Fall 9-1-2006

PSC 520.01: Comparative Government

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Political Science 520
COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Autumn, 2006

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 22 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 8 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:

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9/7 Comparative Government and Political Science

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

9/14 Systems Approach


9/21 Political Legitimacy and Authority

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

9/28 Democratization


10/5 Authoritarianism

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


10/12 Political Parties and Groups

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


10/19 Political Institutions


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.

10/26 Corporatism


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

11/2 Political Culture
Gabriel Almond, "The Intellectual History of the Civic Culture Concept," Civic Culture Revisited Chapter 1, 1-37


11/9 Political Development


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

11/16 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

11/30 Civil Violence


Jessica Stern, "Who are the Terrorists?" The Ultimate Weapon 69-86
Allison, Graham. *Nuclear Terrorism*

Almond, Gabriel and James Coleman. *Politics of the Developing Areas*

____ and Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture*

Arendt, Hannah. *On Revolution*

Barber, Kathleen. *A Right to Representation: Proportional Election Systems in the Twenty-first Century*

Brinton, Crane. *Anatomy of Revolution*

Chilcote, Ronald. *Theories of Comparative Politics*

Coleman, James. *Education and Political Development*

Dahl, Robert. *Preface to Democratic Theory*

____. *Democracy and Its Critics*

Deere, Carmen and Magdalena Leon. *Empowering Women: Land and Property Rights in Latin America*

Duverger, Maurice. *Political Parties*

Easton, David. *The Political System*

Fagen, Richard R. *Politics and Communication*

Frank, A.G. *Latin America: Development or Revolution*

Friedland, William. *Revolutionary Theory*

Frohock, Fred. *The Nature of Political Inquiry*

Gareau, Frederick. *State Terrorism and the United States*

Hagopian, Mark. *The Phenomenon of Revolution*

Hayao, Kenji. *The Japanese Prime Minister and Public Policy*

Hayward, Jack and Michael Watson. *Planning, Politics and Public Policy*
Hoffer, Eric. *The True Believer*

Hueglin, Thomas and Alan Fenna. *Comparative Federalism: A Systematic Inquiry*

Huntington, Samuel. *Political Order in Changing Societies*

Johnson, Chalmers. *Revolutionary Change*

Klare, Michael. *Resource Wars*

LaPalombara, Joseph. *Bureaucracy and Political Development*

LaPalombara, Joseph and Myron Weiner. *Parties and Political Development*

Leduc, Lawrence. *The Politics of Direct Democracy: Referendums in Global Perspective*

Laqueur, Walter. *Terrorism*

Lipset, Seymour Martin. *Political Man*

Loewentberg, Gerhard and Samuel Patterson. *Comparing legislatures*

Matthews, Donald and Valen, Henry. *Parliamentary Representation*

Meehan, Eugene. *The Theory and Method of Political Analysis*

________. *Foundations of Political Analysis*

________. *Value Judgment and Social Science*

Melnor, A.J. *Elections and Political Stability*

Melone, Albert. *Creating Parliamentary Government: The Transition to Democracy in Bulgaria*

Michels, Robert. *Political Parties*

Moser, Robert. *Unexpected Outcomes: Electoral Systems, Political Parties and Representation in Russia*

Myrdal, Gunnar. *The Challenge of World Poverty*

Nieburg, H.L. *Political Violence*

Olson, David and Crowther, William. *Committees in Post-Communist Democratic Parliaments*
Ostrow, Joel. Comparing Post-Soviet Legislatures

Powers, Nancy. Grassroots Expectations of Democracy and Economy: Argentina in Comparative Perspective

Prezeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry

Pye, Lucian and Sidney Verba. Political Culture and Political Development

Rae, Douglas. Political Consequences of Electoral Systems

Richardson, Bradley. Political Culture in Japan

Riker, William. Federalism (missing)

Rodney, Walter. How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

Rule, James. Theories of Civil Violence

Sartori, Giovanni. Comparative Constitutional Engineering

Siaroff, Alan. Comparing Political Regimes: A Thematic Introduction

Skocpol, Theda. Social Revolutions in the Modern World

Sederburg, Peter. Fires Within

Shaffer, William. Politics, Parties, and Parliaments

Smith, Donald E. Religion and Political Development

Truman, David. The Governmental Process

Van Dyke, Vernon. Political Science

Weiner, Myron. The Politics of Scarcity

and Samuel Huntington. Understanding Political Development

Wheare, K.C. Federalism (missing)