

PS 220: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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Fall 2008
Aug. 23 – Dec. 20
Section 001
ECON 1002
MWF 10-10:50
CRN: 11525

Course Description. This course offers an introduction to the comparative study of government. We will explore the ways in which political systems differ around the world, the reasons for these differences, and the outcomes that result from these differences. The class begins with the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories used in the field of comparative politics, including rationalist, structuralist, culturalist, and institutionalist arguments about the sources of political outcomes. We will use this foundation as a platform from which to analyze different countries and regions of the world, as well as the substantive issues they face, e.g., stability, development, democratization, human rights, and civil war. In doing so, we will see how the logic of comparison helps explain patterns of continuity and change across political systems, and provides lessons for public policy decisions both in the United States and abroad. Principal course requirements include three exams and a short paper.

Objectives. The objective of this course is to teach you to think critically and self-consciously, i.e., carefully, about the world's political systems. This means that you will be expected to do three things. First, you will learn and demonstrate a variety of analytic tools: concepts, methods, and theories. Second, you will learn and demonstrate your substantive knowledge of political actors, institutions, cultures, and events from different parts of the world. Finally, you will be expected to apply the analytical skills you've learned to the substantive facts of a particular country or time period in order to explain political phenomena.

Requirements.

Readings. The main text for this course is *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*, by W. Phillips Shively (11th ed.). There are both used and new copies available in the UNM Bookstore. Reading will be supplemented with articles and other short pieces, as well as Marjane Satrapi's novel, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, which is also at the Bookstore. All other readings are available on electronic reserve (eReserve) at the UNM Libraries website (ereserves.unm.edu; password = "lobo220-1") Please see the class schedule below for a detailed list of the reading assignments for each class; **all required readings are marked with an asterisk**. You should expect to read an average of approximately 30-40 pages for each day of class. Please stay current with the reading as it will enhance your ability to participate in class.

In addition to the required reading, I strongly recommend you read a major newspaper every day. This class deals with domestic and international events that are in the headlines every day. If you are familiar with some of the facts surrounding these events you will be able to contribute this information to the class and be in a better position to understand the material presented in class. I have provided links to several online news sources on the class webpage.

- Link to news sources on the web at: www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220

Participation. Active engagement with the material is critical to your success in this class. Generally, you need to encounter the material three different times in order for you to understand it in any depth. For some people, this may be easy to do independently. However, for most people, the easiest and fastest (and most efficient) way to encounter the material three times is to (1) read for class, (2) participate in class discussions, and (3) write notes, outline, or review the material after class. Therefore, please stay current with the reading and try to participate in class.

Exams. There will be three exams. Exam 1 will cover concepts and methods from the first part of the semester. Exam 2 will cover theoretical frameworks from the middle of the course. Exam 3 will cover substantive problems covered in the last third of the semester. The exams are not cumulative, and are scheduled for the following dates:

- Exam 1: Wed, September 17.
- Exam 2: Wed, October 29.
- Exam 3: Final Exam Period, December 15-20.

Paper. You will be asked to write a short paper for this class (5-6 pages). The paper is due on the last day of class, Friday, December 12.

You will have the option of writing on one of two topics: (1) an explanation of a single country, discussing how the characteristics of the country have influenced political events over time, or (2) a comparison of two countries and how the characteristics of each influenced similar or different events in each country.

Your paper should contain the following six sections: (1) identify your research topic or question; (2) state why this topic or question is important in comparative politics; (3) provide an overview of relevant concepts and methods; (4) discuss theory that suggests how you will approach your topic or try to answer your question; (5) present your evidence and observations; and (6) conclude with a summary of your topic, approach, and results. Your grade for the paper will depend on the extent to which you clearly identify and address each of these sections. Additionally, please make sure to cite all sources properly and include a bibliography. The bibliography does not count as part of the length requirement. Papers should be double spaced and use 12-point font.

This paper should not require much outside research. If you find yourself doing what seems like far too much research for these papers, please come talk with me. The paper is intended primarily as a way for you to reflect upon the material covered in class, organize a coherent and thoughtful response, and demonstrate your understanding of the analytical, theoretical, and substantive material presented in class, applying it to a country or pair of countries of your choice.

Grading.

- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 30%
- Exam 3 30%
- Paper 20%

Late Work and Missed Exams. All work must be turned in within the first 10 minutes of class on the day it is due, or by 5pm if there is no class on the due date. Without a legitimate (e.g.,

medical or family emergency) and documented explanation, late work will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late, and it is considered late if turned in beyond the time limits above (i.e., after the first 10 minutes of class, or after 5pm on days there is no class).

