

**PL SC 500**  
**Comparative Politics: Theory and Method**

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Fall 2018  
Thursdays 9:00-12:00  
236 Pond  
Office hours: Thursdays 1:00-3:00  
and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

How do comparatists conduct research? What are the major areas in the subfield? In this seminar, we will discuss a range of research approaches to and topics in comparative politics. First, we will consider issues related to research design. Such topics include comparative methods, case selection, and concepts and measures. Then, we'll focus on specific topics in comparative politics. These topics include economic development and democracy, democratization, authoritarianism, institutional choice, norms/values/culture, comparative political economy, corruption, and social movements.

This course has three goals. First, you will gain an introduction to comparative politics research. Second, this background will help you prepare for your comparative politics comprehensive exams. Third, this seminar offers a background for your own research, whether it is your master's paper, a conference paper, or your dissertation.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course requirements for this graduate seminar include class participation, seven short papers, a research design proposal, and a research design paper.

Regarding participation, students are expected to read the weekly required readings carefully and to participate actively in class discussions. Also, students will lead two discussions. As a discussion leader, you must upload to Box **by noon on Wednesdays** a list of research questions for the class to address.

The short papers critique the weekly readings. You will write 7 short papers across the semester. (If you choose to write more than 7 papers, I will drop your lowest grade/s.) Everyone will write a paper for the first three meetings. After that, you will write four papers on weeks of your choice. These papers should be 1-2 pages single-spaced and should be uploaded to Box by **noon**

**on Wednesdays.** Note that all students will have access to all of the class papers. As the short papers are designed to focus and enhance class discussion, late papers generally will not be accepted.

The research design entails a proposal and a paper. The proposal presents your research question, a brief literature review, research design, methods, the feasibility of your project, and its contribution to the field. You must receive my approval for your research design topic. Be sure to talk with me about your topic in advance. If you change your topic during the semester, you must get my approval on your new topic, as well. I encourage you to talk with me about your proposal well before its deadline. The proposal should be 6-8 pages double-spaced and is due **October 18<sup>th</sup>**. I will distribute guidelines for the research design proposal later in the semester.

The research design paper addresses a question central question in comparative politics. I will distribute in class a handout that explains how to write your research design paper. The paper should be empirical. In other words, your research should be scientific, generating hypotheses that are falsifiable and that can be tested with data. Students can choose from a wide range of methodological approaches, including (but not limited to) case studies, quantitative analysis, historical structuralism, and formal theory. Again, I encourage you to talk with me about your research design paper throughout the semester, particularly regarding conceptual issues, data problems, and potentially contradictory results. Ideally, your research design paper will be a preliminary version of a conference paper that you can present in the future or a start on your master's paper or dissertation. The text of your research design paper should be 25-35 pages double-spaced, not including the works cited section or any materials in an appendix (such as tables or graphs). A hard copy of your paper is due in my mailbox by 5:00 on **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Once you have submitted your paper, then upload a copy to Box.

## **GRADING:**

Your final grade will be calculated by weighing the class requirements using the formula below:

Participation	20%
Short Papers	30
Research Design Proposal	20
Research Design Paper	30

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

The following books are required reading. We will also be reading journal articles which you can access through the PSU library. I will make available any book chapters that are not included in the required books, below.

Baldez, Lisa. 2002. *Why Women Protest*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Brownlee, Jason. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna M. 2002. *Redeeming the Communist Past*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Levi, Margaret. 1997. *Consent, Dissent, and Patriotism*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Stokes, Susan. 2001. *Mandates and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Wood, Elizabeth. 2000. *Forging Democracy From Below*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

August 29: No Class: APSA Conference

September 5: Introduction

September 12: Comparative Method

Required:

- Fearon, James. 1991. Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science. *World Politics* 43:169-195.
- King/Keohane/Verba, chapters 1-3.
- King, Gary and Langche Zeng. 2007. When Can History be Our Guide? The Pitfalls of Counterfactual Inference. *International Studies Quarterly* 51:183-210.
- Lieberman, Evan. 2005. Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research. *American Political Science Review* 99:435-452,
- Seawright, Jason. 2005. Qualitative Comparative Analysis vis-à-vis Regression. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 40:3-26.

