

Political Science 209  
Brown University  
Spring 2006

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Office Hours: Tues., 3:30-5:30

### **Models of Excellence in Comparative Politics: Classic Works and the Scholars Who Produce Them**

The premise of this seminar is that close engagement with powerful models of excellence in scholarship helps us do our best work. The seminar thus exposes students to classic works and leading scholars in comparative politics. Rather than focusing on theoretical approaches or schools of research, as do most surveys of comparative politics, this course focuses instead on the scholars who produced the field's major works. We read a set of works that illustrate the intellectual styles, breadth, and contributions of the leading scholars in comparative politics. We also read in-depth interviews with these scholars where they reflect on their intellectual formation, their works and ideas, the nuts and bolts of the research process, their relationships with colleagues, collaborators and students, and the evolution of the field. Too often students experience the fundamental works in the field as disembodied, reified "texts." Yet behind every work of scholarship are real people with passions, interests, and formative life experiences. The interviews open a unique and valuable window onto this human dimension of scholarship. Finally, by focusing on canonical works that have stood the test of time, the course sets in a broader perspective the current controversies in the field, such as the contributions of rational choice theory, area studies, and various methodological tools to generating knowledge about the political world.

#### **Requirements**

I. *Participation* (20%): This course is a seminar. Its success depends on students reading all the assigned work for each session and contributing actively to seminar discussion. This means you should come to class having thought enough about the readings to comment intelligently on where you think they say something useful and where you think they are unhelpful.

In addition, each student will write short weekly memos (2-4 pages) highlighting what you learned from each week's readings. **The memos should be sent to me by e-mail and are due at 5 pm on Wednesday before each class.**

II. *Papers* (80%): Each student will write two 10-20 page papers on topics to be announced by the instructor. The first paper will be due during the middle of the semester. The second paper will be due at the end of the semester. Each student will also

write two short papers (3-5 pages) that assess and critique scholarly talks or presentations of their choosing.

## Readings

The following nine books should be purchased. They are available at the Brown University Bookstore.

- Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1971.
- Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1968.
- David D. Laitin, *Identity in Formation: The Russian-speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998.
- Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999.
- Barrington Moore, Jr. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1966.
- Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.
- Adam Przeworski, et. al., *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Material Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- James C. Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979.

Most of the additional reading is available on-line at any Brown-linked computer terminal. During the first class meeting, we will discuss procedures for getting the readings that are not available on-line.

## Overview of Class Sessions

1. Introduction: Are There Classics in Political Science?
2. Passion and Craft in the Social Sciences
3. Gabriel A. Almond: Structural Functionalism and Political Development
4. Robert A. Dahl: Normative Theory, Empirical Research, and Democracy
5. Barrington Moore, Jr.: The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis
6. Samuel P. Huntington: Order and Conflict in Global Perspective
7. Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan: Political Regimes, Democratic Governance and the Quest for Knowledge
8. Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter: Democratization and Agenda-Setting Research
9. Arend Lijphart: Political Institutions, Divided Societies and Consociational Democracy
10. James C. Scott: Peasants, Power and the Art of Resistance
11. Adam Przeworski: Capitalism, Democracy and Science
12. Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin: Rational Choice Theory and Comparative Politics
13. David Collier and Theda Skocpol: Comparative Historical Analysis and Comparative Politics
14. Conclusion: The Shape of Comparative Politics to Come

## **1. Introduction: Are There Classics in Political Science? (February 2)**

Gabriel A. Almond, "Political Science: A History of the Discipline," pp. 50-96 in Robert E. Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *A New Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Gerardo L. Munck, "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics," in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming.

Robert K. Merton, "The Uses and Abuses of Classical Theory: Humanistic and Scientific Aspects of Sociology," pp. 23-33 in Piotr Sztompka, ed. *Robert K. Merton: On Social Structure and Science*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Barbara Geddes, "Paradigms and Sand Castles in Comparative Politics of Developing Areas," pp. 45-75 in William Crotty, ed., *Political Science: Looking to the Future*, vol. II. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1991.

