

Field Seminar in Comparative Politics

Boston University
Political Science 751
Spring 2017

Last revised: January 18, 2017

Professor: Taylor C. Boas

Email: tboas@bu.edu

Office location: 232 Bay State Rd., rm. 311B

Office phone: 617-353-4214

Office hours: Wednesday 3-4:30, Thursday 3:15-4:45

Class location: 232 Bay State Rd., 312B (political science seminar room)

Class time: Thursday 12:30-3:15

Course Description

This course is an introduction to comparative politics for graduate students. It provides an overview of the major theoretical approaches and areas of research in the subfield, covering both classic works and more recent contributions. Topics include the origins of states, nations, and political regimes such as democracy and authoritarianism; the role of political institutions, including electoral systems, party systems, and systems of government; and political economy issues such as development, business politics, and the welfare state. In each area, the focus is on comparing distinct theoretical approaches and/or countries and regions that present empirical contrasts. We examine works that employ a variety of methodological tools, including case studies, statistical analysis, and formal modeling or game theory. For Ph.D. students in political science, this course should form the core of your preparation for the qualifying exam in comparative politics.

In a seminar such as this one, you are expected to do all of the required readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them. Towards that end, you should take notes as you read and come prepared with questions, arguments, and points to raise. Depending on your learning style, you may want to coordinate with other students to divide up responsibility for preparing summaries or outlines of the readings and to study for the final exam. Summaries or outlines, along with your own notes, can be an invaluable resource when it comes time to study for the Ph.D. qualifying exam. That said, group study and summaries or outlines should not substitute for carefully reading the material on your own.

Requirements

There are three requirements for the course: active participation in class discussion (10% of the grade), a final exam (40%), and a term paper (50%). The final exam is intended to mimic the format of the Ph.D. qualifying exam, albeit shorter overall. It will be a closed-book, closed-note exam consisting of several essay questions that you will answer using a laptop computer (if you

don't have your own, please let me know so I can arrange for a loaner). Each essay question will cover one or more big themes in the course and will require you to demonstrate broad knowledge of the literature.

The term paper consists of a 25–30 page paper which is due at the end of the semester. The major objective of the term paper is to give Ph.D. students a base to build upon, via subsequent revision, for the second-year paper requirement or for a dissertation prospectus. The paper can be on any topic in comparative politics, regardless of whether it is covered in the course, but it should involve substantial outside research; no more than one-third of the sources should be drawn from this syllabus. The paper can compare multiple countries/regions or examine one in a broader comparative context. If relevant, you are encouraged to draw upon outside data sources, such as electoral results, economic development indicators, or quantitative measures of democracy. I am open to students building upon prior research, such as an undergraduate honors thesis or M.A. thesis, as long as your paper for this course is clearly distinct from something you have written before. All students are required to meet with me during office hours prior to Spring Break—the earlier, the better—in order to discuss potential paper topics. Start early and consult with me when you have questions; this will make for a better paper.

Readings

For each week of the course, there is approximately 300 pages of reading assigned (the number of pages for each week/reading is listed below). Much of this drawn from books. Where a relatively small portion of a book is assigned, the material will be scanned and made available online. Most of these will be via the Mugar Library e-reserves, indicated by a boldface **R** after the entry. To access these readings, visit http://buprimo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?vid=BU&lang=en_US and search for 'po751' in course reserves. Other readings will be scanned and available on the course Blackboard site at <http://learn.bu.edu>; these are indicated with a **B**. Some books are available online in their entirety through the library; these are indicated with an **O**. Journal articles are also available online, typically via JSTOR. Please let me know ASAP if you have any difficulty obtaining online readings.

Books that will not be available online are listed below. You should either purchase these books or obtain them from the library. I have placed the library copies on reserve, so they can only be borrowed for 24 hours; please be considerate of your fellow students and check them out only as long as it takes to scan or photocopy the material you intend to read. I have not ordered any books for purchase at the BU Barnes & Noble, but all the books listed below are in print and available through online sellers like Amazon.com; there are also plenty of used copies available online.

You might also want to purchase other books listed on the syllabus, even if the required reading is available online—e.g., because you are interested in the topic and want to read other chapters on your own (possibly for the term paper).