Recommended:

- Bates, Robert H. 1997. Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy? *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30:166-169.
- Lichbach, Mark Irving and Alan S. Zuckerman. 1997. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1971. Comparative Politics and Comparative Method. *American Political Science Review* 65:682-693.
- Locke, Richard M. and Kathleen Thelen. 1995. Apples and Oranges Revisited: Contextualized Comparisons and the Study of Comparative Labor Politics. *Politics and Society* 23:337-367.
- Ragin, Charles C. 1991. The Problem of Balancing Discourse on Cases and Variables in Comparative Social Science. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 32:2-8.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1997. Turning the Tables: How Case-Oriented Research Challenges Variable-Oriented Research. *Comparative Social Research* 16:27-42.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1987. *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rueschmeyer, Dietrich. 1991. Different Methods – Contradictory Results? Research on Development and Democracy. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 32:9-38.
- Wilson, Matthew Charles. 2017. Trends in Political Science Research and the Progress of Comparative Politics. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50:979-984.

September 19: Case Selection

Required:

- Bates, Robert, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, Barry R. Weingast. 1998. *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction.
- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 2-3.

- King/Keohane/Verba, chapters 4-6.
- Gerring, John and Jason Seawright. 2008. Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. *Political Research Quarterly* 61:294-308.

Recommended:

- Bradshaw, York and Michael Wallace. 1991. Informing Generality and Explaining Uniqueness: The Place of Case Studies in Comparative Research. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 32:154-171.
- Brady, Henry E. and David Collier. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ragin, Charles C. and Howard S. Becker. 1992. *What is a Case?* New York: Cambridge University Press.

September 26: Concepts and Measures

Required:

- Casper, Gretchen and Claudiu Tufis. 2003. Correlation versus Interchangeability: The Limited Robustness of Empirical Findings on Democracy using Highly Correlated Datasets. *Political Analysis* 11:196-203. (You can access this article from my PSU website.)
- Collier, David and Stephen Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. *World Politics* 49:430-451.
- Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pages 1-47.
- Linz, Juan J. 1964. An Authoritarian Regime: Spain. In Erik Allardt and Yrjo Littunen, eds., *Cleavages, Ideologies, Party Systems*. Helsinki: Academic Bookstore. Pages 291-341.
- Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-34.

Recommended:

- Alvarez, Mike, José Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, and Adam Przeworski. 1996. Classifying Political Regimes. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 31:3-36.
- Coppedge, Michael and John Gerring. 2011. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy. *Perspectives on Politics* 47-267. (Also see the V-Dem dataset.)
- Gasiorowski, Mark. 1996. An Overview of the Political Regime Change Dataset. *Comparative Political Studies* 29:469-483.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit dataset.
- Freedom House (various years). Methodology and Freedom in the World Country Ratings.
- Jaggers, Keith and Ted Robert Gurr. 1995. Tracking Democracy's Third Wave with the Polity III Data. *Journal of Peace Research* 32:469-482. (Also see the Polity dataset.)
- Schedler, Andreas. 1998b. What is Democratic Consolidation? *Journal of Democracy* 9:91-107.

- Vanhanen, Tatu. 2000a. A New Dataset for Measuring Democracy, 1810-1998. *Journal of Peace Research* 37:251-265.

#### October 3: Economic Development and Democracy

##### Required:

- Barro, Robert. 1999. Determinants of Democracy. *Journal of Political Economy* 107:158-183.
- Boix, Carlos and Susan Stokes. 2003. Endogenous Democratization. *World Politics* 55:517-549.
- Freeman, John and Dennis Quinn. 2012. The Economic Origins of Democracy Reconsidered. *American Political Science Review* 106:58-80.
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. Some Social Requisites of Dictatorship and Democracy. *American Political Science Association* 53:69-105.
- Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. Modernization: Theories and Facts. *World Politics* 49:155-183.

##### Recommended:

- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Moore, Barrington. 1966. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Reuveny, Rafael and Quan Li. 2003. *Comparative Political Studies* 36:575-601.

#### October 10: Democratization

##### Required:

- Bratton, Michael and Nicholas van de Walle. 1994. Neo-patrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa. *World Politics* 46:453-489.
- Colomer, Josep. 1991. Transitions by Agreement, *American Political Science Review* 85:1283-1302.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1990. How Countries Democratize. *Political Studies Quarterly* 106:579-616.
- Wood, Elizabeth. 2000. *Forging Democracy From Below*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

##### Recommended:

- Casper, Gretchen and Michelle M. Taylor. 1996. *Negotiating Democracy: Transitions from Authoritarian Rule*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Collier, David and Deborah Norden. 1992. Strategic Choice Models of Political Change in Latin America. *Comparative Politics* 24:229-243.

- Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. *Paths toward Democracy: Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Doorenspleet, Renske. 2005. *Democratic Transitions: Explaining the Structural Sources of the Fourth Wave*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Press.
- Feng, Yi and Paul J. Zak. 1999. The Determinants of Democratic Transitions. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43:162-177.
- Green, Daniel M. 1999. Liberal Moments and Democracy's Durability: Comparing Global Outbreaks of Democracy – 1918, 1945, 1989. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 34:83-120.
- Joseph, Richard. 1998. Africa: From Abertura to Closure. *Journal of Democracy* 9:3-17.
- Karl, Terry and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1991. Modes of Transition in Latin America. *International Social Science Journal* 128:269-84.
- Kurzman, Charles. 1998. Waves of Democratization. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 33:42-64.
- Linz, Juan J. 1978. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Crisis, Breakdown, and Reequilibration*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.
- Rustow, Dankwart. 1970. Transitions to Democracy. *Comparative Politics* 2:337-63.
- Schmitter, Philippe. 1995. Transitology: The Sciences or Art of Democratization? In Joseph Tulchin, ed., *The Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Shin, Doh C. 1994. On the Third Wave of Democratization. *World Politics* 47:135-170.
- Special issue on The Democratic Transition Process. 1999. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43(2).
- Stepan, Alfred. 1986. Paths toward Redemocratization: Theoretical and Comparative Considerations. In Guillermo O'Donnell, et. al., *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Comparative Perspectives*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

#### October 17: Authoritarianism

##### Required:

- Brownlee, Jason. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Gandhi, Jennifer and Adam Przeworski. 2007. Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats. *Comparative Political Studies* 40:1279-1301.
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan A. Way. 2002. The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy* 13:51-65.
- Malesky, Edmund and Paul Schuler, 2011. The Single-Party Dictator's Dilemma: Information in Elections without Opposition. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36:491-530.
- Wright, Joseph. 2008. Do Authoritarian Institutions Constrain? *American Journal of Political Science* 52:322-343.

##### Recommended:

- Frantz, Erica, Barbra Geddes, and Joseph Wright. 2014. Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions. *Perspectives on Politics* 12:313-331.

- Geddes, Barbara, 1999. What Do We Know about Democratization After Twenty Years? *Annual Review of Political Science* 2:115-144.
- Malesky, Edmund and Paul Shuler. 2010. Nodding or Needling: Analyzing Delegate Responsiveness in an Authoritarian Parliament. *American Political Science Review* 104:482-502.
- Slater, Dan. 2010. *Ordering Power*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Svobik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

October 24: Research Day for Research Design proposals

October 31: Institutional Choice

\*\*\*\*\* **Research design proposals due** \*\*\*\*\*

Required:

- Grzymala-Busse, Anna M. 2002. *Redeeming the Communist Past*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Cusack, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2007. Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Systems. *American Political Science Association* 101:373-391.
- Negretto, Gabriel. 2008. Political Parties and Institution Design. *British Journal of Political Science* 39:117-139.
- North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. 1989. Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England. *Journal of Economic History* 49:803-832.

