

**Political Science 9566A**  
**Comparative Politics**  
Western University  
Fall 2017

Professor Bruce Morrison  
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Office hours: W 1:30-3 or by appointment

This course offers a graduate-level introduction to the major themes and approaches in comparative politics. Among the points of emphasis: states and state formation; regime change and its causes; the varied institutional character of modern democracies; political culture; and comparative political economy.

*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 and critical understanding of the character of economic, social, and political development.

**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 a brief introduction to some (but not necessarily all) of the week's readings as well as an additional reading component (two 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 (15-17 pages for Masters students, 20-22 pages for Doctoral students) on a subject related to the themes and empirical content of the seminar. *Grade: 40%.*

**COURSE READINGS:**

**Comparative Theory and Method (September 14)**

Charles Ragin, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Quantitative and Qualitative Strategies* (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).

Philippe C. Schmitter, "The Nature and Future of Comparative Politics." *European Political Science Review* vol. 1, no. 1 (2009).

*Recommended:*

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).

Daniele Caramani, "Of Differences and Similarities: Is the Explanation of Variation a Limitation to (or of) Comparative Analysis?" *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

Kees Van Kersbergen, "Comparative Politics: Some Points for Discussion." *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

Gerald Schneider, "Causal Description: Moving Beyond Stamp Collecting in Political Science." *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

Markus Haverland, "If Similarity is the Challenge – Congruence Analysis Should Be Part of the Answer." *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

Kees Van Kersbergen, "A Rejoinder to Schneider and Haverland." *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

Daniele Caramani, "Debate on the Future of Comparative Politics: A Rejoinder." *European Political Science* vol. 9, no. 1 (2010).

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

### **Economic Development and Regime Change (September 21)**

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

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.

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

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* vol. 49 (1997).

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Harvard University Press, 1962), chapter 1.

*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).
- Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp. 10-37.
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John D. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992).
- Sheri Berman, "Modernization in Historical Perspective: The Case of Imperial Germany." *World Politics* vol. 53 (April 2001).

**The State, War, and Regime Change (September 28)**

- 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.
- 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).

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.

Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton University Press, 2000), chapter 1.

*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.
- Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and the European States, AD 990-1990* (Blackwell, 1990).
- 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).

**Institutionalism and Implications (October 5)**

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary Taylor, "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* vol. 44, no. 5 (1996).

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:*

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).

JM Carey, "Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions." *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 33, nos. 6-7 (2000).

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

Wolfgang Streeck and Kathleen Thelen, *Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies* (Oxford University Press, 2005), chapter 1.

**Transitions to Democracy? (October 19)**

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.

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), Part I.

Michael McFaul, "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World." *World Politics* vol. 54 (January 2002).

Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transition Paradigm." *Journal of Democracy* vol. 13, no. 1 (January 2002).

*Recommended:*

Dankwart Rustow, "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model." *Comparative Politics* vol. 2 (1970).

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1991).

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).

Andreas Schedler, "Taking Uncertainty Seriously: The Blurred Boundaries of Democratic Transition and Consolidation." *Democratization* vol. 8, no. 4 (2001).

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), remaining sections.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

## **New Approaches to Regime Change: Rational Choice, New Structuralism, and the Historical Turn (October 26)**

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.

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).

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

Kurt Weyland, "The Arab Spring: Why the Surprising Similarities with the Revolutionary Wave of 1848." *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 10, no. 4 (2012).

### *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).

## **Electoral Systems (November 2)**

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).

Amel Ahmed, "Reading History Forward: The Origins of Electoral Systems in European Democracies." *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 43, nos. 8/9 (2010).

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).

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

### *Recommended:*

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

Rein Taagepera and Matthew Soberg Shugart, *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems* (Yale University Press, 1989).

Kenneth Benoit, "Electoral Laws and Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions." *Annual Review of Political Science* vol. 10 (2007).

### **Parties and Party Systems (November 9)**

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments," in Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, eds., *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives* (Free Press, 1967).

