Course Description

The course is an examination of the field of Comparative Politics and major relevant theories and approaches to research and analysis.

The course is divided into three main parts. The first part deals with the comparative method and issues of research design in Comparative Politics. The second part covers some of the main research traditions in the field. The third part, finally, turns to selected subject fields and surveys major theoretical trends and contributions in these subfields.

Objectives

After this course, you will be able to:

- Describe some of the main research traditions in Comparative Politics.
- Explain the role of the comparative method and case selection in the research process.
- Apply basic principles of research design to your own research interests.
Requirements

1. **Active participation in class**: regular attendance and participation in class discussions.

2. **Research design**: Design your own research project for class session no. 5, using the class reading by Philippe Schmitter. Length: up to 1,000 words. Submission to me by email, due Saturday, 7 March 2015, (late submission will not be accepted).

3. **Book reviews**: discussion of major works in Comparative Politics; length: up to 1,500 words. Book review no. 1 is due on 26 March. You will present the second review in class in a short presentation (not longer than 15 minutes). Book reviews should not simply summarize the readings; your paper should make an argument and convey your own viewpoint in reference to the reviewed work. A critique is not necessarily negative. Whether or not you like an author’s argument, you still must critique it: is the argument clearly stated? Is the evidence offered relevant to the argument and convincing, or is it biased in some way? Are alternative explanations ignored or addressed? Are the cases selected appropriate for the research question? Consult major journals in the discipline for examples of book reviews!

4. **Reaction paper**: write a short paper (up to 3,000 words) summarizing, discussing, and critiquing the readings assigned for one class session. You are strongly advised to consult further readings, apart from those texts assigned for class discussions. Submission to instructor due on 1 May.

5. **Final Essay**: take-home; three essay questions will be provided through blackboard of which you will answer ONE. You can use all

Readings

The main text is Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), 1997. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, (Cambridge UP) and can be purchased through the bookstore. All other required readings will be available on blackboard.

Class Attendance and Absence

I will adhere to the following policy on class attendance and absences:
Table 1: Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Cut-off Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 points A 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Reviews</td>
<td>30 points A- 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
<td>30 points B+ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>30 points B 82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong> B- 78</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C+ 74</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C 70</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C- 66</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F below 65</td>
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A student who misses more than the equivalent of three weeks of class meetings during a semester for any reason may be assigned a reduced grade for the course—including the grade of “F”—solely on the basis of inadequate attendance, regardless of excuse. Students who miss fewer than three weeks of class sessions may not be penalized on the grounds of attendance alone. Students are personally responsible for making up any academic tasks and assignments missed due to their absence.

Classes start at 5pm sharp. If you are not present when I take attendance at the beginning of each class, you will not be registered as attending.

**Course policy**

- *Cheating and plagiarism*: Any information, arguments, or data used by students in their work should be properly cited and credited. Should you fail to give proper credits wherever appropriate or turn in the same paper for two different courses, I reserve the right to fail you for the course and to turn your name over to the University Administration for disciplinary measures. Your assignments will all checked with anti-plagiarism software. If you have doubts, feel free to ask me.

- *Academic freedom and intellectual interaction*: You are free to offer the class any disagreement you may have with the readings or lecture. You will not be penalized for disagreeing with other students or the instructor, but your perspective must be based on evidence from
Table 2: Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>History of the Discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>NO CLASS (ISA)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part 1: The Comparative Method</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Research Design in Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Quantitative vs. Qualitative?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>The Research Cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part 2: Research Traditions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Rational Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Culture and Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part 3: Selected Fields</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>The State and State Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Democratization and Regime Change</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Parties and Elections</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Social Movements and Revolution</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Ethnicity and Social Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
the course, other readings and/or empirical information. Freedom of speech and ideas is a basic principle of academic life. Please listen carefully to your classmates and respect other viewpoints. Every student will have a chance to express her/his opinion as long as it is voiced in a respectful manner. Intellectual interaction and a healthy academic environment necessitate that we address and refer to each other with politeness, cordiality, and an appropriate tone of speech. In addition, varied points of view must be expressed in a manner that is sensitive to differences in ability, class, ethnicity, lifestyle, race, religion, or sex, and should not be expressed so as to be perceived as a personal attack.

