

Political Science V1501y
Tues/Thurs 10:40-11:55
Office Hours: Tues. 9-10 and by appointment

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Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts and three of the major themes in Comparative Politics: (1) The State, Political Regimes and Institutions; 2) Political Participation and State-Society Relations; and (3) Political Economy. Comparative politics as a sub-field of political science is based on the principle that through the comparison of politics in different countries, we can theorize about the historical development and future trajectories of individual or groups of countries. To illustrate the comparative method, we will be focusing on six countries—China, France, India, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States.

Course Requirements:

A. Examinations (Mid Term 30%, Final 30%)

There will be two exams for the class. The in-class mid-term will cover the first section of the course while the final exam scheduled by the University will cover material in the second and third sections of the course. For both exams, students will be expected to write clear, coherent essays and respond to short-answer questions that incorporate lecture notes and the assigned readings.

B. Term Paper (30%)

Students will be required to write a short term paper (7-10 pp). They will identify a topic and choose any country, other than the six we are focusing on, by Thursday, **10 March 2006** when they must submit to their discussion section instructor a paragraph outlining the topic and a short bibliography of preliminary sources, including three readings on each of the major themes of the course. The term paper is due on the **last day of classes**. The guidelines for the paper are available at: www.columbia.edu/~ljb34/comp_polts/paper_memo.html

Grading Policy Regarding Missed Exams and Late Papers: To avoid any penalties, students must sit for the exams when they are scheduled and turn in their assignments by the deadline. If there is a documented family or health emergency, the professor should be informed as soon as possible to reschedule the exam or arrange for an extension for the paper. Once an alternative date has been established, students must abide by the new deadline. Even in the case of a family or health emergency, the mid-term exam must be taken prior to the due date for the term paper, which must be submitted before the final exam, in order to ensure the coherency of the course. Students who cannot fulfill these requirements will be advised to drop the course.

Papers that are submitted late will receive a penalty of 1/3 the letter grade for each day they are late (e.g., when an assignment is a day late, an A+ becomes an A, which is lowered to an A- if submitted the following day, and then a B+ the next day, etc.) No paper will be accepted that is more than one week late. The professor and section instructors are not responsible for papers that are not submitted in person. For other information on grading, extensions and other issues related to the class: http://www.columbia.edu/~ljb34/comp_polts/class_memo.html

C. Participation in Required Discussion Section (10%)

Students are required to regularly attend class as well as a discussion section. Students must register for a discussion section by the second week of classes and may not change sections without prior authorization by the class instructor. To receive full credit for participation, students must regularly attend the discussion section, have completed the reading assignments for that week, and actively participate in the discussion.

Readings:

There is one textbook for this class which is available at Labyrinth Bookstore:

M. Kesselman et al (ed), *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (3rd edition, 2004).

I recommend purchasing the following volumes from which we are reading multiple chapters:

D. Held and A. McGrew. *The Global Transformations Reader* (2002).

R. Rotberg. *Crafting the New Nigeria* (2004).

Readings with links are available via the on-line syllabus:

www.columbia.edu/~ljb34/comp_polts/syllabus05.html.

A reading packet will be made available to students for the remaining readings.

**** All readings are also available on reserve at Barnard Library ****

SYLLABUS

Comparative Politics and The Comparative Method

Kesselman et al, "Introducing Comparative Politics," 5-23.

[G. Sartori, 1991. "Comparing and Meaning," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 3:3, 243-257.](#)

Case: USA

Kesselman et al, "United States"

[B.E. Shafer. 1989. "'Exceptionalism' in American Politics?" *PS* 22: 3, 588-594.](#)

I. The State, Regimes and Institutions

The State and Political Authority

M. Mann. 1984. "The Autonomous Power of the State" *Archives Européennes de Sociologie* 185-213.

M. Weber. 1947. "The Types of Authority and Imperative Co-ordination," *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*. 324-373.

Case: Nigeria

Kesselman et al., "Nigeria"

[P. Ekeh. 1975. "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17\(1\) 91-112.](#)

D. Kew. 2004. "The 2003 Elections: Hardly Credible, But Acceptable," *Crafting the New Nigeria*, 139-173.

Regimes: Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism

J. Linz & A. Stepan 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. 38-54.

Case: China

Kesselman et al. "China"

Journal of Democracy. 2003. 14:1

[A. Nathan. "China: Authoritarian Resilience," 6-17](#)

[B. Gilley. "The Limits of Authoritarian Resilience," 18-26](#)

Current History. 2005. 104: 683.

