

**Comparative Politics Field Seminar**  
**PS 2301**  
**University of Pittsburgh • Fall 2021**

**Professor Jae-Jae Spoon**

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Office Hours: Weds. 3:30-5pm or by appointment in 4441 Posvar. You can also find me in my European Studies (UCIS) office—4211 Posvar.

**Description**

In this class, you will be introduced to a broad cross-section of research in comparative politics. There are two major goals for this course. First, this course is designed to provide you with a foundation for taking advanced classes in comparative politics and an understanding of the intersection of comparative politics with other sub-fields. Second, this course will help you prepare for the comparative politics comprehensive exam. We will focus both on the classics and on recent debates in the literature. Each week will focus on a broad topic. For your research papers, you will have the opportunity to delve into a topic that most interests you.

<b>Course Information and Policies</b>
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**Course Materials**

We will be reading selections from several classic texts. We will be reading more than half of the following three books, so please purchase copies. Used paperbacks of each are available for under \$20 from your favorite Internet sites. All other readings are available either on-line (articles) or on Canvas (C) (book chapters or articles not available on line). In lieu of listing additional recommended readings for each week, please consult the updated CP exam reading list, available on Canvas. The structure of the course and the reading list for the exam largely mirror each other.

Hirschman, Albert. 1970. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Putnam, Robert, Robert Leonardi, and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. 1993. *Making Democracy Work. Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2011. *Power in Movement. Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press. \*\*Make sure you buy the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

## Assessments

**Reading and Participation.** Do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss, debate, ask questions. Participation is 20% of your grade, which includes leading discussion once (5% of your participation grade). For the week you are the discussion leader, please post your questions on Canvas (Discussions) by 5pm on Tues. Make sure you review the discussion leader's questions each week before class. We will determine the discussion schedule on the first day of class.

**Response Papers.** 3 (4-5 pages double-spaced) reading response papers—30% of your grade (each paper is worth 10%). You may choose the weeks you wish to work on. We will select weeks the first day of class. At least one of these needs to be completed by Week 7. Papers will be due before class that week on Canvas (Assignments). No exceptions. These papers are meant to be analytical response papers and not simply restatements of the readings. You should work to synthesize the readings by focusing on one issue, debate, concept, etc. in the readings. You do not need to include all of the readings for a given week, but cannot just focus on 1 or 2. You should coordinate the day you sign-up to lead discussion with one of the days you plan to write a response paper.

**Research Design.** (15 double-spaced pages)—30% of your grade. The goal of the research design is to give you an opportunity to focus in depth on a question related to comparative politics and how you would design a project to study this. The paper will take the form of an empirical journal article or conference paper and have a research question, brief literature review, hypotheses, discussion of the research method and data you would use to answer your question. Some preliminary analysis can also be included, though is not required. **Please note:** This paper should be \*distinct\* from those you've written for other classes and from your MA. It can, however, build on (or relate to) something you've written/are writing, especially for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Political Science students. The proposal (a paragraph with a preliminary hypothesis and some data ideas) for the project is due Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Paper drafts are to be circulated to me and your assigned reader no later than Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The paper will be due **Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

**Final Exam.** 20% of your grade. The exam is meant to simulate a comprehensive exam. The exam will be 'take-home' and you will have 8 hours to answer 2 questions. The exam will be open book/article and open note. It is scheduled for **Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm.** Please plan accordingly and let me know as soon as possible if you have a conflict with a class for which you are the TA or other exams. Non-Political Science students may opt to not take the exam and can work individually with Prof. Spoon to determine what the substitute work will be. Please make these arrangements within the first couple of weeks of the semester.

## Evaluation

All work will be weighted according to the break-down described above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-B, etc. broken down as follows: 97-100=A+; 94-96=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-...

## Class Policies

**Expectations.** I expect you to come to class prepared to participate. Please have all readings with you and make sure you have looked at (and thought about) the discussion questions before class. When you're in class, I expect you to be fully engaged. To this end, I would like your cameras to be turned on if, and when, we are remote. If for some reason you are not comfortable with your camera on, please let me know.

**Attendance.** As this is a graduate seminar, I expect you to attend *all* sessions. Should something come up that will prevent you from attending class, please let me know in advance or as soon as you can. We will make arrangements to meet outside of class to discuss the material.

**Communication.** Please make sure you check your Pitt email regularly. This is how I will communicate with you. Should you need to reach me, please email me directly. I will typically respond within a few hours (as long as it's not the middle of the night).

**Extensions and Alternate Dates.** In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due. We will work together to come up with a solution.

**Late Policy.** A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, I will no longer accept it.

**Grade Appeals.** Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received.

**Academic Integrity.** Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated by the instructor, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. More information and the complete policy can be found at <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

**Classroom Recording.** To ensure free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor. Any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

**Accommodations.** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), drsrecp@pitt.edu, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, please see <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

**Health and Safety.** In the midst of this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. While in class, this means you must wear a face covering. These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all community members. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in you not being permitted to attend class in person and could result in a Student Conduct violation. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu> and check your Pitt email for updates before each class.