Detailed Course Outline

Introduction (2 February 2015)

History of the Discipline (9 February 2015)

Readings:


0.1 Part 1: Research Design

0.1.1 Research Design in Comparative Politics (23 February 2015)

Readings:


Further Readings:


### 0.1.2 Quantitative vs. Qualitative? (2 March 2015)

Readings:


Further Readings:


0.1.3 The Research Cycle (9 March 2015)

Readings:


0.2 Part 2: Research Traditions

0.2.1 Rational Choice (16 March 2015)

Required Readings:

- Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 2.


Further Readings:


### 0.2.2 Culture and Identity (23 March 2015)

**Required Readings:**

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 3.


**Further Readings:**


0.2.3 Structure (Saturday 28 March 2015)

Required Readings:

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 4.


Further Readings:


• Lipset, Seymour M. 1960. Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics. (Garden City: Doubleday and Co.).

• Mahoney, James, Erin Kimball and Kendra L. Koivu, 2009. The Logic of Historical Explanation in the Social Sciences, Comparative Political Studies 42(1), 114-146.


• Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP).


### 0.3 Part 3: Selected Fields

#### 0.3.1 The State and State Building (30 March 2015)

**Required Readings:**

- Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 8.


**Further Readings:**


### 0.3.2 Economic Development (20 April 2015)

**Required Readings:**

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 7.


**Further Readings:**


0.3.3 Democratization and Regime Change (27 April 2015)

Required Readings:


Further Readings:


### 0.3.4 Parties and Elections (4 May 2015)

**Required Readings:**

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 5.


**Further Reading:**


**0.3.5 Social Movements and Revolution (11 May 2015)**

Required Reading:

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 6.


Further Readings:


• McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald (eds.), 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).


• Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP).


### 0.3.6 Ethnicity and Social Conflict (18 May 2015)

Required Readings:

• Lichbach & Zuckerman, chapter 15.


Further Readings:


0.3.7 Conclusion (TBA)
This is required reading for Econ 513, spring 2007. In spite of being over 15 years old, these modern methods are missing from undergraduate and graduate textbooks in mathematical economics. This is a rough draft. The implicit-function theorem identifies conditions that assure that such an explicit function exists and provides a technique that produces comparative static results. PDF | On Jan 20, 2020, A A Adamov and others published Comparative Analysis of the Polymeric Materials Deformation Behavior under Squeezed and Free Compression | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. A IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering. Paper â© open access. Comparative Analysis of the Polymeric Materials Deformation Behavior. under Squeezed and Free Compression. To cite this article: A A Adamov et al 2020 IOP Conf. Comparative Politics | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering. Paper • open access. Comparative Analysis of the Polymeric Materials Deformation Behavior. under Squeezed and Free Compression. To cite this article: A A Adamov et al 2020 IOP Conf. Comparative Politics [Caramani, Daniele] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Comparative Politics. "A very impressive and up-to-date edited volume which covers the developments of comparative politics, its theory and method, and a large number of substantive themes. It is well conceived, well executed and written by an impressive team of contributors." --Paul Webb, University of Sussex. 1 POLS 5203: International Relations Theory Monday Professor Ezzedine Choukri FISHERE Office hours: Monday and HUSS :00-1:00 (Or by appointment) Teaching Assistant: Mostafa Tharwat This course offers a critical review of major theories and concepts in international relations, and the relevance of theory to contemporary world politics. Special attention is given to the development of theoretical and research skills needed for the conducting of graduate research and the writing of graduate thesis. The course aims at helping students; a) identify the theoretical bias underpinning analysis of worl