

PLSC 778: Comparative Politics Field Survey (CP II)

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Fall 2024

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Room: RKZ 202

Office Hours: Wed 3:00-4:30pm (calendly.com/charles-mcclean) Time: Tu 3:30-5:20pm

This survey course provides a general introduction to the field of comparative politics, with an emphasis on the most important theories and research themes. Topics include the foundations of political regimes, state formation, identity and nationalism, party development, electoral reforms, programmatic and clientelistic linkages, and social policy development. At the same time, the course seeks to strengthen students' analytical skills in evaluating comparative research and prepare students to take the examination in comparative politics.

Admission

Priority is given to PhD and BA/MA students in Political Science.

Requirements

Participation (40%)

Students are expected to complete all the required readings before class. You should be prepared to discuss the argument and method of each of reading. Students are required to actively contribute to the in-class discussion. As part of your participation grade, you are also asked to submit a brief response (200 words) to the week's readings prior to each class. These responses should highlight one theoretical or empirical question that you would like to discuss in class. The responses are due on Mondays before class at 8:00pm and should be submitted via Canvas.

Response Paper (30%)

Each student will write one short paper (1,000 words) that engages with the readings of the week. The paper will count for 30% of your final grade. In class, you will be asked to discuss and expand on the ideas from your written paper. Papers are due Mondays before class at 8:00pm.

*Note: You do not need to submit a brief response the week you submit a response paper.

Final Exam (30%)

Each student will complete a final exam during the class period on Tuesday, November 19. More instructions on the exam format will be provided in class.

Course Policies

Diversity and Inclusion in this Classroom

I am personally committed to making sure this classroom is a safe space where everyone feels welcome and comfortable expressing their views. While I expect us to have rigorous discussions and even disagreements, I ask that you engage each other with empathy and respect.

Accessibility

If you anticipate requiring academic accommodations for a disability, please contact [Yale's Student Accessibility Services](#). In an effort to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible, you are also welcome to privately discuss options with me as soon as possible to establish mutually-agreeable accommodations in a timely fashion. I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive and every effort will be made to be supportive.

Assignment Due Dates

Due dates are not flexible. Please email me immediately if there is an important change in circumstances that makes it impossible to meet a due date. Out of fairness, I cannot accept response papers after the date of the class discussion.

Academic Honesty

You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid, and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems. For more information, please consult: [Addressing Academic Integrity and Plagiarism](#).

AI Programs

If you use an AI program such as ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. for your response paper, you must acknowledge the use of these tools with a citation at the end that lists the tool you used and describes how you used it.

Course Schedule

09.03 Week 1 - Introduction: An Overview of the Course

- Boix, Carles and Stokes, Susan. 2007. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read Chapter 1.

09.10 Week 2 - Identity Politics, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

- Laitin, David. 1998. *Ethnicity in Formation: the Russian-speaking population in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Chapters 1–3.
- Posner, Daniel. 2004. The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi, *American Political Science Review* 98 (4).
- Darden, Keith and Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2006. The great divide: literacy, nationalism, and the Communist collapse. *World Politics*, 59(1):83–115.

Recommended:

- Darden, Keith. 2015. The durability of nationalist loyalties. Unpublished manuscript, Chapters 1–3, 5.
- Huber, John. 2012. Measuring ethnic voting: Do proportional electoral laws politicize ethnicity? *American Journal of Political Science*, 56(4):986–1001.
- Shayo, Moses. 2009. A Model of Social Identity with an Application to Political Economy: Nation, Class, and Redistribution. *American Political Science Review*, 103(02):147–174.
- Kanchan Chandra. 2007. *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Head Counts in India*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

09.17 Week 3 - Political Culture

- Swidler, Ann. 1986. Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies. *American Sociological Review*, 51(2):273–286.
- Alesina A, Giuliano P, Nunn N. 2013. On the origins of gender roles: women and the plough. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2), 469- 530.
- Voigtlander, Nico and Voth, Hans-Joachim. 2011. Persecution perpetuated: The Medieval origins of anti-Semitic violence in Nazi Germany. NBER working paper series. Nr. 17113.
- Nunn N, Wantchekon L. 2011. The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in Africa. *American Economic Review*. 101(7), 3221- 3252.
- Fouka, Vicky and Voth, Hans-Joachim. 2022. Collective remembrance and private choice: German-Greek conflict and behaviour in times of crisis. *American Political Science Review*. 117:3, 851-870.

09.24 Week 4 - Parties & Democratic Systems

- Seymour M Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1967. Cleavage structures, party systems, and voter alignments: an introduction. In Lipset, Seymour and Rokkan, Stein, *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, New York: Free Press.
- Stathis Kalyvas. 1996. *The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe*. Ithaca; Cornell University Press, pages 1-28, 58–113.
- Kitschelt, Herbert. 1994. *The Transformation of European Social Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1–3.
- Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. Competition Between Unequals. *American Political Science Review*. 99: 3, 347- 359.
- Hobolt, Sara B. and Catherine E. de Vries (2015) Issue Entrepreneurship and Multiparty Competition *Comparative Political Studies* Vol 48, Issue 9, pp. 1159–1185.

Recommended:

- Grossmann, Emiliano and Guinaudeau, Isabelle. 2022. *Do elections (still) matter? Mandates, Institutions and Policies in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1–2.