Required Books

Munck, Gerardo L., and Richard Snyder, eds. 2007. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Lichbach, Mark Irving, and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. 1997. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Gellner, Ernest. 2009 [1983]. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

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

O'Donnell, Guillermo, and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Almond, Gabriel A., and Sidney Verba. 1989 [1963]. *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

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

Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Taagepera, Rein, and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1989. *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 1-3, 6-13. (131)

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Gerring, John, and Strom Thacker. 2008. *A Centripetal Theory of Democratic Governance*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bates, Robert H. 1984. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Schneider, Ben Ross. 2013. *Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America: Business, Labor, and the Challenge of Equitable Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Huber, Evelyne and John D. Stephens. 2001. *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Policies in Global Markets*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

The following books are recommended for purchase. We will be reading substantial portions of them, and while the assigned pages are available online, you might prefer to own a physical copy. O'Donnell (1973) and Duverger (1954) are out of print, but used copies are available; the others are available new.

Recommended Books

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1973. *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism: Studies in South American Politics*. Berkeley: Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

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

Martin, Cathie Jo, and Duane Swank. 2012. *The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth, and Equality*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Polanyi, Karl. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 2nd Ed. Boston: Beacon Press.

Schedule

NOTE: the number of pages for each reading, and the total for the week, are listed in parentheses. **B** = Blackboard, **R** = Mugar Library e-Reserves; **O** = online in its entirety via the library catalog.

Week 1 (1/19). Introduction (~192)

Munck, Gerardo L., and Richard Snyder, eds. 2007. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1–2 (62), plus at least 3 interviews of your choosing.

Week 2 (1/26). Approaches to Comparative Politics (283)

Lichbach, Mark Irving, and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. 1997. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1–4 (109)

Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44, 5: 936-957. (22)

Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94, 2 (June): 251-267. (17)

Bates, Robert H. 2008. "From Case Studies to Social Science: A Strategy for Political Research," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 172-185. (14) **B**

Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Ch. 3. (41) **O**

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 3-9, 34-46, 124-149. (45) **R**

Brady, Henry E., and David Collier. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Ch. 1, 6. (35) **R**

Week 3 (2/2). Origins of States and Nations (308)

Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell. Chs. 1, 3 (66) **R**

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1 (20) **R**

Kurtz, Marcus. 2009. "The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the 'Resource Curse' in Third World State Building." *Politics and Society* 37, 4: 479-520. (42)

Slater, Dan. 2010. *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2 (50) **R**

Gellner, Ernest. 2009 [1983]. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Introduction and Chs. 1-6. (124)

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised ed. London: Verso. Introduction (6). **O**

Week 4 (2/9). Democracy and Democratization (299)

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53: 69-105. (37)

Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chs. 7-9 (71)

Skocpol, Theda. 1973. "A Critical Review of Barrington Moore's Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy." *Politics & Society* 4, 1: 1-34. (34)

O'Donnell, Guillermo, and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (70)

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-3 (87); skim 4 and 6 if you want to get a sense of the formal modeling approach.

Week 5 (2/16). Authoritarianism (325)

Linz, Juan. 1970. "An Authoritarian Regime: Spain." In Erik Allardt and Stein Rokkan, eds., *Mass Politics: Studies in Political Sociology*. New York: Free Press, 251–283, 374–381. (41) **R**

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1973. *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism: Studies in South American Politics*. Berkeley, CA: Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Ch. 1–2 (111) **B**

Collier, David. 1979. "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In David Collier, ed., *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 19–32. (13) **R**

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-2 (80) **R**

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and Its Demise in Mexico*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Ch. 1 (80) **R**

Week 6 (2/23). Revolution, Violence, and Contentious Politics (324)

Huntington, Samuel P. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 5 (80) **R**

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1–3 (155) **O**

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44 (October): 7-48. (42)

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 1997. "Towards an Integrated Perspective on Social Movements and Revolutions." In Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (31)

Fearon, James, and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90. (16)

Week 7 (3/2). Culture and Identity (330)

Almond, Gabriel A., and Sidney Verba. 1989 [1963]. *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. Chs. 1 (An Approach to Political Culture), 5 (The Obligation to Participate), 6 (The Sense of Civic Competence), 13 (The Civic Culture and Democratic Stability). NOTE: these are chapters 1, 6, 7, and 15 in 1963 hardback edition. (133)

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1, 4, 6. (76)

Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chs. 1-2 (76)

Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, 3 (Summer): 22-49. (28)

Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98, 4 (November): 529-546. (17)

Week 8 (3/16). Electoral Systems (287)

Duverger, Maurice. 1954. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley. Pages 203-255 (53) **B**

