

Political Science 2090
Brown University
Fall 2009
Thursday, 4:00-6:30

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Office Hours: Fri, 3:00-5:00

Models of Excellence in Comparative Research: 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 distinct intellectual styles, approaches, 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 "texts." Yet behind every work of scholarship lies a real person with passions, interests, and 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 different kinds of 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 both on where you think they say something useful and where you think they are unhelpful. You are also expected to attend the Colloquium on Comparative Research (CCR) presentations held every other week (Wed., 5:00-6:30); these presentations are an important supplement to the course material.

In addition, each student will write **eight** short memos (2-4 pages) highlighting what you learned from each week's readings. **The memos should be sent to the entire class, including me, by e-mail and are due at 6 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.

Readings

The following nine required 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, *Nations, States, and Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- 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.
- Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.
- 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. During the first class meeting, we will discuss procedures for getting the readings that are not available on-line.

Overview of Class Sessions

1. Are There Classics in the Social Sciences?
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. James C. Scott: Peasants, Power and the Art of Resistance
10. Adam Przeworski: Capitalism, Democracy and Science
11. Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin: Rational Choice Theory and Comparative Politics
12. David Collier and Theda Skocpol: Comparative Historical Analysis and Comparative Politics

0. Introduction and Course Logistics (September 10)

1. Are There Classics in the Social Sciences? (September 17)

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," pp. 32-59 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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.

Josep M. Colomer, "Political Science is Going Ahead (By Convolved Ways). A Commentary on Giovanni Sartori," *PS, Political Science and Politics* vol. 37, no. 4 (Oct. 2004).

Recommended Readings:

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).

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," *Comparative Political Studies*, 40:1 (January 2007): 5-31. See also the commentaries by James Mahoney and Erik Wibbels, as well as the rejoinder by Munck and Snyder.

2. Passion and Craft in the Social Sciences (September 24)

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," pp. 1-31 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

3. Gabriel A. Almond: Structural Functionalism and Political Development (October 1)

Interview with Gabriel A. Almond, pp. 63-85 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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 (October 8)

Interview with Robert A. Dahl, pp.113-49 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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

5. Barrington Moore, Jr.: The Critical Spirit and Comparative Historical Analysis (October 15)

Interview with Barrington Moore, Jr., pp. 86-112, in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

6. Samuel P. Huntington: Order and Conflict in Global Perspective (October 22)

Interview with Samuel P. Huntington, pp. 210-233 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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 (October 29)

Interviews with Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, pp. 150-209 and pp. 392-455 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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 (November 5)

Interviews with Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, pp. 273-304 and pp. 305-350 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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.

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Delegative Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* vol. 5, no. 1 (1994).

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. James C. Scott: Peasants, Power and the Art of Resistance (November 12)

Interview with James C. Scott, pp. 351-391 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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.

10. Adam Przeworski: Capitalism, Democracy and Science (November 19)

Interview with Adam Przeworski, pp. 456-503 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.

11. Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin: Rational Choice Theory and Comparative Politics (December 3)

Interviews with Robert H. Bates and David D. Laitin, pp. 504-555 and pp. 601-648 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

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, *Nations, States, and Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

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.

12. David Collier and Theda Skocpol: Comparative Historical Analysis and Comparative Politics (December 10)

Interviews with David Collier and Theda Skocpol, pp. 556-600 and pp. 649-707 in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979, **Preface and Chapters 1, 2, and 3.**

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.**