10.01 Week 5 - Electoral Systems: Origins and Consequences

- Boix, Carles. Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies. *American Political Science Review*. 93:3, 609–624.
- Cusack, Thomas R., Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2007. Economic interests and the origins of electoral systems. *American Political Science Review*, 101(03): 373–391.
- Persson, Torsten and Tabellini, Guido. 2005. *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chapters 1–4.
- Kreuzer, Marcus. 2010. Historical knowledge and quantitative analysis: The case of the origins of proportional representation. *American Political Science Review*, 104(02):369-392.
- Cusack, Iversen and Soskice. 2010. A Response to Kreuzer. *American Political Science Review*. 104(02), 392–410.
- Leemann, Lucas and Isabela Mares. 2014. The adoption of proportional representation. *The Journal of Politics*, 76(02): 461–478.

10.08 Week 6 - Programmatic and Clientelistic Linkages

- Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. Linkages between citizens and politicians in democratic polities. *Comparative Political Studies*, 33(6): 845- 879.
- Stokes, Susan C., Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno, and Valeria Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Mares, Isabela and Young, Lauren. 2019. *Conditionality and Coercion: Electoral Clientelism in Eastern Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1–2.
- Kramon, Eric. 2016. Electoral handouts as information: explaining unmonitored vote-buying. *World Politics*. 68:3, 454–470.
- Finan, Frederico and Schechter, Laura. 2012. Vote-buying and reciprocity. *Econometrica*. 863–881.

10.15 Week 7 - Democratization

- Limongi, Fernande and Przeworski, Adam. 1997. Modernization: Theories and facts. *World Politics*, 49(2):155—183.
- Moore, Barrington. 2003. *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy: Lord and peasant in the making of the modern world*, Boston: Beacon Press, pages 413–509.
- Luebbert, Gregory. 1987. Social Foundations of Political Order in Interwar Europe, *World Politics*, 1987, 39: 4, 449–478.
- Boix, Carles. 2000. *Democracy and Redistribution*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1–3.

Recommended:

- Mares, Isabela. 2023. *Protecting the ballot. How first wave democracies ended electoral corruption*. Princeton, Princeton University Press. Chapters 1–2.

10.22 Week 8 - The Modern State

- Levi, Margaret. 1986. *Of Rule and Revenue*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 2–3.
- Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States*. New York: Cambridge: Basil Blackwell. Chapters 2–3.
- Queralt, Didac. 2019. War, International Finance and Fiscal Capacity in the Long Run. *International Organization*.
- Scheve, Kenneth and David Stasavage. 2011. The conscription of wealth: mass warfare and the demand for progressive taxation. *International Organization* 64(4):529–561.
- Dincecco, Mark and Yuhua Wang. 2018. Violent Conflict and Political Development over the Long Run: China versus Europe. *Annual Review of Political Science* 21:341–58.
- Karaman, K. Kivanç and Sevkett Pamuk. 2013. Different Paths to the Modern State in Europe: The Interaction Between Warfare, Economic Structure, and Political Regime. *American Political Science Review* 107:603–626.

Recommended:

- Besley, Timothy, and Torsten Persson. 2009. The Origins of State Capacity: Property Rights, Taxation, and Politics. *American Economic Review*, 99 (4): 1218–44.

10.29 Week 9 - Politics in Hybrid and Non-Democratic Regimes

- Greitens, Sheina. 2016. *Dictators and their secret police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence*. Chapter 2.
- Haber, Steven et. al. 2003. *The politics of property rights: political instability, credible commitments and economic growth in Mexico*, Chapter 2.
- Mattingly, Daniel. 2019. *The Art of Political Control in China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1–2.
- Nugent, Elizabeth. 2020. *After Repression: How Polarization Derails Democratic Transition*. Princeton University Press, 2020, Chapters 2, 7, 8.
- Zhukov, Yuri and Rosenas, Arturio. 2019. Mass Repression and Political Loyalty. Evidence from Stalin's terror. *American Political Science Review*. 113: 2, 569–583.
- Laebens, Melis. 2021. *Beyond democratic backsliding: incumbent takeover attempts*, Unpublished manuscript, Oxford University.

Recommended:

- Svoblik, Milan. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Gandhi, Jennifer, and Przeworski, Adam. 2007. Authoritarian institutions and the survival of autocrats. *Comparative Political Studies* 40: 11, 1279-1301.

11.05 Week 10 - Interest Groups and Collective Action

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The logic of collective action: public goods and the theory of groups*. Harvard Economic Studies. Harvard University Press, 1965. Chapters 1–2.
- Cameron, David. 1984. Social Democracy, Corporatism, Labor Quiescence, and the Representation of Economic Interest in Advanced Capitalist Society, In Goldthorpe, John, ed. *Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism*, pp. 143–178.
- Eichengreen, Barry. 1997. Institutions and economic growth: Europe after World War 2, In Crafts, Nicholas and Toniolo, Gianni. Eds. *Economic Growth in Europe since World War 2*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 38–72.
- Iversen, Torben. 1999. *Contested Economic Institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Assigned chapters in Canvas.
- Hall, Peter and Soskice, David. 2001. *Varieties of Capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1.

Recommended:

- Acemoglu, Daron, Davide Cantoni, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2011. The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution. *American Economic Review*, 101 (7): 3286–3307.

11.12 Week 11 - The Welfare State

- Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Entire.
- Iversen, Torben and Soskice, David. 2001. An Asset Theory of Social Policy Preferences, *American Political Science Review*, 95: 4, 875–893.
- Huber, Evelyn, Ragin, Charles and Stephens, John D. 1993. Social Democracy, Christian Democracy, Constitutional Structure, and the Welfare State. *American Journal of Sociology* 99: 3, 711–749.
- Häusermann, Silja. 2010. *The politics of welfare state reform in continental Europe: modernization in hard times*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1–7.

11.19 Week 12 - Final Exam

- Final exam during class period.

12.03 Week 13 - Comparative Politics Faculty Roundtable

- Roundtable discussion with Professors Jen Gandhi and Kate Baldwin.