

PSC/IR 256 THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Professor Bing Powell

E-Mail gb.powell@rochester.edu

Telephone: 275-0621 Office: Harkness 313

Spring 2015

T/R 9:40-10:55 Morey 525

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 authoritarian 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 democratic policymaking.

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 these 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 offer incentives to citizens and leaders. Citizens and leaders make choices that are shaped by these contexts, as well as by their own values and perceptions. We explain such features as democratization, stability, competition, citizen influence, and policy outcomes as consequences of 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, but also in the US, Britain and India, to exemplify various theoretical features.

The Tuesday sessions will usually present lecture material with some discussion. Thursday will be a mix of lecture and discussion.

Grades will be based on a midterm exam on Thursday February 26 (40%) and a second midterm examination on April 28 (40%), with an additional 20% for class participation. Students may also choose as an option to write an original essay applying the concepts of the course to some aspect of political performance in a country (current or historic) that is not among those that we are examining collectively. These essays should be about 3000 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 25%, class discussion 25%. 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 256). The Dalton book is available on line.

- 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.
- Dalton, Russell. *Politics in Germany*. On line <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~rdalton/Pgermany.htm>
- Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What Do We Know About Democratization," *Annual Reviews of Political Science* 2, 129-148.
- * Huntington, Samuel. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the 20th Century*. 1991.
- Katzenstein, "Social Movement Politics in India," in Kohli, ch. 10.
- * LeDuc, Lawrence, Niemi and Norris. *Comparing Democracies 4*. 2014. Especially articles by Gallagher, Kitschelt, Hooghe, Krook, Kayser, LeDuc & Niemi, Norris, Powell.
- Manor, "Center-State Relations in India," in Kohli, Ch. 4.
- 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., *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*, 2000, ch. 1.
- * 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.
- Schedler, Andreas. "The Menu of Manipulation." *Journal of Democracy* April 2002.
- Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement*. 2nd ed. 1998, Ch. 5 and Ch. 6.
- * Taylor, Shugart, Lijphart, Groffman. ("Taylor" on syllabus.) *A Different Democracy: American Government in a Thirty-One Country Perspective*. 2014.
- Wilkinson, Steven. *Votes and Violence*. 2004. Ch. 1.

| PSC256 - SYLLABUS | | Spring 2015 | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| <u>Week</u> | <u>Lecture Topics</u> | <u>Discussion Topics</u> | <u>Required Reading</u> |
| Jan. 15 | Theories and explanations | What is to be explained? | Powell, Dalton Strom 2012, Ch. 1-2,7 |
| Jan.20/22 | Regime types | Democratic and authoritarian types. | LeDuc, Ch 1, 9; Geddes; Schedler; Taylor Ch.1 |
| Jan.27/29 | Economic and social Setting | Economic development and democracy | Huntington, Ch.1-4 Dalton, Ch. 1 |
| Feb.3/5 | Ethnicity & nationalism | Constructing cleavages? (Chewas & Timbukas) | Brown 2000, Ch. 1 Posner |
| Feb.10/12 | Cultural values | Valuing regimes, policies | Norris & Inglehart PDS 2012, Ch. 3 Dalton, Ch. 4 |
| Feb.17/19 | International environment | Abundance, Trade and Political Cleavages | Rogowski, Ch. 1 Dalton, Ch. 3, 10 |
| Feb.24 | Review for Midterm | <u>MIDTERM EXAM Thursday February 26</u> | |
| Mar.3/5 | Constitutional Arrangements in Democracies | Inclusiveness, election rules, context | PDS 2012, Ch 6 Dalton, Ch. 2 Taylor ch 2-4, LeDuc,Ch. 2 (Gallagher) Manor in Kohli ch. 4 |
| Mar. 10/12 | SPRING BREAK | NO CLASSES | |
| Mar. 17/19 | Party Systems: Types, causes, | Clientelist/Programmatic Consensual/Conflictual Left & Right | LeDuc Ch. 3 (Kitschelt) PDS 2012 Ch. 5 Taylor, ch. 5-6 Basu in Kohli, ch 7 |
| Mar 24/26 | Party Systems: Consequences | Coalition formation, Responsiveness | Taylor, Ch. 7,8 Dalton, Ch. 8 Powell "Elections" |
| Mar. 31/ Apr.2 | Citizen & group participation | Deprivation & Opportunity | LeDuc, ch 4 (Hooghe) Tarrow, ch 5,6 Katzenstein in Kohli, Ch. |
| 10 | | | |
| Apr. 7/9 | Citizen Choices | Choice & Consequence | LeDuc, ch. 6,7,8,11 (Krook,Kaiser,LeDuc/Niemi,Powell) |
| Apr.14/16 | Policymaking | Majoritarian & Consensus Variants | PDS 2012,ch 4,(6);Taylor ch 9, 10; Dalton Ch. 7, 9 |
| Apr.21/23 | Coercive Elite | Coercion & Strategy | Nordlinger,ch |
| 3; | Huntington | | |

Choices

Also: Review

Ch. 5,6; Wilkinson Ch.1

Apr. 28 Theories of Comparative 2nd MIDTERM EXAM
Politics: Environment, Institution and Choice

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 essays should choose a country that is not Germany, the USA or India, (which we are discussing collectively as continuing examples) and discuss the way that one or more of the theories of democracy from the class relate to that country. Some features of the country's politics could be explained by the theory, or you could treat some aspect of the country's politics as a test of the theory and discuss its relationship to the credibility of that theory. Early in the course, I would like you to commit yourself to your country and start reading about it. I'll pass around a sign up sheet asking for that commitment. I can probably give you some help on sources and can also help with 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, February 12.**

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 something to be explained by the theory, or you can treat that aspect as a test of the theory. It should be at least 2500 words long. **This essay is due by Thursday, April 2.** I shall correct and return it with comments within two weeks. The revised version is due on our last class, **Tuesday April 28.**

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.