

PSC/IR 256 THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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Fall 2013

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Comparative politics is the study of politics within political systems. It seeks to describe and explain various features of politics in different countries. In the first week we shall discuss what political features we shall be trying to explain. Among these features are the type of political regime and the stability of that regime. In the second week we shall be discussing the meaning of democracy as a system of government and describing some of the major types of democratic and non-democratic regimes in the world today. In later parts of the course we shall be explaining such features as political competition and government formation, citizen influence, participation and representation, and substantive policy outcomes, whether political systems achieve the level of political security and other policy outcomes desired by their citizens.

PSC 256 introduces theories in the field of comparative politics. We want to understand how the national and international environment, the political culture, the political institutions and the choices of citizens and leaders affect political performance. The course is organized around three types of explanatory variables. The economic, social and international environments create possibilities, problems and constraints. The political culture, including the values of different citizens and the political discourse, shapes political conflict and competition. The political institutions set limits and contexts, as well as by their own values and perceptions. We examine such features as the environment, culture and institutions—and human choices in these contexts.

In this course we want to introduce some of the theories of comparative politics and evaluate their credibility, both through general readings and by seeing how they play out in some specific countries. We shall especially use politics in Germany to exemplify various theoretical features.

The broader context of the course will be a mix of lecture and discussion.

Grades will be based on a midterm exam on Thursday October 17 (40%) and a second examination scheduled by the Registrar (40%) on December xx at xxx, with an additional 20% for class participation. Students may also choose as an option to write an original paper on a topic of their own choice on a political or a security (subject) that is not among those that we are examining collectively. These papers should be about 2000 words long and are due our last class day. For these students, the grades will be based on the midterm 25%, second exam 25%, essay 20%, class discussion 20%. Requirements and evaluation for students taking the IR/PSC-W sections are described on p. 4 below.

REQUIRED READINGS

The works listed with a star (*) are available for purchase in the bookstore. Other articles and book chapters will be on electronic reserve and can be accessed through the electronic version of the syllabus (under Course Resources and Reserves, PSC 250). The Dalton book is available on line.

- Bleis, Andre. "Political Participation" in *LeDuc et al.*, ch. 2.
- Brown, David. *Contemporary Nationalism*. 2000, Ch. 1.
- Basu, Amrita. "Dialectics of Hindu Nationalism" in Atul Kohli, ed., *Success of India's Democracy*. 2001, Chapter 7.
- Carter & Farrell. "Electoral Systems" in LeDuc, et al., ch. 2.
- Dalton, Russell "Ideology..." in LeDuc, et al., ch. 7.
- Dalton, Russell. *Politics in Germany*. On line <http://www.soesci.uci.edu/~rdalton/Pgermany.htm>
- Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What Do We Know About Democratization." *Annual Reviews of Political Science* 2, 129-148.
- Hellwig, Timothy. "Elections & Economy," in LeDuc et al., Ch. 9
- * Huntington, Samuel. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the 20th Century*. 1991.
- * LeDuc, Lawrence, Niemi and Norris. *Comparing Democracies 3*. 2010.
- * Lijphart, Arend. *Patterns of Democracy*. 2012.
- Ling, Lu. "Paradox of Provisionalism" *Journal of Democracy* 1999
- Nordlinger, Eric. *Soldiers in Politics*. 1977, Ch. 3.
- Norris & Inglehart "Islamic Culture & Democracy." *Contemporary Sociology* 2002
- Posner, Daniel. "Political Salience of Cultural Difference" *APSR* Nov. 2004
- Powell, G.B., "Consequences of Elections," in LeDuc, et al., ch. 11.
- * Powell, G. B., R. Dalton and K. Strom. *Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Framework*. 2012. (Abbreviated PDS 2012 on syllabus.)
- Rogowski, Ronald. *Commerce and Coalitions*. 1989. Ch. 1.
- Sawer, Marian "Women & Elections," in LeDuc, et al., Ch. 10.
- Schedler, Andreas. "The Many of Manipulation." *Journal of Democracy*, April 2009
- Tejerin, Sidra. *Democracy in Mexico*. 1st ed. 1999. Ch. 5 & 10
- Wilkinson, Steven. *Votes and Violence*. 2004. Ch. 1.

