

University of Rochester – PSC 101/IR 101
Fall 2011
Monday/Wednesday/Fridays 11- 11:50 am
Bausch and Lomb 109

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Meguid
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Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Peter Haschke (peter.haschke@rochester.edu) Office hours: Tues. 3-4:30pm, Harkness 338
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Kristin Rulison (kruilison@mail.rochester.edu) Office hours: Mon. 9:30-11am, Harkness 315A

Course Description

This course will introduce students to comparative politics – the study of domestic political institutions, processes, and outcomes across and within countries. These important themes and concepts of contemporary comparative politics include the vibrancy of democracy, the centrality of political and electoral institutions, the possibility of revolution and the power of ethnicity. Cases will be drawn from different countries and historical periods to give students a grounding in the method of comparative analysis. This course is recommended for those thinking about a major, minor, or cluster in political science or international relations and others who are simply interested in learning more about the politics of developed and developing countries.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend lectures every Monday and Wednesday and keep up with the readings. All students will be assigned to a section which meets once a week (most likely on Thursday or Friday) during course time. Attendance is mandatory. Sections will serve as an opportunity to discuss the readings and thus, regular and active participation is expected. Participation in section will count for 20% of the final grade. An in-class midterm examination will be worth 35% and a final examination will count for 45% of the final grade. According to the Registrar's website (<http://www.rochester.edu/registrar/examschedule.html>), the final exam will tentatively be held Wednesday, December 21 at 7:15pm. *However, because exam schedules can change, do not arrange to leave for break before the end of the exam period. Barring extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up midterm or final exams.*

An optional 5-7 page paper on the Institutions weeks' readings can be written for extra credit. The paper topic will be handed out November 14 and due by noon on November 23 (hard copy only, no email submissions accepted). If interested, please contact Professor Meguid.

Readings

In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore or, alternatively, are on reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through the Library's electronic reserves on Blackboard.

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore

Allen, William Sheridan. The Nazi Seizure of Power. New York: Watts, 1984.

Archer, Jeffrey. First Among Equals. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1984.

Crnobrnja, Mihailo. The Yugoslav Drama. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996.

Diamond, Larry and Marc Plattner, eds. The Global Resurgence of Democracy Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996.

Putnam, Robert D. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.

No class on Wednesday, August 31st, Friday, September 2nd or Monday, September 5th

Wednesday, September 7: Course Introduction and What is Democracy?**September 9: What is Democracy? (continued)**

Terry L. Karl and Philippe Schmitter, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 49-62.

Larry Diamond, "Three Paradoxes of Democracy," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 111-123.

September 12, 14, and 16: How does Democracy Come About? Theories of Democratization

Daniel Lerner, The Passing of Traditional Society, Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1958. Chapter 1.

Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1981. Chapter 2.

Samuel Huntington, “Democracy’s Third Wave,” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 3-25.

S.M. Lipset, “George Washington and the Founding of Democracy,” Journal of Democracy, 9.4(1998): 24-38.

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 3-22.

September 19 and 21: Democracy and Democratization: Cases

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Forging Democracy from Below, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. 25-144, 150-208.

September 26 and 28: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Theories

Harold Isaacs, “Basic Group Identity: The Idols of the Tribe,” in Nathan Glazier and Daniel P. Moynihan, eds, Ethnicity: Theory and Experience, Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1975. 29-52.

Posner, Daniel, “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi,” American Political Science Review, 98.4 (2004): 529-545.

Hugh Trevor-Roper, “The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland,” in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds, The Invention of Tradition, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990. 15-41.

October 3 and 5: Ethnic Conflict: The Case of Yugoslavia

Mihailo Crnobrnja, The Yugoslav Drama, Montreal: McGill-Queen’s UP, 1996. 15-127; 141-188.

Aleksa Djilas, “A Profile of Slobodan Milosevic,” Foreign Affairs, (Summer 1993): 81-96.

No class Monday, October 10: Fall Break

October 12 and 17: Revolutions

Karl Marx, “The Communist Manifesto,” in Laurence H. Simons (ed), Selected Writings, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994. 157-176.

James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, 27.1(1962): 5-19.

Eric Selbin, "Revolution in the Real World: Bringing Agency Back In," in John Foran, ed, Theorizing Revolutions, London: Routledge, 1997. 123-136.

October 19 and 24: Revolutions around the World: Cases

Farideh Farhi, "State Disintegration and Urban-Based Revolutionary Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of Iran and Nicaragua," Comparative Political Studies, 21.2(1988). 231-256.

Richard Snyder, "Paths out of Sultanistic Regimes: Combining Structural and Voluntarist Approaches," in H.E. Chehabi and Juan J. Linz, eds, Sultanistic Regimes, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1998. 49-81.

Goodwin, Jeff. No Other Way Out, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001. Chapters 5 and 6.

October 26: In-class midterm

October 31 and November 2: Do Institutions Matter? Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 124-142.

Juan Linz, "The Virtues of Parliamentarism," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 154-161.

Donald Horowitz, "Comparing Democratic Systems," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 143-149

S.E. Lipset, "The Centrality of Political Culture," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 150-153.

Jeffrey Archer, First Among Equals. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1984. Chapters 1-10.

November 7 and 9: Do Institutions Matter? Electoral Systems

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 162-174.

Guy Lardeyat, "The Problem with PR," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 175-180

Quentin Quade, "PR and Democratic Statecraft," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 181-186

Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism, Multipartism and Democracy," Comparative Political Studies, 26.2(1993): 198-228.

Arend Lijphart, "Reforming the House: Three Moderately Radical Proposals," P.S.: Political Science and Politics, 31.1(1998): 10-13.

November 14: Do Institutions Matter? Political Party Systems

Arend Lijphart, "Party Systems: Two Party and Multi-Party Patterns," Patterns of Democracy, New Haven: Yale UP, 1999. Chapter 5.

Octavio Amorim Neto and Gary Cox. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures and the Number of Parties." American Journal of Political Science. 41.1(1997): 149-174.

November 16 and 21: Political Participation: How and Why?

Joan M. Nelson, "Political Participation," in Weiner and Samuel Huntington, eds, Understanding Political Development, New York: Harper Collins, 1987. 103-59.

John Aldrich, "Rational Choice and Turnout," American Journal of Political Science, 37(1993): 246-278.

Benjamin Highton, "Voter Registration and Turnout in the United States," Perspectives on Politics, 2.3(2004): 507-15.

No class November 23

November 28 and 30: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital

Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work, Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. Entire.

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996: 290-303.

December 5 and 7: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital (cases)

William Sheridan Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, New York: Watts, 1984. 1-167, 183-200, 217-232, 293-303.

Morris Fiorina, "Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement" Civic Engagement in American Democracy. Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1999. Chapter 11.

December 12: What Have We Learned? Review of the Course

*****Note: There is a cumulative final exam. See Registrar's website for date and time.***