**PLCP 7000 Comparative Politics Core Seminar Fall 2014**

**Instructor: John Echeverri-Gent**

**462 Gibson**

**Office Hours: Monday 1730-1830 Wednesday 1600-1800 or by appointment**

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This course surveys important approaches to the study of comparative political analysis. It is divided into three parts. We begin by investigating different approaches to causal analysis the central analytical approach to comparative politics. Then we explore the work of two classic theorists -- Max Weber and Karl Marx. One of the themes of the course is that the issues, if not always the solutions, raised by these theorists continue to be relevant to comparative political analysis. Next we explore four distinct -- but related and interacting -- analytical perspectives in comparative political analysis, and we examine their approaches to explaining political change. These perspectives are: rational choice, institutional, ideational, coalitional analysis. Then, we explore how these perspectives and associated methodologies have been applied to investigate issues involving: political economy in developing and advanced industrial countries, democracy and democratization; parties and party systems; distributive politics, the dynamics of authoritarian regimes; and ethnic conflict and violence. Ultimately, I believe that we will find that it is the complementarities and theoretical tensions between these perspectives that now drive the theoretical development of comparative politics.

Chronologically and methodologically, we will read a broad range of work. In choosing works focused on a particular theme over a range of time, I have attempted to select works that collectively provide insight into how and why comparative political analysis has evolved. By selecting works that use a range of different methods, we will attempt to understand their relative strengths and limits.

There is a large volume of literature in each of the areas covered by this course. The readings provide a survey that serves as an introduction. The selection of readings is designed to expose students to key ideas and classic works in comparative politics. I have added additional readings as resources should you wish to read more about a particular topic.

**Student Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated in three ways:

1. Class participation is a vital way for developing your analysis. It also contributes to the development of your classmates’ ideas. Class participation consists of the questions and responses that you contribute in class. To help you prepare, I will send out key topics prior to each week’s class meeting. You will be asked to write brief (i.e. single paragraph) informal responses that you will send to me by the 1:00 PM on Wednesday before our class meeting. Together, these components of your class participation will count for 30 percent of your final grade.

2. A take-home, open book, midterm essay exam will account for 30 percent of your grade. These will consist of multiple topics from which you will select two and write a 4-8 page essay for each. The exam will be distributed in class October 9. It will be due at the beginning of class on October 23.

3. A take-home, open book, final essay exam will count for 40 percent of your grade. This will be the same format as your midterm. Essay topics will be distributed in class on November 27. All papers and exams are due in Gibson 462 no later than 1700, December 11.

**Materials:** All required books are available for purchase and are on reserve at Clemons library. Articles not in these books are available in the materials section of the course toolkit webpage. Required books include:

Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. *A Tale of Two Cultures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Robert Tucker (ed.) *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: WW. Norton, 1978.

Max Weber,(Edited with an Introduction by Talcott Parsons) *The Theory of Social and Economic*

*Organization*. New York: Free Press, 1947.

**Reading Assignments**

**I. Introduction**

**1. August 28 Organizational Session**

No Assignment

**Resources**: (General background on the field of comparative politics)

Gerardo L. Munk and Richard Snyder *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins 2007 or see the forum in *Comparative Political Studies* 40:1 (2007)including articles by Munk and Snyder, Mahoney, Wibbels.

Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics,*  Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

David Laitin. “Comparative Politics: the State of the Subdiscipline.” In *Political Science: the State of the Discipline,* eds. Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2002.

Atul Kohli, Peter Evans, Peter Katzenstein, Adam Przeworski, Susanne Rudolph, James

Scott, and Theda Skocpol. 1995. “The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium.”

*World Politics* 48(1) 1995:1-49.

**2. September 4 Different Approaches to Causal Analysis**

Gary Goertz and James Mahoney, *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012 pp. 1-226.

Dan Slater and Daniel Ziblatt, “The Enduring Indispensability of the Controlled Comparison *Comparative Political Studies October 2013 46: 1301-1327.*

**3. September 11 Classic Theorists: Max Weber and Karl Marx**

Max Weber, Social and Economic Organization pp. 115-43; 181-91; 324-86.

Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation,” and “Class, Status, and Power,” in *From Max Weber* edited by H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press, 1946. pp. 77-128, 180-195.

Karl Marx, “”Preface to A Contribution to a Critique of Political Economy”; “Theses on Feuerbach”; “German Ideology: Part I”, “On the Jewish Question,” “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts,” “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” in Tucker pp. 3-6; 26-52.; 66-125; 143-200; 594-617.

Shallini Satkunanandan, “Max Weber and the Ethos of Politics beyond Calculation,” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 108:1 (February 2014) pp. 169-81.

**II. Analytical Perspectives**

**3. September 18 Rational Choice**

Margaret Levi, “A Model, A Method, and A Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis,” in Lichbach and Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 19-41.

Douglass C North and Barry R. Weingast, “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of

Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England,” *Journal of Economic History* 49:4 (December 1989) pp. 803-32.