## **2. Passion and Craft in the Social Sciences (February 9)**

Max Weber, "Science as a Vocation," pp. 129-56 in H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1946.

C. Wright Mills, "On Intellectual Craftsmanship," pp. 195-226 in C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

Theda Skocpol, "Engaging the Past, Arguing for the Present: Writing as a Social Scientist," Gordon Gray Lecture on the Craft of Scholarly Writing, Harvard College, November 1997.

Richard Snyder, "The Human Dimension of Comparative Research," in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming.

## **3. Gabriel A. Almond: Structural Functionalism and Political Development (February 16)**

Interview with Gabriel A. Almond, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Gabriel A. Almond, "A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics," pp. 3-64 in Gabriel A. Almond and James S. Coleman, eds. *The Politics of the Developing Areas*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960.

Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963, Pp. 3-76.

Gabriel A. Almond, "Approaches to Developmental Causation," pp. 1-42 in Gabriel A. Almond, Scott C. Flanagan, and Robert J. Mundt, eds. *Crisis, Choice, and Change*:

*Historical Studies of Political Development*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1973.

Gabriel A. Almond (with Stephen Genco), "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics," pp. 32-65 in Gabriel A. Almond, *A Discipline Divided: Schools and Sects in Political Science* Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991.

#### **4. Robert A. Dahl: Normative Theory, Empirical Research and Democracy (February 23)**

Interview with Robert A. Dahl, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1971.

Robert A. Dahl, "Why All Democratic Countries Have Mixed Economies," pp. 259-82 in John Chapman and Ian Shapiro (eds.), *Democratic Community*. New York: New York University Press, 1993.

#### **5. Barrington Moore, Jr.: The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis (March 2)**

Interview with Barrington Moore, Jr., Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Barrington Moore, Jr. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* Boston: Beacon Press, 1966, Preface and Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

#### **6. Samuel P. Huntington: Order and Conflict in Global Perspective (March 9)**

Interview with Samuel P. Huntington, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1968, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7.

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991, Chapters 1 and 2.

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

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge," *Foreign Policy* 141 (Mar.-Apr. 2004): 30-45.

Gary M. Segura, Review of Samuel P. Huntington, *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*. *Perspectives on Politics* Vol. 3, No. 3 (Sept. 2005): 640-42.

## **7. Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan: Political Regimes, Democratic Governance and the Quest for Knowledge (\*\* DATE TBA \*\*)**

Interviews with Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Juan J. Linz, "An Authoritarian Regime: Spain," pp. 291-341 in Erik Allardt and Yrjö Littunen, eds., *Cleavages, Ideologies and Party Systems: Contributions to Comparative Political Sociology*. Helsinki: Westermarck Society, 1964.

Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil," In Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978).

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, Preface and pp. 3-115.

Juan J. Linz, "Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 1, N° 1 (1990): 51-69.

## **8. Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter: Democratization and Agenda Setting Research (March 23)**

Interviews with Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Philippe C. Schmitter, "Still the Century of Corporatism?" *Review of Politics* 36, no. 1 (1974): 85-131.

Guillermo O'Donnell, "State and Alliances in Argentina, 1956-1976." *Journal of Development Studies* 15, no. 1 (October 1978): 3-33.

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

Guillermo O'Donnell, "On the State, Democratization and Some Conceptual Problems (A Latin American View with Glances at Some Post-Communist Countries)." *World Development* 21, no. 8 (August 1993): 1355-70.

Philippe C. Schmitter with Terry Lynn Karl, "The Conceptual Travels of Transitologists and Consolidologists: How Far to the East Should They Attempt to Go?" *Slavic Review* 53, no. 1 (Spring 1994): 173-185.

Valerie Bunce, "Should Transitologists Be Grounded?" *Slavic Review* 54, no. 1 (Spring 1995): 111-127.

### **9. Arend Lijphart: Political Institutions, Divided Societies and Consociational Democracy (April 6)**

Interview with Arend Lijphart, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Arend Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review* 65, no. 3 (1971): 682-93.