Recommended:

- Golder, Matt, Sona Golder, and David Siegel. 2012. Modeling the Institutional Foundations of Parliamentary Government Formation. *Journal of Politics* 74:427-445.
- Goodin, Robert E., ed. 1996. *The Theory of Institutional Design*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Lijphart, Arend and Carlos H. Waisman. 1996. *Institutional Design in New Democracies*. Boulder CO: Westview Press.
- Sartori, Giovanni. 1994 (1997). *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*. New York: New York University Press.

November 7: Norms, Values, Culture

Required:

- Levi, Margaret. 1997. *Consent, Dissent, and Patriotism*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Pages 36-45.
- Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.



- Weingast, Barry A. 1997. The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law. *American Political Science Review* 91:245-263.

Recommended:

- Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.
- Bednar, Jenna and Scott E. Page. 2007. Can Game(s) Theory Explain Culture? *Rationality and Society* 19:65-97.
- Elster, Jon. 1989. *The Cement of Society*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Laitin, David. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hardin, Russell. 1995. *One for All*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Levi, Margaret. 1988. *Of Rule and Revenue*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

November 14: Comparative Political Economy

Required:

- Arriola, Leonardo R. 2013. Capital and Opposition in Africa. *World Politics* 65:233-272.
- Bates, Robert H., John H. Coatsworth, and Jeffrey G. Williamson. 2007. Lost Decades: Postindependence Performance in Latin America and Africa. *Journal of Economic History* 67:917-943.
- Kayser, Mark Andreas. 2005. Trade and the Timing of Elections. *British Journal of Political Science* 35:437-457.
- Stokes, Susan. 2001. *Mandates and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended:

- Iversen, Torben and David Soskice. 2006. Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions. *American Political Science Review* 100:165-181.
- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Stokes, Susan C., Thad Dunning, Marcello Nazareno, and Valerie Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

November 21: Corruption

Required:

- Anderson, Christopher J. and Yuliya V. Tverdova. 2003. Corruption, Political Allegiances, and Attitudes toward Government in Contemporary Democracies. *American Journal of Political Science* 47:91-109.
- Carlson, Elizabeth. 2015. Ethnic Voting and Accountability in Africa: A Choice Experiment in Uganda. *World Politics* 67:353-385.
- Chang, Eric and Miriam A. Golden. 2010. Sources of Corruption in Authoritarian Regimes. *Social Science Quarterly* 91:1-20.
- Manion, Melanie. 2004. *Corruption by Design*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-3.

Recommended:

- Lancaster, Thomas D. and Gabriella Montinola. 1997. Toward a Methodology for the Comparative Study of Political Corruption. *Crime, Law, and Social Change* 27:185-206.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2001. Comparative Political Corruption: Issues of Operationalization and Measurement. *Studies in Comparative and International Development*.

November 28: No Class: Thanksgiving

December 5: Social Movements

Required:

- Baldez, Lisa. 2002. *Why Women Protest*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. How Censorship in China allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Action. *American Political Science Review* 107:1-18.
- Kuran, Timur. 1991. Now Out of Nowhere: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. *World Politics* 44:7-48.
- Lohmann, Susanne. 1994. The Dynamics of Informational Cascades: The Monday Demonstrations in Leipzig, East Germany, 1989-1991. *World Politics* 47:42-101.

Recommended:

- Banaszak, Lee Ann and S. Laurel Weldon. 2011. Informal Institutions, Protest, and Change in Gendered Federal Systems. *Politics and Gender* 7:262-273.
- Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

December 12: Presentations

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides [contact information for every Penn State campus](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator>). For further information, please visit the [Student Disability Resources website](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/>).

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [See documentation guidelines](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines) at (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines>). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

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## **COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES STATEMENT**

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

[Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park \(CAPS\)](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/)

(<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>): 814-863-0395

Counseling and Psychological Services at [Commonwealth Campuses](http://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/)

(<http://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/>)

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400

Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

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## **EDUCATIONAL EQUITY/REPORT BIAS STATEMENT**

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Consistent with University Policy AD29, students who believe they have experienced or observed a hate crime, an act of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment that occurs at Penn State are urged to report these incidents as outlined on the [University's Report Bias webpage](http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/) (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>)

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## **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Note that the syllabus dates and content may be subject to change, due to weather or added readings.