Taagepera, Rein, and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1989. *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 1-3, 6-13. (131)

Cox, Gary. 1999. "Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 145-161. (17)

Benoit, Kenneth. 2007. "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10, 363-90. (28)

Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93 (3 Sep.): 609-624 . (16)

Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2007 "Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Institutions." *American Political Science Review* 101 (August): 373-391. (19)

Carey, John M., and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 1995. "Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas." *Electoral Studies* 14:4, 417-39. (23)

Week 9 (3/23). Parties and Party Systems (287)

Duverger, Maurice. 1954. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley. Pages 17-40, 61-124 (88) **B**

Kirchheimer, Otto. 1966. "The Transformation of Western European Party Systems." In Joseph LaPalombara and Myron Weiner, eds., *Political Parties and Political Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 177-200. (24) **R**

Katz, Richard S., and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." *Party Politics* 1, 1: 5-28. (24)

Levitsky, Steven. 2003. *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 (34) **R**

Lipset, Seymour Martin, and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." In Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, eds., *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*. New York: Free Press, 1-64. (64) **R**

Amorim Neto, Octavio, and Gary W. Cox. 1997. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 41, 1: 149-174. (25)

Chhibber, Pradeep and Mariano Torcal. 1997. "Elite Strategy, Social Cleavages and Party Systems in a New Democracy: Spain." *Comparative Political Studies* 30, 1: 27-54. (28)

Week 10 (3/30). Systems of Government (351)

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs. 1-3, 10 (61)

Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1: 51-69. (19)

Shugart, Matthew Soberg, and John M. Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1-3 (54) **R**

Cheibub, José Antonio, and Fernando Limongi. 2002. "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 151-79. (29)

Tsebelis, George. 2000. "Veto Players in Institutional Analysis." *Governance* 13:4 (October): 441-474. (34)

Gerring, John, and Strom Thacker. 2008. *A Centripetal Theory of Democratic Governance*. New York: Cambridge University Press, parts I-II. (154)

Week 11 (4/6). Development (305)

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1952. "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective." In Bert F. Hoselitz, ed., *The Progress of Underdeveloped Areas*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 (27) **R**

Rostow, W.W. 1960. *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-3 (35) **R**

Evans, Peter. 1979. *Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinationals, the State, and Local Capital in Brazil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction and Ch. 1 (52) **R**

Hirschman, Albert O. 1981. "The Rise and Decline of Development Economics." In Albert O. Hirschman, ed., *Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 (24) **R**

Bates, Robert H. 1984. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (135)

Johnson, Chalmers. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Ch. 1 (32) **R**

Week 12 (4/13). Industrial Organization and Business Politics (326)

Hall, Peter A., and David Soskice. 2001. "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism." In Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1-68. (68) **O**

Nölke, Andreas, and Arjan Vliegenthart. 2009. "Enlarging the Varieties of Capitalism: The Emergence of Dependent Market Economies in East Central Europe." *World Politics* 61, 4: 670-702. (33)

Schneider, Ben Ross. 2013. *Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America: Business, Labor, and the Challenge of Equitable Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 7, 9 (63)

Martin, Cathie Jo and Duane Swank. 2012. *The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth, and Equality*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction, Chs. 1–2, 7–8, 12, Conclusion. (124) **O**

McMenamin, Iain. 2012. “If Money Talks, What Does it Say? Varieties of Capitalism and Business Financing of Parties.” *World Politics* 64, 1: 1-38. (38)

Week 13 (4/20): No class (professor giving a talk at Harvard)

Work on your papers! And come to my talk if you feel so inspired...
<http://drclas.harvard.edu/events/brazil-studies-program-taylor-boas>

Week 14 (4/27). The Welfare State and Social Protection (308)

Polanyi, Karl. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 2nd Ed. Boston: Beacon Press. Chs. 6–8, 11–12 (61) **O**

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Chs. 1–2 (46) **R**

Huber, Evelyne, and John D. Stephens. 2001. *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Policies in Global Markets*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chs. 1–4 (112)

Huber, Evelyne, and John D. Stephens. 2012. *Democracy and the Left: Social Policy and Inequality in Latin America*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chs. 1–2 (52) **R**

Pierson, Paul. 1996. “The New Politics of the Welfare State.” *World Politics* 48, 2: 143-79. (37)

May 3: Final papers due (email to professor)

May 9: Final exam, 2-5 p.m., normal classroom