Academic Honesty. Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and honesty, including plagiarism. Consequences for violations can be very severe. Section 2.4 of UNM’s Student Code of Conduct defines academic dishonesty as “including, but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records”. The Code of Conduct, including student rights and responsibilities, is available from the Dean of Students, or online at: http://www.unm.edu/~doso/ja_codeofconduct.html.

Email. I expect you to check your email. You are responsible for material sent by email.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Miscellaneous. If you feel like you need any help or simply want clarification on any of the material or assignments, please do not hesitate to raise your question in class or approach me outside of class. I will hold regular office hours twice weekly throughout the semester (MW 11-12:30). If you cannot arrange to talk with me during these hours, we can make an appointment.

CLASS SCHEDULE

I. Introduction

Class 1 (M 8/25): Introduction; overview of course
Country cases: UK/France, Iran/Iraq/Pakistan, Mexico/Brazil, China/India/Russia, Nigeria.
Groups

Class 2 (W 8/27): Introduction
Film: CNN series – “Comparative Politics”

Class 3 (F 8/29): no class (review library tutorial online at elibrary.unm.edu/instruction.php)

No class Monday 9/01 – Labor Day

Class 4 (W 9/03): Library research instruction
Zimmerman Library, Room B-30 (basement)

Class 5 (F 9/05): Why compare?
* Shively, Ch. 1
* “Symposium: The Relevance of Comparative Politics for Public Life.” *APSA-CP Newsletter* 15(2) Summer 2003: 7-22. (eReserves)

II. Concepts and Methods

Class 6 (M 9/08): Concepts & Methods

* Shively: Ch. 3

* Kaldor, Mary. 2004. "Nationalism & Globalisation." *Nations & Nationalism* 10(1/2): 161-177. (eReserves).

Class 7 (W 9/10): Concepts and Methods

* Shively, Ch. 7, Appendix, and Glossary

* Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64: 1033-53. (eReserves)

Class 8 (F 9/12): Concepts and Methods

* Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65: 682-693. (eReserves)

Class 9 (M 9/15): Concepts and Methods

* EIU Country Reports (2) for your two countries (eReserves)

Class 10 (W/9/17): Exam 1

III. Theoretical Approaches

Class 11 (F 9/19): Theory - Introduction

* Shively, Ch. 5

* Lichbach, Mark and Zuckerman. 1997. "Introduction." *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. (eReserves)

Class 12 (M 9/22): Political Economy 1: Micro-Analytic Perspectives (Rationalism)

* Shively: review pp. 120-22, and read 244-249

* Blais, André, Robert Young, & Miriam Lapp. 2000. "The Calculus of Voting: An Empirical Test." *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 181-201. (E-Reserves)

Class 13 (W 9/24): Political Economy 1, cont.

* Shively, Ch. 12

Experiment in class

Class 14 (F 9/26): Political Economy 2: Macro-Analytic Perspectives (Structuralism)

* Chilcote, Ronald. 1994. "Theories of Development and Underdevelopment." In Chilcote, *Theories of Comparative Politics*, 2nd ed. Ch. 7 (read only pp. 215-250 and 262-268). (eReserves)

Class 15 (M 9/29): Political Economy 2, cont.

* Limongi, Fernando, and Adam Przeworski. 1997. "Modernization: Theory and Facts." *World Politics* 49: 155-83. (eReserves)

Class 17 (F 10/03): Political Economy 2, cont.

* Karl, Terry Lynn. 1997. *Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States*. Ch. 1. (eReserves)

Class 16 (W 10/01): Political Culture (Culturalism)

* Shively, Ch. 2 & 8

Class 18 (M 10/06): Political Culture, cont.

* Huntington, Samuel. "Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs* 72: 22-49.

* "The Man in the Baghdad Café." *The Economist*, Nov. 9, 1996: 23-26. (E-Reserves)

Class 19 (W 10/08): Political Culture, cont.

* Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*.

Class 20 (F 10/10): Political Culture, cont.

Video: *Persepolis*, part 1

Class 21 (M 10/13): Political Culture, cont.

Video: *Persepolis*, part 2

Class 22 (W 10/15): Institutions 1 – Constitutions

* Shively, Ch. 9

Cases: US, UK, France, Iraq, Russia

No Class Friday 10/17 – FALL BREAK

Class 23 (M 10/20): Institutions 2 – Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

* Shively, Ch. 14-15

Cases: US, UK, France

Class 24 (W 10/22): Institutions 2, cont.

(same readings as last class)

Video: Prime Minister's Questions (<http://www.parliamentlive.tv>)

Class 25 (F 10/24): Institutions 3 – Electoral Rules and Party Systems

* Shively, Ch. 10 (minus pp. 244-49) and Ch. 11

Cases: Brazil, France, Mexico, India

Class 26 (M 10/27): Institutions 3, cont.

