

V53.0500. Comparative Politics

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Office hours: Thursdays 10AM- 12PM

Course description. Comparative politics is about comparing political behavior across a large or a small number of countries, or even in one country. Therefore, the method of comparative political research includes large N cross-country studies, comparative case studies and cause inference from individual country studies. The goal of this course is introduce students to these tools of political inquiry, and to cover the main aspects of political behavior such as voting, legislative and interest group politics, bureaucratic and judicial politics. Finally, we will discuss a number of topics covered in the contemporary comparative politics literature.

Teaching Assistants: Defne Ezgi, Julio Rios-Figueroa, Yunus Sozen, and Vicentas Vobolevicius

Requirements: In addition to regular attendance and class participation, which accounts for 10% of the grade, there will be three assignments that will account for 20%, a midterm exam that counts for 30% and a final exam that will count for 40%. The assignments are due October 5th, November 9th and December 7th and the Midterm will take place on November 2nd.

Required Texts:

W. Phillips Shively (2000) *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science* (New York: McGraw Hill).

Kenneth A. Shepsle and Mark S. Bonchuck (1997) *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions* (New York: Norton).

Course Packet

Recommended Text:

Gabriel A. Almond and G. Bingham Powell, Jr. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (Boston: Little Brown and Company).

Introduction

1. What is Political Science?

Shively Ch. 1

Almond et al. Ch. 1

2. What is Comparative Politics?

Shepsle & Bonchek Chs. 1 & 2

McGaw and Watson, *Political and Social Inquiry* Chapter 2. Formal Fallacies and Causation.

Scope and Methods

3. Causal Inference in the Social Sciences (9-16 and 9-21),

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

4. Strategies for Comparative Case Studies (9-23)

Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sydney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Qualitative Research*. Ch 1-3. Princeton University Press, 1994.

Skocpol, Theda and Margaret Somers. 1980. "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22: 174-197.

5. Strategies for Large N Studies (9-28)

* Stanley Lieberon, (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.

Theories of Political Behavior

6. Voting Behavior (9-30; 10-5)

Shepsle and Bonchek: Chs. 3, 4 and 5

Shively Ch. 8

7. Legislative and Interest Group Politics (10-7; 10-12))

Shively: Chs 10, 11

Shepsle and Bonchek: Chs 11, 12

Recommended: Almond Ch. 5

8. Bureaucratic and Judicial Politics (10-14)

Shepsle and Bonchek: Ch. 13

Shively Ch. 14

9. Non-Democratic Government (10-19)

Shively Ch. 13

Jennifer Gandhi: "Political Institutions Under Dictatorships" Ph.D. Dissertation. NYU. Introduction.

Micro Analysis

10. Political Institutions (10-21, 10-26)

Donald Horowitz, "Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers," *Journal of Democracy* 14 (October 2003), pp. 115-127.

Grofman, Bernard and Arend Lijphart, eds. *Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences*. New York: Agathon Press, 1986. Ch. 1

11. Political Identities (10-28; 11-4)

Robert Bates, "Ethnic Competition and Modernization in Contemporary Africa." *Comparative Political Studies*, January 1974, pp. 457-483.

David Laitin, "Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland." In Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol eds, *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp 285-316.

Leonard Wantchekon (2003) "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin" *World Politics*, April 2003

12. Political Violence (11-9, 11-11)

Bates, Robert H. 2001. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. (New York: Norton University Press). Ch. 3

Stathis Kalyvas. *Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria*. *Rationality and Society*. 1999.

Macro-Analysis

13. Democratization (11-16; 11-18)

Shively Ch. 8

Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction

Macro-Analysis (continued)

14. Constitutional Engineering and Design (11-23, 11-30))

Shively: Ch. 10

Liphart Arendt, Constitutional Choices in New Democracies, Ch 13 in *Global Resurgence of Democracy* (pp. 162-174)

15. Governance (12-2, 12-4))

Easterly, William and Ross Levine. 1997. Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 112 (4), 1203-1205.

16. Conclusion and Recapitulation (12-9, 12-11)