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PSC 520.01: Comparative Government

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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:

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

9/8 Comparative Government and Political Science

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

9/15 Systems Approach


9/22 Political Legitimacy and Authority

Ruth Lane, "State and Society and the New Institutionalism," The Art of Comparative Politics Ch. 5


9/29 Democratization


10/6 Authoritarianism


10/13 Political Parties and Groups

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


10/20 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.

10/27 Corporatism

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

11/3 Political Culture

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


11/10 Political Development


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

11/17 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

12/1 Civil Violence


Jessica Stern, "Who are the Terrorists?" The Ultimate Weapon 69-86
Almond, Gabriel and James Coleman. *Politics of the Developing Areas*

_____ and Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture*

Arendt, Hannah. *On Revolution*

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*

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*

Hagopian, Mark. *The Phenomenon of Revolution*

Hayward, Jack and Michael Watson. *Planning, Politics and Public Policy*

Heady, Farrel. *Public Administration: A Comparative Perspective*

Heidenheimer, Arnold, et al. *Comparative Public Policy*

Hoffer, Eric. *The True Believer*

Holt, Robert T. and John E. Turner. *The Methodology of Comparative Research*

Huntington, Samuel. *Political Order in Changing Societies*

Isaak, Alan. *Scope and Methods of Political Science*
Johnson, Chalmers. *Revolutionary Change*

Key, V.O. *Southern Politics*

LaPalombara, Joseph. *Bureaucracy and Political Development*

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

Laqueur, Walter. *Terrorism*

Lasswell, Harold. *Power and Personality*

Lipset, Seymour Martin. *Revolution and Counterrevolution*

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*

Meehan, Eugene. *Foundations of Political Analysis*

Meehan, Eugene. *Value Judgment and Social Science*

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

Melone, Albert. *Creating Parliamentary Government*

Merriam, Charles E. *Systematic Politics*

Michels, Robert. *Political Parties*

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*

Parsons, Talcott and Shils, Edward. *Toward a General Theory of Action*
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* (missing)

Sartori, Giovanni. *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*.

Schattschneider, E.E. *Semisovereign People*.

Schattschneider, E.E. *Party Government*.

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*

Weiner, Myron and Samuel Huntington. *Understanding Political Development*

Wheare, K.C. *Federalism* (missing)

White, Jonathan. *Terrorism*