

**Political Science 9566a**  
**Comparative Politics I**  
Western University  
Fall 2015

Professor Bruce Morrison  
SSC 4137, x84937, [bmorris2@uwo.ca](mailto:bmorris2@uwo.ca)  
Office hours: Th 10:30-noon, or by appointment

This course offers a graduate-level introduction to the major themes and approaches in comparative politics, as applied to the advanced industrial democracies. Among the points of emphasis: states and state formation; democratic change and its causes; the varied institutional character of modern democracies; the organization of social interests and the ways in which they relate to the structures of the state; and state policy-making in the context of the changing character of capitalism.

*Learning Outcomes:* Participants in this course will acquire: (a) an understanding of comparative methodology and an appreciation of its applications; (b) substantial familiarity with the major concepts and lines of theory employed in the sub-discipline of comparative politics; and (c) a strong sense of the character of 'western' economic, social, and political development, among other things as a basis for comparison with other global regions.

**Requirements:**

- (a) **Reading commentaries:** you will prepare two short papers of 3-4 pages in length, each of which will offer critical consideration of the assigned reading materials for a particular week. You may emphasize any theme or themes within the readings, and need not cover all of the assigned items for the week. The aim is to identify what is at stake in the selected material, evaluate the approach of the author or authors, and reflect briefly upon how the puzzle or debate in question might in your view best be addressed. These papers must be handed in before the week's seminar begins, either electronically or in person. *Grade: 15%.*
- (b) **Seminar presentation:** you will deliver one substantial presentation, of 20-25 minutes, which will offer an introduction to some (but not necessarily all) of the week's readings as well as an additional reading component (a couple of journal articles or book chapters) chosen by the presenter. In addition to effective summary and integration of the selected readings, you should raise questions and challenges in such a way as to stimulate seminar discussion in the time to follow. Your presentation and your reading commentaries should come on different weeks. *Grade: 20%.*
- (c) **Seminar participation:** you will be expected to provide consistent, informed, and active participation throughout the term. *Grade: 25%.*
- (d) **Research paper:** you will write a research paper (15 pages for Masters students, 20 pages for Doctoral students) on a subject related to the themes and empirical content of the seminar. *Grade: 40%.*

## **COURSE READINGS:**

### **I. Methodology**

#### Introducing Comparative Analysis (September 17)

Charles Ragin, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Quantitative and Qualitative Strategies* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987), chapters 1-4.

Stanley Lieberson, "Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases." *Social Forces*, vol. 70 (1991).

Jukka Savolainen, "The Rationality of Drawing Big Conclusions Based on Small Samples: In Defense of Mill's Methods." *Social Forces*, vol. 72 (1994).

#### *Recommended:*

Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* vol. 22, no. 1 (1980).

Michael Coppedge, "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* vol. 31, no. 4 (July 1999).

Atul Kohli, Peter Evans, Peter J. Katzenstein, Adam Przeworski, Susanne Hoebler Rudolph, James C. Scott, and Theda Skocpol, "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium." *World Politics* vol. 48, no. 1 (October 1995), selected contributions.

Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* vol. 64 (December 1970).

### **II. The Causes and Character of Political Development in Modern Europe**

#### A. Liberal Accounts (September 24)

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971), chapters 1, 3-5.

Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp. 10-37.

Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy." *American Political Science Review* vol. 53 (1959).

#### *Recommended:*

Raymond Grew, "The Crises and their Sequences," in Raymond Grew, ed., *Crises of Political Development in Europe and the United States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978).

Seymour Martin Lipset, "The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited." *American Sociological Review* vol. 59, no. 1 (February 1994).

Alex Inkeles, "The Modernization of Man," in Myron Weiner, ed., *Modernization: The Dynamics of Growth* (Basic Books, 1966).

Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics* vol. 55, no. 4 (July 2003).

B. Marxist Accounts (October 1)

Karl Marx, "The German Ideology," in Robert C. Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1978), pp. 148-63.

Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966), chapter 7.

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John D. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992), pp. 1-7, 40-63, 85-98.

*Recommended:*

Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966), chapters 1, 2, and 8.

Theda Skocpol, "A Critical Review of Barrington Moore's *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*." *Politics and Society* vol. 4, no. 1 (1973).

David Blackbourn and Geoff Eley, *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Society and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984), pp. 261-85.

C. Institutional Account

i. *War, State Formation, and Democracy (October 8)*

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946), pp. 77-87.

Brian M. Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe* (Princeton University Press, 1992), chapters 1-3.

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

*Recommended:*

Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Kelemen, "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism." *World Politics* vol. 59 (2007).

Brian Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe* (Princeton University Press, 1992), remaining chapters.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power Volume II: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914* (Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Philip Harling and Peter Mandler, "From 'Fiscal-Military' State to Laissez-Faire State, 1760-1850." *Journal of British Studies* no. 32 (January 1993).

ii. *The Varieties and Implications of the New Institutionalism (October 15)*

Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), chapters 1-3.

Peter A. Hall, "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

*Recommended:*

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary Taylor, "The Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 1996.  
Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *Journal of Economic History* (1989).

Vivien A. Schmidt, "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse." *Annual Review of Political Science* vol. 11 (2008).

D. *Voluntarist Accounts: "Transitions to Democracy" in Southern Europe in the 1970s*  
(October 22)

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), pp. 1-28, 37-72.

James Kurth, "A Tale of Four Countries: Parallel Politics in Southern Europe, 1815-1990," in James Kurth and James Petras (eds.), *Mediterranean Paradoxes: Politics and Social Structure in Southern Europe* (Providence: Berg Publishers, 1993).

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), chapters 7-9.

*Recommended:*

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), chapters 1-5.

Terri Lynn Karl and Philippe C. Schmitter, "The Conceptual Travels of Transitologists and Consolidologists: How Far to the East Should They Attempt to Go?" *Slavic Review* vol. 53, no. 1 (Spring 1994).

Valerie Bunce, "Should Transitologists Be Grounded?" *Slavic Review* vol. 54, no. 1 (Spring 1995).

Terri Lynn Karl and Philippe C. Schmitter, "From an Iron Curtain to a Paper Curtain: Grounding Transitologists or Students of Postcommunism?" *Slavic Review* vol. 54, no. 4 (Winter 1995).

Valerie Bunce, "Paper Curtains and Paper Tigers." *Slavic Review* vol. 54, no. 4 (Winter 1995).

E. *New Approaches: Protracted Transitions, New Structuralism, and Beyond Structuralism*  
(November 5)

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), chapter 4.

Carles Boix, *Democracy and Redistribution* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Introduction, pp. 37-59, 66-71.

Sheri Berman, "Lessons from Europe." *Journal of Democracy* vol. 18, no. 1 (Jan. 2007).

Capoccia, Giovanni, and Daniel Ziblatt, "The Historical Turn in Democratization Studies: A New Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond." *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 43, nos. 8/9: (2010).

*Recommended:*

Thomas Ertman, "The Great Reform Act of 1832 and British Democratization." *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 43, nos. 8/9 (2010).

Stephen E. Hanson, "The Founding of the French Third Republic." *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 43, nos. 8/9 (2010).

Thomas Carothers, "The 'Sequencing' Fallacy." *Journal of Democracy* vol. 18, no. 1 (January 2007).

Sheri Berman, "The Vain Hope for 'Correct' Timing." *Journal of Democracy* vol. 18, no. 3 (July 2007).

### **III. Institutions, Interests, Ideas, and Interactions**

#### **A. Debating Electoral System Development (November 12)**

Amel Ahmed, *Democracy and the Politics of Electoral System Choice: Engineering Electoral Dominance* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 1-3, 7.

Alan Renwick, "Electoral Reform in Europe since 1945." *West European Politics* vol. 34, no. 3 (May 2011).

*Recommended:*

Carles Boix, "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* vol. 93, no. 3 (Sept. 1999).

