

Introduction to Comparative Politics

PS 240A-B is a two-course sequence designed to introduce graduate students to comparative politics. We survey a broad range of different literatures. Sometimes topics flow naturally from one week to the next, but not always. Comparative politics is a vast field. In some ways, it touches on every aspect of political science, and it overlaps with economics, sociology, and anthropology, as well as other disciplines. We cannot make this course comprehensive, and even our coverage of the topics we have chosen to address leaves out important and/or influential readings. We hope that these short introductions will whet your appetites for deeper study.

This will be a demanding course. The reading list for each week is formidable and we will expect every student to be prepared to discuss any reading when called upon, so some items might need to be read more than once. Your goal should be to come to class prepared to summarize the main point of each item assigned as well as to be able to present a brief and accurate review of the approach, argument, and evidence — all in two to three minutes. If it takes you longer than that, you haven't properly mastered the material. We have uploaded all required readings to a dropbox folder to which we will provide access to all enrolled students. We reserve the right to make some last-minute changes, in which case we will of course upload the new readings at least a week before they are required.

Before approaching each reading think about what the key questions are for the week and about how the questions from this week relate to what you know from previous weeks.¹ **Then** skim over the reading to get a sense of the themes it covers, and, before reading further, jot down what questions you hope the reading will be able to answer for you. **Next**, read the introduction and conclusion. This is normally enough to get a sense of the big picture. Are the claims surprising? Do you believe them? Can you think of examples of places that do not seem consistent with the logic of the argument? ... **Next** ask yourself: What types of evidence or arguments would you need to see in order to be convinced of the results? **Now** read through the whole text, checking as you go through how the arguments used support the claims of the author. It is rare to find a piece of writing that you agree with entirely. So, as you come across issues that you are not convinced by, **write** them down and bring them along to class for discussion. Also note when you are pleasantly surprised, when the author produced a convincing argument that you had not thought of. In all cases when it is possible you are encouraged to **download** this data, **replicate** results and use it to probe and test the arguments you bring to class... Try to articulate succinctly what you know now that you didn't know before you read the piece. Often a quick summary can draw attention to strong features you were not conscious of, or make you realize that what you were impressed by is not so impressive after all. Is the theory internally consistent? Is it consistent with past literature and findings? Is it novel or surprising? Are elements that are excluded or simplified plausibly unimportant for the outcomes? Is the theory general or specific? Are there more general theories on which this theory could draw or contribute?

Evaluation for the course will consist of two parts. First, all students will be expected to participate actively in every meeting, including but not limited to the "cold-call" oral summaries of the readings described above. In-class performance will count for 25 percent of your grade. The other 75 percent will be based on your performance on an end-of-quarter, day-long written examination. In most other graduate programs in Political Science, students must sit comprehensive exams in two or more fields before they are permitted to move on to dissertation work. The final exams for PS240A and for PS240B will be along the same lines, although we will hold you responsible only for the topics covered in the course that quarter and, within each topic, only for the readings that were assigned. We plan to give you a handful of "big questions" from the literature that was covered during the quarter. You will be asked to choose two questions to answer in an 8-hour take-home exam.

Finally, we expect PS 240 students to attend the Comparative Politics Workshop (speaker series), which will host 3-4 visiting scholars each quarter on alternating Mondays (12:30-2:00pm). We may discuss these presentations in class on the Tuesdays that follow each session. As always, your active engagement in these discussions will factor into your class participation grade.

¹This paragraph cribbed from the syllabus for a similar course taught by Macartan Humphries at Columbia.

Fall Quarter PS240A

Week 1. Methods and Inference in Comparative Politics (Sep 29) (Posner, Ross, and Thies)

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch. 1.
- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press: ch. 1.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2007. "Is the Science of Comparative Politics Possible?" In Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press: ch. 6.

Week 2. Fundamental Sources of Economic Growth (Oct 6) (Posner and Ross)

- Diamond, Jared. 1999. "Farmer Power," "Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes," and "Hemispheres Colliding." In *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: WW Norton: 85-92, 176-191 and 354-375.
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369-1401.
- Landes, David. 2006. "Why Europe and the West? Why not China?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20 (Spring): 322.
- Nunn, Nathan. 2010. "Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa's Slave Trade." In Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson, eds. *Natural Experiments of History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press: 142-184
- Weil, David N. 2014. "The Impact of Malaria on African Development over the *Longue Duree*." In Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, Nathan Nunn and James Robinson, eds. *Africa's Development in Historical Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press: 89-130.

Week 3. The State and Nation Building (Oct 13) (Ross and Posner)

- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press: ch. 1.
- Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer and T. Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press: ch 5.
- Milgrom, Paul, Douglass North and Barry Weingast. 1990. "The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: the Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the Champagne Fairs," *Economics and Politics* 2: 1-23.
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 Sept.: 567-76.
- Scott, James C. 1998. "Nature and Space." In *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press: ch. 1.
- Fearon, James D., Macartan Humphreys, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2009. "Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia." *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings* 99(2): 287-291.