## Syllabus

### **Week 1 (Sept. 1): Diving Into CP: Questions and Methods**

Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review*. 65.3: 682-693.

Przeworski Adam and Henry Teune. 1970. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. Malebar, FL: Krieger, pp. 1-47. [C]

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2.1:131-150.

Coppedge, Michael. 1999. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* 31.4: 465-476.

Gerring, John. 2004. "What is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review*. 98: 341-354.

Pepinsky, Thomas B. 2019. "The Return of the Single-Country Study." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 22: 187-203.

## **Week 2 (Sept. 8): States, State Building and Bringing the State Back In**

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-43 and 284-293. [C]

Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research." In Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-37. [C]

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 169-191. [C]

<https://broadstreet.blog/2021/07/23/tilly-goes-to-church-the-medieval-and-religious-origins-of-the-european-state/>

Centeno, Miguel. 1997. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth Century Latin America." *American Journal of Sociology*. 102.6: 1565-1605.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1. [C]

Ding, Iza. 2020. "Performative Governance." *World Politics*. 72.4: 525-556.

## **Week 3 (Sept. 15): Comparative Political Economy of Development**

Deutsch, Karl W. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *American Political Science Review* 55: 493-514.

Valenzuela, J. Samuel and Arturo Valenzuela. 1978. "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment." *Comparative Politics*. 10: 535-557.

Remmer, Karen. 1997. "Theoretical Decay and Theoretical Development: The Resurgence of Institutional Analysis." *World Politics*. 50.1 : 34-61.

Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics*. 49.2: 155-183.

Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes. 2003. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics*. 55.4: 517-549.

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origin of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review*. 91.5: 1369-1401.

#### **Week 4 (Sept. 22): Democratization and Democratic Consolidation**

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Ch. 1-2. [C]

Huntington, Samuel. 1991. "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy*. 2.2: 12-34.

Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 4. [C]

Przeworski, Adam, Michael Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub and Fernando Limongi. 1996. "What Makes Democracies Endure?" *Journal of Democracy*. 7.1: 39-55

Ross, Michael. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics*. 53.3. 325-361.

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 2-3. [C]

Riedl, Rachel Beatty, Dan Slater, Joseph Wong, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2020. "Authoritarian-Led Democratization." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 23.1: 315-332.

#### **Week 5 (Sept. 29): Political Culture and Political Attitudes**

Almond, Gabriel and Sidney Verba. 1965. *The Civic Culture. Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Boston, MA: Little Brown and Company. Chapters 1, 12, 13. [C]

Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. Chapters 1-6. [C]

Schaffer, Frederic. 1998. *Democracy in Translation: Understanding Politics in an Unfamiliar Culture*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Ch 1-2. [C]

Elkins, David J. and Richard E.B. Simeon. 1979. "A Cause in Search of Its Effects, or What Does Political Culture Explain?" *Comparative Politics*. 11: 127-146.

Alesina, Alberto and Paola Giuliano. 2015. "Culture and Institutions." *Journal of Economic Literature*. 53.4: 898-944.

Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review*. 101.7: 3221-3252.

### **Week 6 (Oct. 6): Civil Society**

Putnam, Robert, Robert Leonardi, and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. 1993. *Making Democracy Work. Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-4.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. "Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*." *American Political Science Review* . 90.2: 389-397.

Berman, Sheri. 1997. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics*. 49.3: 401-429.

Booth, John and Patricia Beyer Richard. 1998. "Civil Society, Political Capital, and Democratization in Central America." *Journal of Politics*. 60.3: 780-800.

Foley, Michael W. and Bob Edwards. 1996. "The Paradox of Civil Society." *Journal of Democracy*. 7.3: 38-52.

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond." *World Politics*. 53.3: 362-398.

### **Week 7 (Oct. 13): Ethnic and Identity and Politics**

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections of the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso. Pgs. 36-46. [C]

Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9: 397-424.

Horowitz, Donald. 1993. "The Challenge of Ethnic Conflict: Democracy in Divided Societies." *Journal of Democracy*. 4.4: 18-38.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review*. 90.4: 715-35.

Posner, Daniel. 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: 529-545.

Conroy-Krutz, Jeffrey. 2012. "Information and Ethnic Politics in Ghana." *British Journal of Political Science*. 43.2: 345-373.

Arriola, Leonardo, Donghyun Danny Choi, Matthew Gichohi, and Ken Ochieng' Opalo. "Do Voters Respond to Cross-Ethnic Campaigning in Divided Societies?" Unpublished manuscript. [C]

### **Week 8 (Oct. 20). Political Participation and Collective Action**

Hirschman, Albert. 1970. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-4, 7, 9.

Olson, Mancur. 1965. *Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Ch. 1-2. [C]

Powell, G. Bingham. 1986. "American Voter Turnout in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review*. 80.1: 17-43.

Brady, Henry, Sidney Verba and Kay Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review*. 89.2: 271-294.

Finkel, Steven E. and Edward N. Muller. 1998. "Rational Choice and the Dynamics of Collective Political Action: Evaluating Alternative Models with Panel Data." *American Political Science Review*. 92.1: 37-49.