Thomas Cusack, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice, "Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review* vol. 101, no. 3 (2007).

Marcus Kreuzer, "Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation." *American Political Science Review* vol. 104, no. 2 (May 2010).

Amel Ahmed, *Democracy and the Politics of Electoral System Choice: Engineering Electoral Dominance* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), remaining chapters.

#### **B. Bureaucracy and Clientelism (November 19)**

Thomas Ertman, "Building States – Inherently a Long-Term Process? An Argument from Comparative History," in Matthew Lange and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *States and Development: Historical Antecedents of Stagnation and Advance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

Simona Piattoni "Clientelism in Historical and Comparative Perspective," in Simona Piattoni, ed., *Clientelism, Interests, and Democratic Representation: The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Apostolis Papakostas, "Why is There No Clientelism in Scandinavia? A Comparison of the Swedish and Greek Sequences of Development," in Simona Piattoni, ed., *Clientelism, Interests, and Democratic Representation: The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Johan P. Olsen, "The Ups and Downs of Bureaucratic Organization." *Annual Review of Political Science* vol. 11 (2008).

*Recommended:*

Max Weber, Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, eds., *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* (Bedminster Press, 1968), pp. 956-83.

Martin Shefter, "Party and Patronage: Germany, England, and Italy." *Politics and Society* vol. 7 (1977).

Simona Piattoni, ed., *Clientelism, Interests, and Democratic Representation: The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), remaining chapters.

Bo Rothstein, *Quality of Government: Corruption, Social Trust, and Inequality in International Perspective* (University of Chicago Press, 2011).

*C. Changing Patterns of Democratic Institutions (November 26)*

Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries* (Yale University Press, Second Edition, 2012), chapters 1-3.

Carl Dahlstrom, B. Guy Peters, and Jon Pierre, "Steering from The Centre: Strengthening Political Control in Western Democracies," in *Steering from The Centre: Strengthening Political Control in Western Democracies* (University of Toronto Press, 2011).

Martin Smith, "The Paradoxes of Britain's Strong Centre: Delegating Decisions and Reclaiming Control," in Carl Dahlstrom, B. Guy Peters, and Jon Pierre, eds., *Steering from the Centre: Strengthening Political Control in Western Democracies* (University of Toronto Press, 2011).

*Recommended:*

Carl Dahlstrom, B. Guy Peters, and Jon Pierre, eds., *Steering from the Centre: Strengthening Political Control in Western Democracies* (University of Toronto Press, 2011), remaining chapters.

Thomas Poguntke and Paul Webb, eds., *The Presidentialization of Politics: A Comparative Study of Modern Democracies* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

*D. Comparative Political Economy (December 3)*

Philippe C. Schmitter, "Still the Century of Corporatism?" *Review of Politics* vol. 36, no. 1 (January 1974).

Martin Rhodes, Bob Hancke, and Mark Thatcher, "Introduction: Beyond Varieties of Capitalism," in Rhodes, Hancke, and Thatcher, eds., *Beyond the Varieties of Capitalism: Conflict, Contradictions, and Complementarities in the European Economy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Peter A. Hall, "Policy, Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain." *Comparative Politics* (April 1993).

Torben Iversen and Anne Wren, "Equality, Employment, and Budgetary Restraint: The Trilemma of the Service Economy." *World Politics* vol. 50, no. 4 (July 1998).

*Recommended:*

Peter J. Williamson, *Varieties of Corporatism: A Conceptual Discussion* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), especially chapter 1-4, 7, 9, and 10).

Wolfgang Streeck and Kathleen Thelen, "Introduction: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies," in Wolfgang Streeck and Kathleen Thelen, eds., *Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Mark Blyth, "Great Punctuations: Prediction, Randomness, and the Evolution of Comparative Political Science." *American Political Science Review* vol. 100, no. 4 (2006).

Mark Blyth, "Structures Do Not Come with an Instruction Sheet: Interests, Ideas, and Progress in Political Science." *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 1, no. 4 (December 2003).