* Allen, Christopher. 2004. "The Case for a Multi-Party U.S. Parliament: American Politics in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 04/05*. (eReserves)

* Norris, Pippa. 2004. "Comment: Does PR Promote Political Extremism, Redux."

Representation 40(3) (eReserves)

Experiment in class

Class 27 (W 10/29): Exam 2

IV. Substantive Problems in Comparative Politics

Class 28 (F 10/31): Stability and Economic Development

* Williamson, John. 2000. "What Should the World Bank Think About the Washington Consensus?" *World Bank Research Observer* (Aug.): 251-264. (eReserves)

* Naím, Moisés. 2000. "Washington Consensus or Washington Confusion?" *Foreign Policy* (Spring): 87-103. (eReserves)
Cases: Mexico, India, China, Nigeria

Class 29 (M 11/03): Stability and Economic Development, cont.
* Weyland, Kurt. 2004. "Assessing Latin American Neoliberalism." *Latin American Research Review* 39(3): 143-149. (eReserves)

Class 30 (W 11/05): Stability and Economic Development
* Guthrie, Doug. 2003. "China: The Quiet Revolution – The Emergence of Capitalism." *Harvard International Review* (Summer). (eReserves)

Class 31 (F 11/07): Stability and Economic Development, cont.
* Karl, Terry Lynn. *Paradox of Plenty*. Ch. 9 (eReserves)
Cases: Nigeria, Iran

Class 32 (M 11/10): Stability and Economic Development, cont.
* Goldberg, Ellis, Erik Wibbels, and Eric Mvukiyehe. 2008. "Lessons from Strange Cases: Democracy, Development, and the Resource Curse in the U.S. States." *Comparative Political Studies* 41: 477-514. (eReserves)

Class 33 (W 11/12): Democratization
* Shively: review pp. 151-59 in Ch. 7
* Amuzegar, Jahangir. 2003. "Iran's Crumbling Revolution." *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb): 44-57. (eReserves)
* Smith, Tony and Larry Diamond. 2004. "Was Iraq a Fool's Errand?" *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec) (eReserves)
Cases: Iran, Iraq, Mexico, India

Class 34 (F 11/14): Democratization, cont.
* Shively, Ch. 13
* "The Hourglass of the Zapatistas." Interview with Subcomandante Marcos, interviewed by Gabriel García Márquez & Roberto Pombo. In Tom Mertes, ed., *A Movement of Movements: Is Another World Really Possible?* London: Verso, 2004. pp. 3-15. (eReserves)
* Baer, M. Delal. 2004. "Mexico at an Impasse." *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb). (eReserves)
* Rudolph, Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph. 2002. "New Dimensions of Indian Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 13(1). (eReserves)

Cases: France, Mexico, Iran, Brazil

Class 35 (M 11/17): Democratization, cont.
* Shively, Ch. 17
* UNDP Report (2004), pp. 49-73 (from "Theoretical Groundings", focus on pp. 62-73), and 102-118 (on "Civil Citizenship") (eReserve)
* Sen, Amartya. 1999. "Freedom as the Foundation of Justice." (eReserve)
* Woolcock, Michael and Deepa Narayan. 2000. "Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research & Policy." *World Bank Research Observer* 15(2). (eReserves)

Class 36 (W 11/19): Democratization, cont.

* O'Donnell, Guillermo. 2001. "Democracy, Law, and Comparative Politics." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1) (read only pages 7-12 and 19-29).

Class 37 (F 11/21): Armed Conflict & Political Violence

* *NYTimes* piece online on "conflict diamonds" in African countries (available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/africa/040600africa-diamonds.html>)

* Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2001. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." World Bank. (eReserves)

Class 38 (M 11/24): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

Video: *Blood Diamond*, part 1

Class 39 (W 11/26): Armed Conflict & Political Violence

Video: *Blood Diamond*, part 2

No Class Friday 11/28 – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Class 40 (M 12/01): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

Finish *Blood Diamond*; discussion & review

Class 41 (W 12/03): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

* Shively: Ch. 18 (only pp. 413-426)

* Wilson, Robin. 2001. "The Politics of Contemporary Ethno-Nationalist Conflict." *Nations & Nationalism* 7(3): 365-384. (eReserves)

Class 42 (F 12/05): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

* "Symposium: Cumulative Findings in the Study of Ethnic Politics." *APSA-CP Newsletter* (Winter 2001): 7-25. (eReserves)

Cases: Iran, Mexico

Class 43 (M 12/08): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

Video: *Triumph of Evil*, part 1

Class 44 (W 12/10): Armed Conflict & Political Violence, cont.

Finish *Triumph of Evil*; discussion & review

Class 45 (F 12/12): Review; PAPER DUE TODAY – Friday December 12

Final Exam Period (Dec. 15-20): Exam 3