Luis Fernando Medina, “The Analytical Foundations of Collective Action Theory: A Survey of Some Recent Developments,” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 16: 259-283, 2013.

Scott de Marchi1 and Scott E. Page,, “Agent-Based Models,” Annual Review of Political Science

Vol. 17: 1-20.

Jacob N. Shapiro and David A. Seigel, “Moral Hazard, Discipline, and the Management of Terrorist Organizations,” *World Politics* 64: (January 2012) pp. 39-78.

Christian List and Kai Spiekermann, “Methodological Individualism and Holism in Political Science: A Reconciliation,” *American Political Science Review*107: 4 (November 2013) pp. 629-43.

**4. September 25 Institutional and Ideational Perspectives**

Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, “Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science,” In Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner (eds.) *Political Science: The State of the Discipline.* New York: Norton, pp. 693-721.

James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen, “A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change,” in James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen (eds.) *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency and Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. pp. 1-37.

Steven Levitsky and Maria Victoria Murillo, “Variation in Institutional Strength,” *Annual Review of Political Science 2009* vol 12 pp. 115-133.

Vivian Schmidt, “Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse,” *Annual Review of Political Science 2008* vol. 11 pp. 303-26.

James H. Read and Ian Shapiro, “Transforming Power Relationships: Leadership, Risk, and Hope,” *American Political Science Review 108:1* (February 2014) pp. 40-53.

William Minozzi, “Endogenous Beliefs in Models of Politics,” *American Journal of Political Science* 57:3 (July 2013) pp. 566-81.

**5. October 2 Coalitions, Critical Junctures,and Historic Change**

Gregory Luebbert, “Social Foundations of Political Order in Interwar Europe,” *World Politics* 39 (1987) pp. 449-78.

Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier. *Shaping the Political Arena.*  Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991, pp. 3-23; 745-774.

Leonardo R. Arriola, “Capital and Opposition in Africa: Coalition Building in Multiethnic Societies,” *World Politics* 65:2 (April 2013) pp. 233-272.

Giovanni Capoccia and Daniel Kelemen, “The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism,” *World Politics* 59:3 (April 2007) pp. 370-403.

Dan Slator and Erica Simmons, “Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents in Comparative Politics,” *Comparative Political Studies* 43: 7 (July 2010) pp. 886-917.

David Hillel Soifer, “The Causal Logic of Critical Junctures.” *Comparative Political Studies* December 2012 45: 1572-1597

**III. Key Issues in Comparative Politics**

**7. October 9 Political Economy: Politics, Markets, and Economic Development**

Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective.*  Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 1962, especially pp. 5-30.

Robert H. Bates , “Governments and Agricultural Markets in Africa,” in Bates (ed.) *Toward a Political Economy of Development.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988 pp. 331-358.

Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995, pp. 3-20.

Joel S. Hellman, “Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Post-communist Transitions,” *World Politics* 50 (January 1998) pp. 203-34.

Jeffrey M. Chwieroth, “How Do Crises Lead to Change? Liberalizing Capital Controls in the Early Years of New Order Indonesia,” *World Politics* 62:1 (2010) pp. 43-86.

Bumba Mukherjee, Vineeta Yadav, and Sergio Béjar, “Electoral Particularism, Bank Concentration, and Capital Account Liberalization in Developing Democracies,” *Comparative Political Studies May 2014 47: 851-877.*

**\*\*\* Midterm Essay topics will be distributed at the end of class. They will be due no later than the beginning of class on October 23.**

**8. October 16 Political Economy: Advanced Industrial Countries**

Peter Hall and David Soskice, “Introduction,” Varieties of Capitalism. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 1-68.

Walter Korpi, “Power Resources and Employer-Centered Approaches in Explanations of Welfare States and Varieties of Capitalism: Protagonists, Consenters, and Antagonists,” *World Politics* 58:2 (January 2006) pp. 167-206.

Cathie Jo Martin and Duane Swank,” Gonna Party Like It’s 1899: Party Systems and the Origins of Varieties of Coordination,” *World Politics* 63 (2011) pp. 115-64.

Kathleen Thelen, “Varieties of Capitalism: Trajectories of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity,” *Annual Review of Politics 2012* 15 pp. 137-59.

Kimberly J. Morgan, “Path Shifting of the Welfare State: Electoral Competition and the Expansion of Work-Family Policies in Western Europe,” *World Politics* 65:1 (January 2013) pp. 73-115.

Jack Citrin, Morris Levy, and Matthew Wright, “Multicultural Policy and Political Support in European Democracies,” *Comparative Political Studies September 2014 47: 1531-1557,*

**9. October 23 Democratic Transitions**

Robert Dahl. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971, pp. 1-16, 33-47.

Carles Boix. *Democracy and Redistribution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 1-18.

James A. Robinson. Economic Development and Democracy,” *Annual Review of Political Science 2006*. vol 9 503-27.

Dan Slater, Benjamin Smith and Gautam Nair, “Economic Origins of Democratic Breakdown? The Redistributive Model and the Postcolonial State *Perspectives on Politics* 12;2 June 2014 pp. 353-74.

David Soifer Hillel, “State Power and the Economic Origins of Democracy,” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 48:1 (March 2014) pp. 1-22.

John R. Freeman and Denis P. Quinn, “The Economic Origins of Democracy Reconsidered,” *American Political Science Review*106:1 (February 2012) pp. 58-80.

Carles Boix, Michael Miller, and Sebastian Rosato, “A Complete Data Set of Political Regimes, 1800–2007,” *Comparative Political Studies December 2013 46: 1523-1554*

**10. October 30 Parties, Party Systems, and Electoral Institutions**

Herbert Kitschelt, “Party Systems,’ in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 522-554.

Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair, “The Cartel Party Thesis: A restatement,  *Perspectives on Politics*7:4 (December 2009) pp. 753-66.

Johannes Karreth, Jonathan T. Polk, and Christopher S. Allen, “Catchall or Catch and Release? The Electoral Consequences of Social Democratic Parties’ March to the Middle in Western Europe,” *Comparative Political Studies (*July 2013) 46: 791-822.

Hugh Ward, Lawrence Ezro, and Han Dorussen, “Globalization, Party Positions, and the Median Voter,” *World Politics* 63:3 (July 2011) pp. 509-47.

Karen E. Ferree,1 G. Bingham Powell,2 and Ethan Scheiner, “Context, Electoral Rules, and Party Systems. *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 17: 2014, pp, 421-439.

Noam Lupu and Rachel Beatty Riedl, “Political Parties and Uncertainty in Developing Democracies,” *Comparative Political Studies November 2013* 46, pp. 1339-1365

**11. November 6 Distributive Politics**

Miriam Golden1 and Brian Min, “Distributive Politics Around the World,” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 16: (2013) pp. 73-99.

Dominaka Koter, “King Makers: Local Leaders and Ethnic Politics in Africa,” *World Politics*  65:2 (April 2013) pp. 187-232.

Evan S. Lieberman and Gwyneth H. McClendon, “The Ethnicity-Policy Preference Link in Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Comparative Political Studies* 46 (May 2013) pp. 574-602.

Michael Albertus, “Vote Buying With Multiple Distributive Goods,” *Comparative Political Studies* 46:3 (September 2013) pp. 1082-1111.

Jordan Gans-Morse, Sebastian Mazzuca and Simeon Nichter, “Varieties of Clientelism: Machine Politics during Elections,” American Journal of Political Science 58:2 (April 2014) pp. 415-32.

Martin Ardanaz and Carlos Scartascini, “Inequality and Personal Income Taxation: The Origins and Effects of Legislative Malapportionment,” *Comparative Political Studies December* 2013 46: 1636-1663.

**12. November 13 Approaches to Authoritarian Regimes**

Barbara Geddes,1 Erica Frantz,2 and Joseph G. Wright3, “Military Rule,” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 17 (2014) pp. 147-162 .

Dawn Brancati, “Democratic Authoritarianism: Origins and Effects,” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 17 (2014) pp. 313-326.

Beatriz Magaloni and Ruth Kricheli, “Political Order and One-Party Rule,” *Annual Review of Political Science 2010* vol. 13 pp. 123-43.

Valerie J. Bunce and Sharon L. Wolchik, “Defeating Dictators: Electoral Change and Stability in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes,” *World Politics* 61 (2009) pp. 623-669.

Steven R. Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, “Beyond Patronage: Violent Struggle, Ruling Party Cohesion, and Authoritarian Durability,” *Perspectives on Politics* 10:4 (December 2012) pp. 869-99.

Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz, “Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set,” *Perspectives on Politics* 12:2 (June 2014) pp. 313-331.

**November 20** Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regime after the Cold War.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

**\*\*\* Final essay topics will be distributed at the end of class. They should be turned in to Gibson 462 no later than 1700 December 11.**

**13. November 27 Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!**

**14. December 4 Ethnic Conflict and Violence**

Ashutosh Varshney, “Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict” in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes (eds. ) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* . Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 274-96.

Lars-Erik Cederman, “Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Glditsch, “Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison,” *American Political Science Review* (August 2011) pp. 1-18.

Lars-Erik Cederman, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Simon Hug, “Elections and Ethnic Civil War,” *Comparative Political Studies* (March 2013) 46: 387-417.

Nicholas Sambanis and Moses Shayo, “Social Identification and Ethnic Conflict,” *American Political Science Review* 107:2 (May 2013) pp. 294-325.

Miles W. Metternich, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Simon Weeschle, and Michael Ward, “Antigovernment Networks in Civil Conflicts: How Network Structures Affect Conflictual Behavior,” *American Journal of Political Science* 57:4 (October 2013) pp. 892-911.

Timothy Besley and Marta Reynal Querol, “The Legacy of Historical Conflict: Evidence from Africa,“ *American Political Science Review* 108:2 (May 2014) pp. 319-336.