

**Political Science 567
Comparative Politics II
The Global South
The University of Western Ontario
2014**

Andrés Pérez
SSC 4164
aperez@uwo.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m. or by appointment

A man who has a language consequently possesses the world expressed and implied by that language.
Frantz Fanon

History is made by men and women, just as it can also be unmade and rewritten, always with various silence and elisions, always with shapes imposed and disfigurements tolerated.
Edward W. Said

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 the field of 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 focus on the comparative study of *the state* in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Course Evaluation:

Participation: 30%
Book Review: 20%.
Essay: 50%

Books recommended for purchase:

George Steinmetz (ed.), The Politics of Method in the Human Sciences.
Durham/London: Duke University Press, 2005.

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.

Tariq Amin-Khan, The Post-Colonial State in the Era of Capitalist Globalization: Historical, Political and Theoretical Approaches to State Formation. New York: Routledge, 2012.

Assignments:

Book review:

Participants in this course will write a critical review of one of the following books:

Francisco Goldman, The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop? New York: Grove Press, 2008.

Kamin Mohammadi, The Cypress Tree. London: Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2012.

Barbara Kingsolver, The Poisonwood Bible. New York: Harper Perennial, 1999.

The book review is due on February 3, 2014.

The instructor will give detailed instructions regarding this assignment in class.

Essay:

The essay is due on April 7, 2014. 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/uwo comparative politics>

Course Outline

I: Introduction

January 6: Comparative Politics of the Global South: Do we *Compare* or do we *Translate*?

Klaus von Beyme, "The Historical Development of Comparative Politics." Comparative Governance and Politics, Vol. 15, No. 4, 2010, 1-15.

Michaëlle Browsers, "The Reconciliation of Political Theory and Comparative Politics," in Jennifer S. Holmes, New Approaches to Comparative Politics: Insights from Political Theory. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2003, 7-22.

Fred Dallmayr, "Beyond Monologue: For a Comparative Political Theory." Perspectives on Politics, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2004, 249-257.

II. Comparative Politics: Political and Cognitive Dimensions

January 13: Cognitive Dimensions of Comparative Politics: Ethnocentrism and the Embodied Mind.

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

Milton Bennett and Ida Castiglioni, "Embodied Ethnocentrism and the Feeling of Culture," in Dan Landis and Janet M. Bennett and Milton J. Bennett, Handbook of Intercultural Training, Third Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: 2004, 249-265.

Charles Taylor, "Social Theory as Practice" and "Understanding and Ethnocentrism," in Philosophy and the Human Sciences. Vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985, 91-133.

Recommended:

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

January 20: The Politics of Method in Comparative Politics: Knowledge for Whom? Knowledge for What?

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.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Subaltern Studies and Postcolonial Historiography," in Nepantla: Views from South. Position Papers. Duke University Press, 2000, 9-32.

Recommended:

Sophia Mihic, Stephen G. Engelmann and Elizabeth Rose Wingrove, "Facts, Values and 'Real' Numbers," in George Steinmetz, ed., The Politics of Method in the Social Sciences. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005, 470-495.

January 27: Voice and Silence: The Politics of Language in Comparative Politics

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

Eric Margolis and Stephen Laurence, "The Ontology of Concepts –Abstract Objects or Mental Representations?" NOU'S, Vol. 41, No. 4, 2007, 561-593.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Rosalind Morris, ed., Can the Subaltern Speak? Reflections on the History of an Idea. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, 21-80

Recommended:

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.

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

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.

III. Lost in Translation: The Comparative Study of the State in the Global South

February 3: Comparative Politics and “the People Without History.”

Walter D. Mignolo, “Coloniality: The Darker Side of Modernity,” in Walter D. Mignolo, The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011, 39-49.

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

Uday Chandra, “The Case for a Postcolonial Approach to the Study of Politics,” *New Political Science*, Vol. 35, No. 3), Special issue on “Studying Politics Today: Critical Approaches to Political Science,” pp. 479-491.
http://www.academia.edu/2364123/The_Case_for_a_Postcolonial_Approach_to_the_Study_of_Politics

Recommended:

Robert Young, Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, 1-44.

Eric R. Wolf, Europe and the People Without History. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990, 3-23; 385-391.

February 10: Problem Driven and Method Driven Research in the Comparative Study of the State

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.

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.

Hendrik Spruyt, “War, Trade, and State Formation” in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009, 211-235.

Ian Shapiro, “Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics: Or, What’s Wrong with Political Science and What to do about It,” in The Flight for Reality in the Human Sciences. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005, 178-203.

Recommended:

Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna, "The State in the Global South." <http://ie.univie.ac.at/en/research-areas/the-state-in-the-global-south/>

Sharma, Aradhana, "Globalization and Postcolonial States" (2006). Division II Faculty Publications. Paper 41. <http://wescholar.wesleyan.edu/div2facpubs/41>

Rudra Sil, "Problems Chasing Methods or Methods Chasing Problems? Research Communities, Constrained Pluralism, and the Role of Eclecticism," in Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith, and Tarek E. Masoud, eds., Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, 307-31.

IV: Latin America, Africa and South Asia

February 24: State Formation Latin America (I)

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.

Anibal Quijano, "Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America Anibal Quijano," Nepantla: Views from South. Position Papers. Duke University Press, 2000, 533-580.

March 3: State Formation Latin America (II)

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

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.

Recommended:

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 10: State Formation in Africa (I)

Bayart, 2009, 1-118

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

Recommended:

Jeremiah O. Arowosegbe, "Decolonizing the Social Sciences in the Global South: Claude Ake and the Praxis of Knowledge Production in Africa." African Studies Center, Working Paper 79, 2008.

March 17: State Formation in Africa (II)

Bayart, 2009, 119-272

Recommended:

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

III. The State in South Asia

March 24: State Formation in South Asia (I)

Amin-Khan, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Recommended:

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

March 31: State Formation in South Asia (II)

Amin-Khan, Chapters 4 and 5

Recommended:

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.

April 7: 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.