Gerber, Alan, Gregory Huber, David Doherty and Conor Dowling. 2016. "Why People Vote: Estimating the Social Return to Voting." *British Journal of Political Science*. 46.2: 241-264.

### **Week 9 (Oct. 27): Social Movements and Contentious Politics**

Tarrow, Sidney. 2011 (1998). *Power in Movement. Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press. Entire (except ch. 3-4).

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 2001. *Dynamics of Contention*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-2. [C]

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics*. 44.1: 7-48.

Pearlman, Wendy. 2013. "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings," *Perspectives on Politics*. 11.2: 387-409.



### **Week 10 (Nov. 3): Voting Behavior**

Lijphart, Arend. 1979. "Religious vs. Linguistic vs. Class Voting: The "Crucial Experiment" of Comparing Belgium, Canada, South Africa, and Switzerland." *American Political Science Review*. 73.2: 442-458.

Evans, Geoffrey and James Tilley. 2012. "How Parties Shape Class Politics: Explaining the Decline of the Class Basis of Party Support." *British Journal of Political Science*. 42.1: 137-161.

Clarke, Harold D., David Sanders, Marianne C. Stewart, and Paul Whiteley. 2009. "The American Voter's British Cousin." *Electoral Studies*. 28: 632-641.

Baker, Andy, Barry Ames, and Lucio R. Renno. 2006. "Social Context and Campaign Volatility in New Democracies: Networks and Neighborhoods in Brazil's 2002 Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 50.2: 382-399.

Powell, G. Bingham and Guy D. Whitten. 1993. "A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Voting: Taking Account of the Political Context." *American Journal of Political Science*. 37.2: 391-414.

Kedar, Orit. 2005. "When Moderate Voters Prefer Extreme Parties: Policy Balancing in Parliamentary Elections." *American Political Science Review*. 99.2: 185-99.

Nichter, Simeon. 2008. "Vote Buying or Turnout Buying? Machine Politics and Secret Ballots." *American Political Science Review*. 102.1: 19-31.

### **Week 11 (Nov. 10): Political Parties and Party Systems**

Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1990 (1967). "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *The West European Party System*, ed. Peter Mair. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 91-138. [C]

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Boston: Harper Collins. Ch. 2, 7-8. [C]

Aldrich, John. 2011. *Why Parties?: The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America. A Second Look*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1-2. [C]

Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review*. 99.3: 347-359.

Klüver, Heike and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2016. "Who Responds? Voters, Parties, and Issue Attention." *British Journal of Political Science*. 46.3: 633-654.

Thachil, Tariq. 2014. "Elite Parties, Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India." *American Political Science Review*. 108.2: 454-477.

Lupu, Noam. 2014. "Brand Dilution and the Breakdown of Political Parties in Latin America." *World Politics*. 66.4: 561-602.

## **Week 12 (Nov. 17): Electoral Systems and the Rules of the Game**

\*If you need a primer on electoral systems: Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2018. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Ch. 13. [C]

Powell, G. Bingham. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions*. New Haven: Yale UP. Ch. 1-2. [C]

Cox, Gary. 1997. *Making Votes Count*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chaps. 2-3. [C]

Clark, William Roberts and Matt Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws." *Comparative Political Studies*. 39.6: 679-708.

Moser, Robert. 1999. "Electoral Systems and the Number of Parties in Postcommunist States." *World Politics*. 51.3: 359-384.

Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review*. 93.3: 609-624.

Ahmed, Amel. 2010. "Reading History Forward: The Origins of Electoral Systems in European Democracies." *Comparative Political Studies*. 43:8/9: 1059-1088.

**Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

## **Week 13 (Dec. 1): Institutionalism, Democratic Institutions and Their Outcomes**

Hall, Peter and Rosemary Taylor. 1999. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44: 936-958.

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New Have, CT: Yale UP. Chapters 1-3. [C]

Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew S. Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics*. 29.4: 449-471.

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.

Martin, Lanny W. and Stevenson, Randolph T. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45.1: 33-50.

Bednar, Jenna. 2011. "The Political Science of Federalism." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*. 7: 269-288.

North, Douglas C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: CUP. Ch. 9-11. [C]

#### **Week 14 (Dec. 8): Comparative Political Economy of Developed Democracies**

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP. Ch. 1. [C]

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

Thelen, Kathleen. 2014. *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity*. New York: Cambridge UP. Ch. 1. [C]

Lupu, Noam and Jonas Pontusson. 2011. "The Structure of Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution." *American Political Science Review*. 105.2: 316-336.

Anderson, Christopher J. and Pablo Beramendi. 2012. "Left Parties, Poor Voters and Electoral Participation in Advanced Industrial Societies." *Comparative Political Studies*. 45.6:714-746.

Hays, Jude. 2021. "Taxing the Tails in a Global Economy: How Electoral, Party and Wage Bargaining Systems Interact to Determine the Taxes Paid by the Poor and Rich." *British Journal of Political Science*. DOI:10.1017/S0007123420000861.

#### **Coming Up:**

- **Papers are due on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**
- **Take home exam is on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm**