

POSC 204: Core Seminar in Comparative Politics
Dr. Susan Giaimo

Fall 2007

Course time and location:

Wed., 4:00-6:30 PM
Wehr Physics 418

Dr. Giaimo's office:

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Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., and Fri. 11-12,
Tues., 1- PM,
and by appointment

This seminar will introduce students to the field of comparative politics. It will cover the major theoretical approaches and methodologies in comparative politics and their strengths and limitations. We will read seminal works as well as survey articles of the field by contemporary scholars. The purpose of the course is to provide you with a solid foundation in this subfield of political science and to stimulate your critical, creative, and systematic thinking.

Requirements

Participants are expected to attend all seminar meetings and actively participate in the discussions. Active participation means thoughtful and regular participation to discussions, and entails that you read the required reading assignments in advance of class.

Written assignments include four (4) short papers (3-4 double-spaced pages maximum) that review the week's required readings. In the paper you should briefly summarize the main themes of the week's readings, but devote the bulk of assignment to presenting your own critical assessment and analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the approach at hand. You must turn in each paper in advance of the relevant seminar meeting. In addition, each participant will write a longer seminar paper (maximum of 12-15 double-spaced pages) that compares, contrasts, and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of two or more theoretical approaches. You should use required and recommended readings for this paper. The paper is due on December 12.

Each student will lead the first half of the seminar discussion for one of the week's readings. You may select a week that corresponds to one of your short papers, or you may choose a different week. Sign-ups for leading class discussions will take place in class on Sept. 5. For class on Dec. 5, each student will read a selection from Monroe's book, *Perestroika!* and briefly present your findings.

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

4 short papers: 40% (10% each)
Seminar paper: 40%
Class participation, including leading a seminar discussion: 20%

I will not accept late papers unless there is a genuine medical or family emergency, or in the event of an official university-sanctioned event that requires you to miss the class. In the latter case, please inform me as soon as possible of such scheduled absences.

I do not tolerate plagiarism or academic dishonesty by students. I will follow University regulations on academic dishonesty.

Course materials

Most of the readings will be on Raynor Library reserve or on D2L. Several longer readings are from books that seminar participants should purchase.

The following books should be purchased by all seminar participants and are available at either BookMarq or Sweeney's:

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.

Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality Culture, and Structure* 1997.

B. Guy Peters, *Comparative Politics: Theory and Methods*

The following books are recommended for purchase since we will only read a limited number of chapters from them. So you may either read the chapters on reserve or purchase the books:

Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999.

Kristin Renwick Monroe, ed., *Perestroika! The Raucous Rebellion in Political Science*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2005.

Readings from the books you should purchase are denoted in the syllabus by an asterisk (*). The syllabus lists required readings, which all seminar participants must read. It also lists recommended readings that will be useful for exploring a topic further or for writing the longer seminar paper.

Class Schedule and Readings

Aug. 29: Course introduction

*Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, "Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics: An Introduction" in *Comparative Politics: Rationality Culture, and Structure*, 1997, pp. 1-8.

Sept. 5: Research Design and Case Studies

*B. Guy Peters, *Comparative Politics: Theory and Methods*, chaps. 1-4.

Recommended readings:

David Collier, "The Comparative Method," in Finifter (ed.) *Political Science: the State of the Discipline II*, 1993, pp. 105-119.

Sept. 12: Theories, Methods, Problems

Peters, chaps. 5-10.

Michael Wallerstein, "Does Comparative Politics Need a TOE (Theory of Everything)?" *APSA-CP Newsletter* 12 (1) Winter 2001.

Peter A. Hall, "Letter from the President: Beyond the Comparative Method," *APSA-CP Newsletter* 5 (2) Summer 2004.

Recommended readings:

Kohli et. al., "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics," *World Politics*, 48, pp. 1-49.

"Symposium: The Confluence of International Relations and Comparative Politics: Professional Dilemmas," *APSA-CP Newsletter* 16 (1) Winter 2005, pp. 7-25.

"Symposium: Should Everyone Do Fieldwork?" *APSA-CP Newsletter* 16 (2) Summer 2005, pp. 8-18.

Sept. 19: Comparative Politics, Political Science, and the Natural Sciences Model

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962, chaps. 2, 3, 5-9.

Michael J. Sodaro, chap. 3, "Critical Thinking about Politics," in *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd ed., Mc-Graw Hill, 2008.

Max Weber, "'Objectivity' in Social Science and Social Policy," in *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, Free Press of Glencoe, 1949, pp. 49-112.

Charles Taylor, *Philosophy and the Human Sciences*, *Philosophical Papers*, vol. 2, Cambridge, 1985, chaps. 1 and 2 ("Interpretation and the Sciences of Man" and "Neutrality in Political Science").

Steven Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, 1997, pp. 7-21.

Recommended reading:

Bernard Crick, *In Defence of Politics*, 1962.

Ronald Chilcote, "Politics and the Science of Politics in Comparative Inquiry," and "Ideology and Issues of Comparative Politics" in *Theories of Comparative Politics* (1994).

Sept. 26: Marx

- Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," in Lawrence H. Simon (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, Lawrence H. Simon, ed., Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994, pp. 157-186.
- Marx, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (selections)," *ibid.*, pp. 187- 208.
- Marx, "Grundrisse" in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, David McLellan, ed., Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 345-387.

Recommended readings:

- Marx, "The German Ideology," "Capital" Vol. 1, "The Civil War in France" in McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx, Selected Writings*, 2000.

Oct. 3: Weber's Sociology

- Max Weber, "Basic Sociological Terms," pp. 4-24, in Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, eds., New York: Bedminster Press, 1968.
- Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination," *ibid.*, pp. 212-254.
- Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," *ibid.*, pp. 77-128.
- Weber, "The Market: Its Impersonality and Ethic," *ibid.*, pp. 635-640.
- Weber, "Protestant Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism" in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, New York: Charles Scribner, 1958, pp. 155-183, 258-284.

Recommended readings:

- Weber, "Religious Ethics and the World: Economics," "Religious Ethics and the World: Politics," and "The Great Religions and the World," in Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, Roth and Wittich, eds., 1968.
- Anthony Giddens, "Introduction," "Politics and Sociology in the Thought of Max Weber," "Max Weber and the Development of Capitalism," in Giddens, *Politics, Sociology and Social Theory: Encounters with Classical and Contemporary Social Thought*, 1995, pp. 1-4, 15-56, 57-77.

Oct. 10: Culture

- Lawrence E. Harrison, "Why Culture Matters," in Lawrence Harrison and Samuel P. Huntington, eds. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, 2000, pp. xvii-xxxiv.
- Gabriel A. Almond, "The Study of Political Culture," *A Discipline Divided: Schools and Sects in Political Science*, Newbury Park: Sage, 1990, pp. 138-156.
- Robert Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture," *American Political Science Review* 82 (4) Dec. 1988, pp. 1203-30.
- Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in *The Interpretation of Culture*, New York, 1973 pp. 3-30.
- Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3) Summer 1993, pp. 23-49.
- *Marc H. Ross, "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics*, pp. 42-80.

CONT'D

Recommended readings:

David Laitin, "Religion, Political Culture and the Weberian Tradition," *World Politics*, 30 (4) 1978, pp. 563-592.

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture*, Boston: 1965, pp. 1-44.

Oct. 17: Rational Choice

Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, NY: Harper and Row, 1957, pp. 3-50.

Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965, pp. 5-52.

Robert H. Bates, "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?" *Political Science and Politics* 30 (2) June 1997, 166-9.

Donald P. Green and Ian Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994, pp. 1-46.

Jeffrey Friedman, "Introduction: Economic Approaches to Politics," *The Rational Choice Controversy: Economic Models of Politics Reconsidered*, Jeffrey Friedman (ed.) New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996, pp. 1-24.

Chalmers Johnson and E.B. Kleehn, "A Disaster in the Making: Rational Choice and Asian studies," *The National Interest*, 36, Summer 1994, pp. 14-22.

*Margaret Levi, "A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics*, pp. 19-41.

Recommended readings:

James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock, *The Calculus of Consent*, Ann Arbor, 1962.

Munck, "Game Theory and Comparative Politics: New Perspectives and Old Concerns," *World Politics*, 53, Jan. 2001, pp. 173-204.

"Symposium on Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory," *Critical Review*, 9 (1 and 2), pp. 25-235, various authors.

Green and Shapiro, "Pathologies Revisited: Reflections on our Critics," *Critical Review*, 9 (1 and 2) pp. 235-275.

Mahoney, "Rational Choice Theory and the Comparative Method: An Emerging Synthesis?" *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Summer 2000, pp. 83-94.

Isabela Mares, *The Politics of Social Risk: Business and Welfare State Development*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

_____. *Taxation Wage Bargaining, and Unemployment*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.

_____. "Firms and the Welfare State: When, Why, and How Does Social Policy Matter to Employers," in Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds. *Varieties of Capitalism*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

Oct. 24: New Institutionalism

- James G. March and Johan P. Olsen, "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life," *American Political Science Review* 78 (3) 1984, 734-749.
- Kathleen Thelen, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics" *Annual Review of Political Science* (2) 1999, 369-404.
- Peter A. Hall and Rosemary Taylor, "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," *Political Studies* XLIV, 1996, pp. 936-957.
- Hay and Wincott, "Structure, Agency and Historical Institutionalism," *Political Studies* XLVI, 1998, 951-957.
- Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999, chaps. 1-3, 16-17.
- *Ira Katznelson, "Structure and Configuration in Comparative Politics," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics*, pp. 81-112.

Recommended readings:

- Douglas C. North, *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990, pp. 3-35.
- Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth (eds.) *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Ellen M. Immergut, *Structuring Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992, esp. chaps. 1 and 6.

Oct. 31: The State, Corporatism, and Governance

- Alfred Stepan, "Liberal-Pluralist, Classic Marxist, and 'Organic-Statist' Approaches to the State," in *Arguing Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 39-72.
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, 1979, pp. 3-43.
- _____. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research" in P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, and T. Skocpol (ed.) *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 3-37.
- *Joel S. Migdal "Studying the State," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics*, pp. 208-236.
- Esping-Andersen, Gosta, *Politics against Markets*, 1985, pp. 17-28.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "Still the Century of Corporatism?" in Philippe C. Schmitter and Gerhard Lehmbruch (eds.) *Trends toward Corporatist Intermediation*, Beverly Hills: Sage, 1979.
- Wolfgang Streeck and Philippe C. Schmitter, "Community, Market, State—and Associations? The Prospective Contribution of Interest Governance to Social Order," *European Sociological Review* 1 (2) 1985, 119-138.

CONT'D

Recommended readings:

- Eric Nordlinger, *On the Autonomy of the Democratic State*, 1981.
- Peter J. Katzenstein, *Small States in World Markets*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985.
- Leon N. Lindberg, John L. Campbell and J. Rogers Hollingsworth, *Governance of the American Economy*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
See esp. Lindberg, Campbell and Hollingsworth, "Economic Governance and the Analysis of Structural Change in the American Economy," Lindberg and Campbell, "The State and the Organization of Economic Activity," and Campbell and Lindberg, "The Evolution of Governance Regimes."
- Ralph Miliband, "Marx and the State," in *Class Power and State Power*, London, 1983, pp. 3-25.

Nov. 7: Political Development

- Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1966, chaps. 7 and 8.
- W. W. Rostow, *Stages of Economic Growth*, London: 1960, pp. 1-16.
- Immanuel Wallerstein, *Historical Capitalism*, London: 1983, pp. TBA.
- Robert D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979, chaps. 1 and 6.
- Alfred Stepan with Juan J. Linz, "Political Crafting of Democratic Consolidation or Destruction: European and South American Comparisons," in Alfred Stepan, *Arguing Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 138-158.
- Alfred Stepan with Juan J. Linz, "Toward Consolidated Democracies," in Alfred Stepan, *Arguing Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 295-314.

Recommended readings:

- Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, New Haven, 1968, pp. 1-92.
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *The National Interest*, 16, Summer 1989, pp. 3-35.

Nov. 14: Comparative Political Economy

- *Peter A. Hall, "The Role of Institutions, Interests, and Ideas in the Comparative Political Economy of the Industrialized Nations," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics*, pp. 174-207.
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Peter B. Evans, "The State and Economic Transformation: Toward an Analysis of the Conditions Underlying Effective Intervention," in P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, and T. Skocpol (ed.) *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 44-77.
- Fred Block, "The Role of the State in the Economy," in Neil J. Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation, 1994, pp. 691-710.

CONT'D

Political Economy (continued):

John Zysman, *Governments, Markets and Growth*, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1983, chaps. 2 and 6.

Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism" in Hall and Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 1-70.

Recommended readings:

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1962.

Andrew Shonfield, *Modern Capitalism*, Oxford University Press, 1965.

Peter A. Hall, *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1986, pp. 3-22, 227-283.

Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, rest of the book.

Nov. 21: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 28: The Welfare State

*Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.

Paul Pierson, *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, Part One.

Duane Swank, *Global Capital, Political Institutions, and Policy Change in Developed Welfare States*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 274-289.

Ann Shola Orloff, "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of State Policies and Gender Relations," *American Sociological Review*, 58 (3): 1993, 303-328.

Recommended readings:

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1944, chaps. 6-8, and 12-14.

Richard M. Titmuss, "Developing Social Policy in Conditions of Rapid Change: The Roles of Social Welfare," in *The Philosophy of Welfare: Selected Writings of Richard M. Titmuss*, Brian Abel-Smith and Kay Titmuss, eds., London: George Allen and Unwin, 1987, pp. 254-268.

Peter A. Baldwin, *The Politics of Social Solidarity*, Cambridge University Press, 1990, pp. 288-299.

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Social Foundations of Post-Industrial Society*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Paul Pierson, ed., *The New Politics of the Welfare State*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Fritz Scharpf and Vivian Schmidt, eds., *Welfare and Work in the Open Economy*, Vols. I and II, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

CONT'D

Evelyne Huber and John D. Stephens, "Welfare States and Production Regimes in the Era of Retrenchment," in Paul Pierson, ed., *the New Politics of the Welfare State*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Jet Bussemaker and Kees van Kersbergen, "Gender and Welfare States: Some Theoretical Reflections," in Diane Sainsbury, ed., *Gendering Welfare States*, Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 8-25.

Dec. 5: Current Controversies in Comparative Politics

*Alan S. Zuckerman, "Reformulating Explanatory Standards and Advancing Theory in Comparative Politics," in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics*, pp. 277-310.

Kristin Renwick Monroe, ed., *Perestroika! The Raucous Rebellion in Political Science* New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2005, part 1.

Each student will also read one selection from part 2 (you may choose, with instructor's consent) and briefly present the findings.

Recommended readings:

Monroe, ed., *Perestroika! The Raucous Rebellion in Political Science*, Yale University Press, 2005. rest of the book.

Dec. 12: Seminar paper due by 5 PM.