Maurice Duverger, "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties," in Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

Otto Kirchheimer, "The Transformation of the West European Party System," in Joseph LaPalombara and Myron Weiner, eds., *Political Parties and Political Development* (Princeton University Press, 1966).

Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair, "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." *Party Politics* vol. 1 (1995).

Josep Colomer, "It's Parties That Choose Electoral Systems (or, Duverger's Laws Upside Down)." *Political Studies* vol. 53, no. 1 (2005).

#### *Recommended:*

John Aldrich, *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America* (University of Chicago Press, 1995), chapter 1.

Giovanni Sartori, "Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis," in Richard Katz and Peter Mair, eds., *How Parties Organize: Change and Adaptation in Western Democracies* (Cambridge University Press, 1976).

Pradeep Chhibber and Ken Kollman, "Party Aggregation and the Number of Parties in India and the United States." *American Political Science Review* vol. 92 (1998).

Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg, eds. *Parties Without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrialized Societies* (Oxford University Press, 2004), chapters 2 and 3.

Maurice Duverger, *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State* (Wiley, 1954).

William H. Riker, "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science." *American Political Science Review* vol. 76, no. 4 (1982).

William Clark and Matt Golder, "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws," *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 39 (2006).

### **Systems of Government (November 16)**

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

George Tsebelis, "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* vol. 25 (1995).

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

*Recommended:*

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).

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

Juan J. Linz, "Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does it Make a Difference?" in Juan J. Linz and Arturo Valenzuela, eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: The Case of Latin America* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

Jose A. Cheibub, *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

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

**Contentious Politics: Revolutions, Ethnic Conflict, and Civil Wars (November 23)**

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge University Press, 1979), chapter 2.

Jeff Goodwin, *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), chapter 2.

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* vol. 97, no 1 (February 2003).

Steven I. Wilkinson, "A Constructivist Model of Ethnic Riots," in Kanchan Chandra, ed., *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

*Recommended:*

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge University Press, 1979), chapters 1 and 3.

John Foran, ed., *Theorizing Revolutions* (Routledge 1997).

Charles Tilly, *European Revolutions 1492-1992* (Blackwell, 1993).

Kanchan Chandra, "Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability." *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 3, no. 2 (June 2005).

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (University of California Press, 1985).

Rogers Brubaker and David Laitin, "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence," in Rogers Brubaker, ed., *Ethnicity Without Groups* (Harvard University Press, 2004).

Carles Boix, "Economic Roots of Civil Wars and Revolutions in the Contemporary World." *World Politics* vol. 60 (April 2008).

Mark Beissinger, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), chapters 1 and 4.

**Culture and Politics (November 30)**

Lisa Wedeen, "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science." *American Political Science Review* vol. 96, no. 4 (2002).

Ann Swidler, "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review* vol. 51, no. 2 (1986).

Ronald Inglehart, "Value Change in Industrial Societies." *American Political Science Review* vol. 814 (1987).

Keith Darden and Anna Grzymala-Busse, "The Great Divide: Literacy, Nationalism, and the Communist Collapse." *World Politics* vol.59 (October 2006).

Daniel N. Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* vo. 98, no. 4 (2004).

*Recommended:*

William H. Sewell, "The Concept(s) of Culture," in Sewell, *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation* (University of Chicago Press, 2005).

David J. Elkins and Richard EB Simeon, "A Cause in Search of its Effect, or What Does Political Culture Explain?" *Comparative Politics* vol. 11, no. 2 (January 1979).

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations* (Little Brown, 1965), chapters 1 and 15.

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," and "Religion as a Cultural System," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (Basic Books, 1977).

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton University Press, 1993), chapters 4 and 6.

Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics* vol. 49, no. 3 (April 1997).

**Comparative Political Economy (December 7)**

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

Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds., "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism," in Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage* (Oxford University Press, (2001).

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).

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).

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).

Sheri Berman, "Ideational Theorizing in the Social Sciences since 'Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State.'" *Governance* vol. 26, no. 2 (April 2013).