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PSC 520.01: Comparative Government

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Political Science 520
COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Autumn, 2008

This course has two elements. The first is a general introduction to the field of comparative politics from the perspective of theories and approaches. That is, how do scholars of the field study their subject? This will entail a review of selected articles and books. There will be two articles each week which should be read and summarized in a paper not to exceed nor be less than 750 words. These summaries are due on the dates indicated on the enclosed schedule. Book review assignments should be approximately five pages in length.

The second part of the course is a research paper focusing on some aspect of comparative public policy. This can be any subject from health care to law enforcement in any country other than the United States. This does not include foreign policy. The first step is to prepare a one-page prospectus indicating the nature of the topic and country. This should also include a title and an indication of the source material upon which the paper will be based. The prospectus is due September 20 but may be submitted earlier. The paper should be at least 5000 words in length exclusive of notes and bibliography. The paper is due no later than December 4 but may be submitted earlier.

Graduate studies presume seriousness of purpose and active participation in seminar discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Grades will be determined as follows:

Summaries	25%
Reports	25%
Discussion	25%
Paper	25%

9/4 Comparative Government and Political Science

Robert A Dahl, "Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest,"
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW 1961 763-72

9/11 Systems Approach

David Easton, "An Approach to the Analysis of Political Systems,"
WORLD POLITICS (April 1957) 383-400

William Flanigan and Edwin Fogelman, "Functionalism in Political Science," in Don Martindale, ed., *Functionalism in the Social Sciences* 111-126

9/18 Political Legitimacy and Authority

"States," in Patrick O'Neill, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Ch. 2

9/25 Democratization

Arendt Lijphart, "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods Versus Proportional Representation," *Patterns of Democracy* 143-170

Evelyn Huber, et al. "The Paradoxes of Contemporary Democracy," *Comparative Politics* (April 1997): 323-42

10/2 Authoritarianism

"Authoritarianism," in O'Neill, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Ch. 5.

Dan Slater, "Iron Cage in an Iron Fist: Authoritarian Institutions and Personalization of Power in Malaysia," *Comparative Politics* v. 36, #1, October 2003.

10/9 Political Parties and Groups

Gabriel Almond, et al. "Interest Aggregation and Political Parties," *Comparative Politics Today* Ch. 5

Stathis Kalyvas, "Commitment Problems in Emerging Democracies: The Case of Religious parties," *Comparative Politics* (July 2000) 379-98

10/16 Political Institutions

Gary Cox and Scott Morgenstern, "Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents," *Comparative Politics* v. 33, #2, January 2001.

Gretechen Helmke, "Checks and Balances by other Means: Strategic Defections and Argentina's Supreme Court in the 1990s," *Comparative Politics* v. 35 #2, January 2003.

10/23 Corporatism

M. Crepaz, "From Semisovereignty to Sovereignty: The Decline of Corporatism and the Rise of Parliament in Austria," *Comparative Politics* 27 (October 1994): 45-66.

Alan Siaroff, "The Fate of Centrifugal Democracies," *Comparative Politics* (April 2000), 43-60

10/30 Political Culture

Gabriel Almond, "The Intellectual History of the Civic Culture Concept," *Civic Culture Revisited* Chapter 1, 1-37

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "Political Culture and Democracy Analyzing Cross-level Linkages," Comparative Politics v. 36, #1, October 2003.

11/6 Political Development

M. Anne Pitcher, "Conditions, Commitments, and the Politics of Restructuring in Africa," Comparative Politics v. 36, #4, July 2004: 379-98.

Ruth Lane, "Political Development: Its Rise, Decline, and Transformation," *The Art of Comparative Politics*, Ch. 3

11/13 Dependency Theory

Tony Smith, "The Dependency Approach," in Wiarda, *Direction in Comparative Politics* 113-126

Peter Evans, "Dependent Development," in Nikolaos Zahariadis, *Theory, Case, and Method in Comparative Politics*, 103-107

11/20 Civil Violence

Earl Conteh-Morgan, "Collective Political Violence as Rational Choice," *Collective Political Violence* 93-109

Jessica Stern, "Who are the Terrorists?" *The Ultimate Weapon* 69-86