~~PSC256 SYLLABUS~~

Fall 2015

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Discussion Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Sept. 3	Theories and explanations	What is to be explained?	Powell, Dalton Strom 2012, Ch. 1-2, 7
Sept.10	Regime types Geddes,	Democratic and authoritarian types.	Lijphart Ch. 1-4, LeDuc ch. 1, Schedler
Sept.17	Economic and social Setting	Economic development and democracy	Huntington Ch. 1-4 Dalton, Ch.1
Sept.24	Ethnicity & nationalism	Constructing cleavages? (Chewas & Timbukas)	Brown 2000, Ch. 1 Posner
Oct. 1	Cultural values	Valuing regimes, policies	Norris & Inglehart PDS 2012, Ch. 3 Dalton, Ch. 4-6
Oct. 8	FALL BREAK - Tues only Thurs: International environment	Abundance, Trade and Political Cleavages	Rogowski, Ch. 1 Dalton, Ch. 3
Oct. 15	Review for Midterm	MIDTERM EXAM Thursday, October 17	
Oct. 22	Constitutional Arrangements in Democracies (Carter/Farrell)	Inclusiveness, election rules, context	PDS 2012, Ch 6 Dalton, Ch. 2 Lijphart ch 7,10-14 LeDuc, Ch. 2
Oct. 29	Party Systems Types, causes, consequences	Multi-party consensus coalition formation	Lijphart, Ch. 5, 6 Basu in Kohli Dalton, Ch. 8 PDS 2012, Ch. 5
Nov. 5	Citizen & group participation	Deprivation & Opportunity	LeDuc ch 8 (Blais) Tarrow, ch 5,6
Nov. 12	Citizen Choices	Choice & Consequence	LeDuc, ch. 7, 9-11 (Dalton, Hellwig, Sawyer, Powell)
Nov. 19	Poliovskina	Minoritarianism	PDS 2012 ch. 7 9; Consensus Variants Dalton Ch. 7, 9
Nov. 26	Policy Outcomes	Thanksgiving Nov. 28	PDS 2012, ch. 7 Lijpart 15-17, Dalton Ch 10
Dec. 3	Elite Choices	Coercion & Strategy	Nordlinger, ch 3; Huntington Ch. 5,6; Wilkinson Ch.1
Dec. 10	Theories of Comparative	Review	No additional assignment.

Politics: Environment, Institution and Choice

FINAL EXAM IS Wednesday December xx at yyyy IN OUR USUAL CLASSROOM

NOTE: PSC256W REQUIREMENTS Students taking the course as PSC 256W are required to write original essays. The PSC 256W course fulfills the University and departmental writing requirement; its essays must take the following form:

1. Two distinct essays.
2. Each essay at least 500 words.
3. One essay revised after correction and criticism.
4. Total essays add up to minimum of 3500 words.

Substantively, the essay should choose a country that is not a country we have studied in class and discuss how that country's political system differs from the United States. The essay should explain how the country's political system differs from the United States and how that difference relates to the country's political system. Some features of the country's politics could be explained by the theory and discuss its relationship to the credibility of that theory. Early in the course I would like to see a preliminary draft of your essay and a sign up sheet asking for that commitment. I will probably have a handout about the design of your essays.

I. Essay I should be brief, 500-1000 words, explaining why you have chosen your country, some of its politically interesting features, and what you will write about in your subsequent essay. This essay is due no later than Thursday, Oct. 10.

II. Essay II should discuss one or more of the theories of comparative politics that we have introduced in the course and relate the theory to politics in your country. Be sure that your presentation of the theory includes the causal mechanisms that link the independent and dependent variable(s). You can treat some aspect of the country's politics as your thing to be explained by the theory, or you can treat that aspect as a test of the theory. It should be at least 7500 words long. This essay is due on Thursday, November 7. I will correct and return it with comments within two weeks. The revised version is due on our last class, Thursday, December 12.

THE TWO ESSAYS TOGETHER MUST TOTAL 3500 WORDS. The essays will be weighted by their relative length and will collectively count for 25% of the course grade, averaged at the end. For Essay II the final grade depends on the writing as well as the substantive quality of the revised essay.

Please be aware of the issue of plagiarism; be sure your essays are original and appropriately document your sources.