

**University of Washington
Department of Political Science**

***Comparative Politics Core Course
POL S 505, Winter 2017
Wednesday, 1:30-4:20pm, Savery 167***

**Professor Susan Whiting
147 Gowen Hall, 543-9163
swhiting@u.washington.edu**

Course Description

This course has four inter-related goals. First, it is designed to introduce students to some of the most important questions in the field of comparative politics and to some of the most foundational and fruitful answers. The course focuses on the formation and evolution of the state, its expansion to include welfare provision, political cleavages and mass mobilization, emergence of nationalism, occurrence of ethnic conflict, and types of political regime. Each of these topics provides a theme for a week's readings. The readings reflect both macro-historical and micro-foundational perspectives and both classic and new approaches to these themes. In a ten-week quarter, some important topics are not included; examples include social movements and civil society.

Second, the course prepares students to be contributors to the field and to relate their own research interests to the broader literature. The course draws on works from major presses—Cambridge and Princeton, among others. It also draws on articles in the leading journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, and *International Organization*, among others. Readings in these journals reflect major contributions to and debates in the field. Going beyond the syllabus, students should begin to explore the current issues of these journals to see the direction of research in the field and prepare to make their own contributions.

Third, assigned readings expose students to diverse research designs and research methods in the field and give students the opportunity to evaluate different approaches to valid causal inference.

Finally, the course allows students to further develop the ability to present their ideas in multiple forms—in both shorter and longer writing assignments and verbally through class presentations and discussion.

Course Requirements

1) Short papers (40%). Students will write four short response papers over the course of the quarter. Response papers should develop an argument or explore a theme based on the readings for that week on the syllabus and should be about 1,000 words (or 2 pages double spaced) in length. Students should e-mail their papers to the class list (pols505a_wi17@uw.edu) by 5pm on Tuesday evening before. Students are required to read all response papers before class and be prepared to discuss them in the context of the readings.

2) Essay (20%). Students will write a longer paper of 7-8,000 words (or 15 pages) due to Canvas no later than Friday, March 17th by 12:00noon. The longer paper may take one of three possible forms.

a) a *World-Politics-* or *International-Organization-*style review essay. This type of essay takes a selection of important works on a single theme and uses them as a springboard to lay out a fresh agenda for further research. Examples on the syllabus include Fearon and Laitin's (2000) "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity" and Ziblatt's (2006) essay "How Did Europe Democratize?"

b) a research design that treats the literature as a springboard. The research design should contain a literature review that motivates the proposed research, a research design, a plan for relevant data, and a clear indication of how you will know whether your hypotheses find support in the data.

c) a theoretically informed research paper. The paper should build on relevant theoretical and empirical literature and include a qualitative or quantitative empirical component. This option is appropriate if you already have access to relevant empirical material, since you're unlikely to have time to gather and analyze new data during the course of a single quarter.

3) Final exam (20%). The final exam will be a take-home exam resembling the field exam in Comparative Politics—but shorter. The field exam is intended to provide a foundation for research and teaching, and the final exam for this course is good practice. The final exam will be distributed via the course e-mail list and should be submitted to Canvas by Wednesday, March 15th at 12noon.

4) Reading and participation (20%). All readings on the syllabus are required. For books that do not have specific page or chapter assignments, students should spend several hours with the book, reading for argument and evidence in order to understand the work's contribution. In addition, all students should read all response papers before class on Wednesday and be prepared to discuss them along with the assigned readings. Paper writers should be prepared to lead discussion of their response papers in class.

Office Hours

Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm and by appointment in 147 Gowen Hall.

Additional Course Information

The Department of Political Science recognizes and affirms the University of Washington's mission to "value and honor diverse experiences and perspectives, strive to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promote access, opportunity and justice for all." We expect every member of this community to contribute toward cultivating an inclusive and respectful culture throughout our classrooms, work environments, and campus events.

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates Hall (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs>). If you have a letter from Disability Resources for Students indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so that we can discuss the accommodations you may need for class.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store and on reserve at the East Asia Library:

Bates, Prosperity and Violence
Tilly, Coercion, Capital, and European States
Boone, Political Topographies of the African State
Migdal, Strong Societies and Weak States
Levi, Of Rule and Revenue
Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions
Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy
Gellner, Nations and Nationalism
Anderson, Imagined Communities
Lust-Okar, Structuring Conflict in the Arab World
Acemoglu and Robinson, Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy
Haggard and Kaufman, Development, Democracy, and Welfare States
Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism
Thachil, Elite Parties Poor Voters

Additional materials are available full-text online via the UW Library E-Journals and E-Books collection as well as via Canvas (only as noted).

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Introduction

WEEK TWO

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

State Formation

Robert Bates, *Prosperity and Violence* (Norton 2009).

Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and the European States* (Cambridge: Blackwell, 1990), esp. Chps 1-4, 7.

Jeffrey Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14 (Spring 1990), pp. 117-39.

Douglass North, *Structure and Change in Economic History* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1981), pp. 20-32. Canvas.

Isabella Mares, "The Non-Democratic Origins of the Income Tax," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 48, No. 14 (2015), pp. 1974-2009.

WEEK THREE

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

State and Society ("Strong" vs. "Weak" States)

Joel S. Migdal, *Strong Societies Weak States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988).

Margaret Levi, *Of Rule and Revenue* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).

Catherine Boone, *Political Topographies of the African State* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (New York: Praeger, 1962), pp. 5-30. Canvas.

Kiren Aziz Chaudhry, "The Price of Wealth" *International Organization* Vol. 43, No.1 (1989).

WEEK FOUR

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Revolutionary Change

- Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (New York: Beacon Press, 1966), Chps. 1-3, 6-7.
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979), Chps. 1-3.
- Timur Kuran, "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989," *World Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Oct., 1991), pp. 7-48.
- Steven Pincus, "Rethinking Revolutions: A Neo-Tocquevillian Perspective," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2009). E-book.

WEEK FIVE

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Political Cleavages and Mass Political Mobilization

- Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, *Party Systems and Voter Alignments* (New York: Free Press, 1967), Intro. and Chp. 1. Press, 2009). E-book.
- Tarek Masoud, *Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), Part 1.
- Herbert Kitschelt, "Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Politics," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 33, No. 6-7 (August-September 2000).
- Daniel N. Posner, "Regime Change and Ethnic Cleavages in Africa," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 40, No. 11 (November 2007).
- Carles Boix, "The Emergence of Parties and Party Systems" in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2009). E-book.
- Susan C. Stokes, "Political Clientelism," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2009). E-book.

WEEK SIX

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Welfare and the State

- Gosta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990).
- Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, *Development, Democracy, and Welfare States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008).
- Nita Rudra, "Welfare States in Developing Countries: Unique or Universal?" *Journal of Politics* Vol. 69, No. 2 (May 2007), pp. 378-396.
- Perna Singh, "Subnationalism and Social Development in India: A Comparative Analysis of Indian States," *World Politics* (June 2015).
- Lily Tsai, "Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China," *American Political Science Review*, Vol.101, No.2 (May 2007), pp.355-372.

WEEK SEVEN

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Nationalism

- Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983), Chps 1-6.
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso, 1991), Chps. 1-7.
Keith Darden and Anna Grzymala-Busse, "The Great Divide: Literacy, Nationalism, and the Communist Collapse," *World Politics* Vol. 59 (October 2006), pp. 83-115.
Jessica Chen Weiss, "Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest," *International Organization* Vol. 67, No. 1 (Winter 2013), pp. 1-35.
Liah Greenfeld and Jonathan Eastwood, "National Identity," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2009). E-book.

WEEK EIGHT

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Ethnic Politics and Violence

- Steven I. Wilkinson, *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India* (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2004), Chps. 1-3, 5. Canvas.
James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* Vol. 54, No. 4 (Autumn 2000). UW online.
Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society," *World Politics*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (April 2001), pp. 362-398.
James Fearon and David Laitin, "Explaining Ethnic Cooperation," *American Political Science Review* (1996).
Stathis Kalyvas, "Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria." *Rationality and Society*, August 1999, 11:3, 243-285.

WEEK NINE

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Authoritarianism

- Ellen Lust-Okar, *Structuring Conflict in the Arab World* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
Tarek Masoud, *Counting Islam* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), Part 2.
Beatriz Magaloni, "Credible Power-sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule" *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 41, No. 4-5 (April-May 2008)
Barbara Geddes, "What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 2 (1999).
Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz, "Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set," *Perspectives on Politics* Vol. 12, No. 2 (June 2014), pp. 313-331.
Jennifer Gandhi and Adam Przeworski, "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 40, No. 11 (November 2007), pp. 1279-1301.

WEEK TEN

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Democracy

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman “Inequality and Regime Change: Democratic Transitions and the Stability of Democratic Rule,” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 106, No. 3 (August 2012), pp. 495-516.

Daniel Ziblatt, “How Did Europe Democratize?” *World Politics* Vol. 58, No. 2 (January 2006), pp. 311-338.

Eva Bellin, “Contingent Democrats: Industrialists, Labor, and Democratization,” *World Politics* Vol. 52, No. 2 (January 2000), pp. 175-205.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, “Linkage versus Leverage,” *Comparative Politics* Vol. 38, No. 4 (July 2006), pp. 379-400.

Tariq Thacil*, *Elite Parties Poor Voters* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

*Speaker, Severyns-Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, April 14, 2017