

**Political Science 9567B
Comparative Politics II
The University of Western Ontario
2013**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m. or by appointment

What is not named largely remains unnoticed.
Giovanni Sartori

Course Objectives

This course analyzes the political and cognitive dimensions of the knowledge construction process in comparative politics. More specifically, it examines the dominant conceptual vocabulary of comparative politics and its capacity to represent/misrepresent the historical specificities of the societies of the Global South. This year's course will primarily focus on the comparative study of state formation in Africa and Latin America.

Course Evaluation:

Participation: 20%
Book Reviews: 30% (10% each book).
Essay: 50%

Books recommended for purchase:

Hagen Schulze, States, Nations and Nationalism. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.

Jean- François Bayart, The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly. London: Polity, 2009.

Fernando Coronil and Julie Skurski, States of Violence. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2006.

Assignments:Book reviews:

Participants in this course will critically review the three required books in the course. The first book review (States, Nations and Nationalism) is due on February 11. The second review (States of Violence) is due on March 11. The third and final review (The State in Africa) is due on April 1. The instructor will give detailed instructions regarding this assignment in class.

Essay:

The essay is due on April 11. The instructor will give detailed instructions regarding this assignment in class.

Participation:

Students in this course will be expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place every week. Moreover, they will be required to post a short critical assessment of the assigned readings on the *Comparative Politics Bulletin Board* that has been created for this purpose. Critical assessments must be posted no later than 12:00 noon on the Friday of each week. One student will formally introduce the assigned readings each week having read the other students' critical comments on the bulletin board. To visit the *Comparative Politics Bulletin Board* on the web, go to:

<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/uwocomparativepolitics>

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Course Outline

I: Introduction

January 7: Comparative Politics of the Global South: Do we *Compare* or do we *Translate*?

II. Comparative Politics: Political and Cognitive Dimensions

January 14: The Politics of Method

George Steinmetz, "Positivism and Its Others in the Social Sciences," in George Steinmetz, ed., The Politics of Method in the Social Sciences. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005, 1-56.

Emily Hauptmann, "Defining 'Theory' in Postwar Political Science," in George Steinmetz, ed., The Politics of Method in the Social Sciences. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005, 207-232.

Gianfranco Poggi, "Theories of State Formation," in K. Nash and A. Scott, eds. Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2008, 95-106.

Patrick Carroll, "Articulating Theories of State Formation," Journal of Historical Sociology, Vol. 22, No. 4, 2009, 553-603.

January 21: The Politics of Language

Pierre Bourdieu, "Language and Symbolic Power," in Adan Jaworski and Nikolas Couplad, The Discourse Reader. London/New York: Routledge, 2000, 502-513.

Michael Dutton, "The Trick of Words: Asian Studies, Translation, and the Problems of Knowledge," in George Steinmetz, ed., The Politics of Method in the Social Sciences. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005, 89-125.

E. Valentine Daniel, "Tea Talk: Violent Measures in the Discursive Practices of Sri Lanka's Estate Tamils," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 179, 219.

Veena Das, "Sexual Violence, Discursive Formations, and the State," in Coronil and Skurski, 293-424.

Pinar Bilgin, Adam David Morton, "Historicizing Representations of 'Failed States': Beyond the Cold-War Annexation of the Social Sciences?" Third World Quarterly, Vol. 23, No 1, 55-80, 2002

January 28: Cognitive Dimensions of Comparative Politics

George Lakoff, "Philosophy in the Flesh," in John Brockman, The Mind. New York: Harper Perennial, 2011, 11-30.

Jean-Pierre Changeux, The Physiology of Truth: Neuroscience and Human Knowledge. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2009, 1-70.

Lera Boroditsky, "How Language Shapes Thought: The Languages We Speak Affect Our Perceptions of the World," Scientific American (ScientificAmerican.com), February 2011, 63-65.