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

### **10. James C. Scott: Peasants, Power and the Art of Resistance (April 13)**

Interview with James C. Scott, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

James C. Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.

Atul Kohli, et al., "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium," *World Politics* 48, no. 1 (October 1995). Read the contribution by James C. Scott, Pp. 28-36.

James C. Scott, "Evading the State: Hills and Valleys in Mainland Southeast Asia, or...Why Civilizations Can't Climb Hills," Paper presented at the Colloquium for Comparative Research (CCR), Brown University, February 2005.

### **11. Adam Przeworski: Capitalism, Democracy and Science (April 20)**

Interview with Adam Przeworski, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991, Chapter 2.

Adam Przeworski, et. al., *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Material Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Adam Przeworski, "Institutions Matter?" *Government and Opposition* 39, no. 4 (September 2004): 527-40.

## **12. Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin: Rational Choice Theory and Comparative Politics (April 27)**

Interviews with Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Robert H. Bates, "The Nature and Origins of Agricultural Policies in Africa," Pp. 107-133 in Robert H. Bates, *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987).

Robert H. Bates, "The International Coffee Organization: An International Institution," pp. 194-230, in Robert H. Bates, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast, *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.

David D. Laitin, *Identity in Formation: The Russian-speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998. **Chs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 13. Skim the rest, including the Preface and Methodological Appendix.**

David D. Laitin, "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline," pp. 630-59 in Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner, eds., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. New York and Washington, D.C.: W.W. Norton & Co. and The American Political Science Association, 2002.

Ted Hopf, "Being David Laitin: The Fearon Factor," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2005.

## **13. David Collier and Theda Skocpol: Comparative Historical Analysis and Comparative Politics (May 4)**

Interviews with David Collier and Theda Skocpol, Forthcoming in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

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

Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers. "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22, no. 2 (October 1980): 174-97.

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

Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, *Shaping the Political Arena: Critical Junctures, the Labor Movement, and Regime Dynamics in Latin America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991. **"Overview" and Chapter 1.**

David Collier, "Comparative Method in the 1990s." *APSA-CP. Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics* 9, no. 1 (Winter 1998): 1-2, 4-5. Available at: <http://www.nd.edu/~apsacp/>

- David Collier, "Comparative-Historical Analysis: Where Do We Stand?" *APSA-CP. Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics* 9, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 1-2, 4-5. Available at: <http://www.nd.edu/~apsacp/>
- David Collier, "Data, Field Work and Extracting New Ideas at Close Range." *APSA-CP. Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics* 10, no. 1 (Winter 1999): 1-2, 4-6. Available at: <http://www.nd.edu/~apsacp/>

#### **14. Conclusion: The Shape of Comparative Politics to Come (May 11)**

- David D. Laitin, "The Political Science Discipline." In *The Evolution of Political Knowledge: Democracy, Autonomy, and Conflict in Comparative and International Politics*, eds. Edward Mansfield and Richard Sisson, 11-40 (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 2004). **Read also the Commentary by Keohane, Shapiro, and Weingast.**
- David D. Laitin, Contribution to "Symposium I: Ian Shapiro's The Flight from Reality in the Human Sciences (Princeton University Press, 2005)" in *Qualitative Methods: Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods* Vol. 3, No. 2 (Fall 2005): 13-15; and Ian Shapiro, "A Response to Mackie, Hochschild, and Laitin," pp. 16-19.
- David Collier, "Building a Disciplined, Rigorous Center in Comparative Politics." *APSA-CP. Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics* 10, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 1-2, 4. Available at: <http://www.nd.edu/~apsacp/>
- Robert Keohane, "Disciplinary Schizophrenia: Implications for Graduate Education in Political Science." *Qualitative Methods—Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section on Qualitative Methods* 1, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 9-12. Available at: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/polisci/cqrm/Newsletter.html>
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "Seven (Disputable) Theses Concerning the Future of 'Transatlanticised' or 'Globalised' Political Science." *European Political Science* 1, no. 2 (Spring 2002): 23-40.
- Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, "Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics: An Analysis of Leading Journals," unpublished ms., December 2005.