Week 4. Democracy and its Origins (Oct 20) (Ross and Thies)

- North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *Journal of Economic History* 49(4): 803-832.
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press: chs. 2 and 6.
- Geddes, Barbara. 2007. "What Causes Democratization?" In Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press: ch. 14.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2009. "Self-Government in Our Times," *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 71-92.
- Ross, Michael L. 2015. "What Have We Learned About the Resource Curse?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 239-259.

Week 5. Delegation, Accountability, and Responsiveness (Oct 27) (Thies and Posner)

- Kiewiet, D. Roderick and Mathew McCubbins. 1991. *The Logic of Delegation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: ch. 2.
- Przeworski, Adam, Susan Stokes, and Bernard Manin, eds. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. New York: Cambridge University Press: ch. 1.
- Martin, Lanny W. and Georg Vanberg. 2004. "Policing the Bargain: Coalition Government and Parliamentary Scrutiny." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(1): 13-27.
- Ashworth, Scott. 2012. "Electoral Accountability: Recent Theoretical and Empirical Work." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 183-201.
- Grossman, Guy. 2014. "Do Selection Rules Affect Leader Responsiveness? Evidence from Rural Uganda." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 9: 1-44.

Week 6. Electoral Systems and Voting (Nov 3) (Thies and Posner)

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2011. *Principles of Comparative Politics*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage: 464-531. **SKIM and Use as Reference.**
- Carey, John M. and Matthew S. Shugart. 1995. "Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Systems." *Electoral Studies* 14: 417-39.
- Duch, Raymond M. and Randolph T. Stevenson. 2008. *The Economic Vote: How Political and Economic Institutions Condition Election Results*. New York: Cambridge University Press: ch 3.
- Gerber, Alan, Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer. 2008. "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 33-48.
- Moser, Robert G. and Ethan Scheiner. 2012. *Electoral Systems and Political Context: How the Effects of Rules Vary Across New and Established Democracies*. New York: Cambridge University Press: intro and chs 1, 5-7.

Week 7. Institutions, Informal Institutions, and Policy Making (Nov 10) (Thies and Ross)

- Shepsle, Kenneth. A. 1986. "Institutional Equilibrium and Equilibrium Institutions." *Political Science: The Science of Politics*: 51-81.
- Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* 25(3): 289-325
- Tsebelis, George. 1999. "Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 93(3): 591-608.
- Carey, John M. 2000. "Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions." *Comparative Political Studies* 33(6/7): 735-761.
- Helmke, Gretchen and Steven Levitsky, eds. 2006. *Informal Institution & Democracy: Lessons from Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, "Introduction," "Conclusion," (pp 1-30, 274-284) + one case chapter TBA.

Week 8. Authoritarian Regimes and Partial Democracies (Nov 17) (Thies and Posner)

- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. New York: Cambridge University Press: introduction and ch. 1.
- Wintrobe, Robert. 2007. "Dictatorship: Analytical Approaches." In Carol Boix and Susan Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press: ch 16.
- Hyde, Susan D and Nikolay Marinov. 2012. "Which Elections Can Be Lost?" *Political Analysis* 20(2): 191-210.
- Boix, Carles and Milan W. Svolik. 2013. "The Foundations of Limited Authoritarian Government: Institutions, Commitment, and Power-Sharing in Dictatorships." *Journal of Politics* 75(2): 300-316.
- King, Gary, Jennifer Pan and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. "How Censorship Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 326-343.

Week 9. Corruption (Nov 24) (Posner and Ross)

- Treisman, Daniel. 2007. "What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 211-44.
- Olken, Benjamin. 2007. "Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia." *Journal of Political Economy* 115 (April): 200-49.
- Chang, Eric, Miriam Golden and Seth Hill. 2010. "Legislative Malfeasance and Political Accountability." *World Politics* 62(2): 177-220.
- Fisman, Raymond, Florian Schultz and Vikrant Vig. 2014. "Private Returns to Public Office." *Journal of Political Economy* 4 (August): 806-862.
- Khan, Adnan, Asim Khwaja and Benjamin Olken. Forthcoming. "Tax Farming Redux: Experimental Evidence on Performance Pay for Tax Collectors." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- Bussell, Jennifer. Forthcoming. "Typologies of Corruption: A Pragmatic Approach." In Susan Rose-Ackerman and Paul Lagunes, eds. *Greed, Corruption and the Modern State*. London: Edward Elgar: 21-45.

Week 10. Inequality and Democratization (Dec 1) (Ross and Thies)

- Ansell, Ben W., and David J. Samuels. 2014. *Inequality and Democratization: An Elite-Competition Approach*. New York: Cambridge University Press. [Whole book]

Winter Quarter PS240B

Week 1. Social Movements and Protests (Jan 5) (Ross and Thies)

-Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44(1): 7-48.

-Chenoweth, Erika and Maria Stephan. 2008. "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolence." *International Security* 33(1): 7-44.

-Wilkinson, Steven. 2009. "Riots." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 329-343.

-Aday, Sean, Henry Farrell, Marc Lynch, John Sides, and Deen Freelon. 2012. "Blogs and Bullets II: New Media and Conflict After the Arab Spring." United States Institute of Peace.

-Chenoweth, Erika and Jay Ulfelder. 2015. "Can Structural Conditions Explain the Onset of Nonviolent Uprisings?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Week 2. Civil Wars (Jan 12) (Ross and Thies)

-Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 1998. "On Economic Causes of Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 50: 563-73.

-Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.

-Walter, Barbara. 2009. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 243-261.

-Blattman, Christopher and Edward Miguel. 2010. "Civil War." *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(1): 3-57.

-Dube, Oeindrila and Juan Vargas. 2013. "Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Columbia." *Review of Economic Studies* 80: 1384-1421.

Week 3. Interest Groups and Representation (Jan 19) (Thies and Posner)

-Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press: chs.1-2 and 6.

-Olson, Mancur. 1982. *The Rise and Decline of Nations*. New Haven: Yale University Press: ch. 3.

-Grossman, Gene M. and Elhanan Helpman. 2001. *Special Interest Politics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press: chs. 4-5.

-Bawn, Kathleen and Michael F. Thies. 2003. "A Comparative Theory of Electoral Incentives." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(1): 5-32.

-Hiscox, Michael. 2001. "Class versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade." *International Organization* 55(1): 1-46.

Week 4. Distributive Politics (Jan 26) (Posner and Ross)

-Dixit, Avinash and John Londregan. 1996. "The Determinants of Success of Special Interests in Redistributive Politics." *Journal of Politics* 58(4): 1132-1155.

-Stokes, Susan. 2005. "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina." *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 315-25.

-Nichter, Simeon. 2008. "Vote Buying or Turnout Buying? Machine Politics and the Secret Ballot." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 19-31.

-Cox, Gary W. 2010. "Swing Voters, Core Voters and Distributive Politics." In Ian Shapiro et al, eds. *Political Representation*. New York: Cambridge University Press: 342-357.

-Golden, Miriam and Brian Min. 2013. "Distributive Politics Around the World." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16:73-99.

Week 5. Patronage and Clientelism (Feb 2) (Thies and Posner)

-Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55(2): 399-422.

-Hicken, Allen. 2011. "Clientelism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14: 289–310.

-Anderson, Siwan, Patrick Francois and Ashok Kotwal. 2015. "Clientelism in Indian Villages." *American Economic Review* 105(6): 1780-1816.

-Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria and Gerard Padro i Miquel. 2015. "The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya." *American Economic Review* 105(6): 1817-1851.

-Diaz-Cayeros, Alberto, Beatriz Magaloni, and Federico Estevez. Forthcoming. *Strategies of Vote Buying: Clientelism and Poverty Relief in Mexico*. New York: Cambridge University Press: ch. 4.

Week 6. Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism (Feb 9) (Posner and Ross)

Stokes, Susan C., Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno and Valeria Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. [Whole book]

Week 7. Governance (Feb 16) (Posner and Ross)

-Bjorkman, Martina and Jakob Svensson. 2009. "Power to the People: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Community-Based Monitoring in Uganda." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124(2): 735-769.

-J-PAL Governance Initiative. 2013. "Governance Review Paper."

-Callen, Michael, et al. 2013. "The Political Economy of Public Employee Absence: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan." Unpublished paper.

-Other papers to be added...

Week 8. Ethnic Politics and Conflict (Feb 23) (Posner and Thies)

-Bates, Robert. 1973. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa." In Donald S. Rothchild and Victor A. Olorunsola, eds. *State versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press: 152-171.

-Fearon, James D. 1999. "Why Ethnic Politics and 'Pork' Tend to Go Together." Unpublished paper.

-Posner, Daniel N. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press: chs. 1, 5 and 10.

-Padro i Miquel, Gerard. 2007. "The Control of Politicians in Divided Societies: The Politics of Fear." *Review of Economic Studies* 74: 1259-1274.

-Eifert, Benn, Edward Miguel, and Daniel N. Posner. 2010. "Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(2): 494-510.

Week 9. Gender and Political Economy (March 1) (Ross and Thies)

-Duflo, Esther and Raghavendra Chattopadhyay. 2004. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72,5 (Sept.): 1409-443.

-Iversen, Torben and Frances Rosenbluth. 2006. "The Political Economy of Gender: Explaining Cross-National Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender Voting Gap." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 1-19.

-Rosenbluth, Frances, Rob Salmond and Michael Thies, 2006. "Welfare Works: Explaining Female Legislative Representation." *Politics and Gender* 2: 165-192.

-Ross, Michael L. 2008. "Oil, Islam, and Women." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 107-123.

-Duflo, Esther 2012. "Women Empowerment and Economic Development." *Journal of Economic Literature* 50(4), 1051-1079.

Week 10. Open (Mar 8) (Ross, Posner, and Thies)

TBA