David B. Edwards, "Mad Mullahs and Englishmen: Discourse in the Colonial Encounter," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 153-178

III. The European State

February 4: State Formation in Europe (I)

Michael Mann, "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results," in Neil Brenner, Bob Jessop, Martin Jones and Gordon MacLeod, eds. State/Space: A Reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003, 53-64.

Schulze, 1998, 3-136.

February 11: State Formation in Europe (II)

Peter J. Taylor, "The State as a Container: Territoriality in the Modern World-System," in Neil Brenner, Bob Jessop, Martin Jones and Gordon MacLeod, eds. State/Space: A Reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003, 101-113.

Schulze, 1998, 137-302.

III. The State in Latin America

February 25: State Formation in Latin America (I)

Bertrand Badie, The Imported State: The Westernization of the Political Order. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000, 48-92

Oscar Oszlak, "The Historical Formation of the State in Latin America: Some Theoretical and Methodological Guidelines for its Study," Latin American Research Review, Vol. 16, No. 2, 1981, 3-32.

Howard Wiarda, "Historical Determinants of the Latin American State: The Tradition of Bureaucratic-Patrimonialism, Corporatism, Centralism, and

Authoritarianism," in Howard J. Wiarda and Margaret MacLeish Mott, eds. Politics and Social Change in Latin America: Still a Distinct Tradition? Westport: Praeger, 2003, 129-150.

March 4: State Formation in Latin America (II)

Pierre Bourdieu, "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field," in George Steinmetz, ed. State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn. Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press, 1999, 53-75.

Andrés Pérez-Baltodano, "Between God and the State: Globalization and Human Insecurity in Latin America," in Manuela Nilsson and Jan Gustafsson, Latin American Responses to Globalization in the 21st Century. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 115-133.

Julie Skurski and Fernando Coronil, "Introduction: States of Violence and the Violence of States," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 1-32.

March 11: State Formation in Latin America (III)

Silvio R. Duncan Baretta and John Markoff, "Civilization and Barbarism: Cattle Frontiers in Latin America," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 33-82.

John Markoff, "Dismembering and Remembering the Nation: The Semantics of Political Violence in Venezuela," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 83-152.

Paul Sant Cassia, "Better Occasional Murders than Frequent Adulteries: Discourses on Banditry, Violence and Sacrifice" in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 219-268.

III. The State in Africa

March 18: State Formation in Africa (I).

Dietrich Jung, "State Formation and State-Building: Is There a Lesson to Learn from Sociology?" DIIS Report, No. 11, March 2008.

Achille Mbembe, On the Postcolony. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001, 173-211.

Bayart, 2009, 41-118

March 25: State Formation in Africa (II)

Carolyn Nordstrom, "Shadows and Sovereigns," in Neil Brenner, Bob Jessop, Martin Jones and Gordon MacLeod, eds. State/Space: A Reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003, 326-343

T. Dumbar Moodie, "Ethnic Violence on the South African Gold Mines," in Coronil and Skurski, 2006, 269-306.

Bayart, 2009, 119-206

April 1: State Formation in Africa (III)

Bayart, 2009, 207-272

Zaline Makini Roy-Campbell, "The State of African Languages and the Global Language Politics: Empowering African Languages in the Era of Globalization," in Olaoba F. Arasanyin and Michael A. Pemberton, eds. Selected Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project, 2006, 1-13.

Pinar Bilgin, Adam David Morton, "Historicizing Representations of 'Failed States': Beyond the Cold-War Annexation of the Social Sciences?" Third World Quarterly, Vol. 23, No 1, 55-80, 2002

April 8: Conclusions

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000, 3-26

Judith Butler and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Who Sings the Nation State? Language, Politics, Belonging. Chicago: Seagull Books, 2011.

J. Maggio, "'Can the Subaltern be Heard?': Political Theory, Translation, Representation, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak", Alternatives: Global, Local, Political, Oct-Dec, 2007, 419-444.

Peer C. Fiss and Paul M. Hirsch, "The Discourse of Globalization: Framing and Sensemaking of an Emerging Concept", American Sociological Review, 2005, Vol. 70, February, 29-52.