics of the Former Yugoslavia", p.169-187

December 5th: Papers due in class

Social Capital: December 10, 12

Putnam, Robert, *Making Democracy Work*, all

Global Resurgence, Ch.24, Putnam, Robert, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," p.290-306

Berman, Sheri "Civil Society and Collapse of Weimar Republic", *World Politics* 49 (3) (April 1997) p. 401-429