[Y. Sun. "Corruption, Growth and Reform: The Chinese Enigma," 257-263.](#)

[P.H. Gries. "Chinese Nationalism: Challenging the State?" 251-256.](#)

Regimes: Democracy/Polyarchy

R. Dahl. 1971. *Polyarchy*. 1-32.

P. Schmitter & T. L. Karl. 1991. "What Democracy is ... and is Not," *J of Democracy*, 2:1, 75-88

Case: India

Kesselman et al. "India"

[S. Ganguly. 2003, "The Crisis of Indian Secularism," *Journal of Democracy* 14:4, 11-25.](#)

Regime Transitions: Democratization and Consolidation

Journal of Democracy, 1996, 7:2

[J. Linz & A. Stepan, "Toward Consolidated Democracies," 14-33](#)

[G. O'Donnell. "Illusions about Consolidation," 34-51.](#)

Case: Mexico

Kessleman et al. "Mexico"

[D. Solinger, 2001. "Ending One-Party Dominance: Korea, Taiwan, Mexico," *J of Democracy*, 12:1, 30-42.](#)

[D. Dresser. "Fox's Mexico Democracy Paralyzed," *Current History*. February 2005. 64-68.](#)

Presidential and Parliamentary Systems

[A. Stepan and C Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarianism vs. Presidentialism," *World Politics* 46:1, 1-22.](#)

J. Linz. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy*. Winter. 51-69

Case: France

Kesselman et al. "France"

[D. Bell. 2004. "Parliamentary Democracy in France," *Parliamentary Affairs* 57:3, 533-49.](#)

E. Suleiman. 1994. "Presidentialism and Political Stability in France," *The Failure of Presidential Democracy*. 137-162.

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Conducting Secondary Research at Barnard/Columbia

II. Political Participation and State-Society Relations

Political Representation and Electoral Systems

- A. Phillips. 1998. "Democracy and Representation: Or, Why Should it Matter who our Representatives Are?" *Feminism and Politics*. 224-240.
- A. Przeworski, S. Stokes and B. Manin. 1999. "Elections and Representation," *Democracy Accountability, and Representation*. 29-54.

Political Society, Civil Society and Social Capital

- [M. Foley and B. Edwards. 1998. "Civil Society and Social Capital: Beyond Putnam," *American Behavioral Scientist* 42:1, 124-139.](#)
- [S. Berman. 1997. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics*. 49.3: 401-429.](#)

Case: USA

- [R. Putnam. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy*, 65-78.](#)

Social Movements and Collective Action

- C. Tilly. 2004. *Social Movements, 1768-2004*. Ch. 1, 5 and 7

Case: Mexico

- [R. Stahler-Sholk. 2001. "Globalization and Social Movement Resistance: The Zapatista Rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico," *New Political Science* 23:4, 493-516.](#)

In-Class Film: "A Place Called Chiapas"

Politicized Identity: Theories of Identity Politics

- J. Eller and R. Coughlan. 1993. "The Poverty of Primordialism" *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, 187-201
- S. Grosby. 1994. "The Verdict of History- A Response to Eller and Coughlan," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 17:2, 164-171.
- [S. Malesevic. 2002. "Rational Choice Theory and the Sociology of Ethnic Relations: A Critique," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 25:2, p. 193-212.](#)

Case: Nigeria

- D. Laitin. 1985. "Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland," in *Bringing the State Back In*. 285-314.
- In *Crafting a New Nigeria*. 2004:
- J. Paden. "Unity with Diversity: Toward Democratic Federalism," 17-38.
- R. Suberu. "Democratizing Nigeria's Federal Experiment," 61-83.
- I. Sagay. "Reordering Nigerian Federalism: Making it More Confederal," 85-98.

Nationalism in Comparative Perspective: Civic vs. Ethno-Nationalism

- [D. Brown. 1999. "Are there Good and Bad Nationalisms?" *Nations and Nationalism* 5:2, 281-302.](#)

Case: France

- [A. Marx. 2002. "The Nation-State and its Exclusions," *Polit Science Quarterly* 117:1, 103-26.](#)

IV. Political Economy

Economic Development and Political Regime Change

J. Rapley. 2002. *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World*. Ch. 1

S. M. Lipset. 1981. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. Ch. 2

[A. Przeworski and F. Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theory and Facts," *World Politics*. 155-183.](#)

Economic Development and the Environment: China

[E. Economy. 2005. "China's Environmental Challenge," *Current History*. 278-283.](#)

Additional Readings TBA

The Development State: India

P. Evans. 1992. "The State as Problem and Solution: Predation, Embedded Autonomy and Adjustment" in *The Politics of Economic Adjustment*.

A. Kholi. 2004. *State Directed Development*. 7.

The State and the Global Economy

The Global Transformations Reader: An Intro to the Globalization Debate. 2002.

D. Held and A. McGrew. "The Great Globalization Debate: An Introduction," 1-49.

S. Strange. "The Declining Authority of States," 121-126.

P. Dicken. "A New Geo-Economy," 299-310.

F. Scharpf. "Globalization and the Political Economy of Capitalist Democracies," 370-378.

R. Wade and M. Wolf, "Are Global Poverty and Inequality Getting Worse?" 440-446.

Evening Session:

Diplomatic Forum: The Role of African Immigrants in the Development of the Continent

The Political and Economic Crisis of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

D. Smith. 2004. "HIV/AIDS in Nigeria: The Challenges of a National Epidemic," *Crafting a New Nigeria*. 199-217.

[R. Fredland. 1998. "AIDS and Development: An Inverse Correlation?" *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 36:4, 547-568.](#)

[J. Sachs et al. 2001. "The Effect of the AIDS Epidemic on Economic Welfare in Sub-Saharan Africa."](#)

Conclusion and Review Session

TERM PAPER DUE IN LAST DAY OF CLASSES

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