**PROSEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**POLS 6400**

Fall 2016

Professor Sam Handlin (samhandlin@gmail.com)

Time: T 2:00-5:00 PM

Classroom: Building 73, 106

Office: Building 73, 210

Office Hours: By appointment.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course offers an advanced overview of major topics within the field of comparative politics, with a focus on six broad themes: States and state building, democracy and regimes, political institutions, political economy and development, ethnicity, and civil conflict.

Throughout the course, seminar discussions will engage not just the substantive and theoretical questions raised by course readings, but also the methodological choices of various authors and the implications of those choices. Students will read a variety of studies falling under the broad “qualitative” rubric, including those reliant on comparative historical analysis and single case studies. Students will also read a significant amount of quantitative work, including studies that draw on both observational and experimental research designs.

**TEACHING METHODS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The course will be run as a graduate seminar, with discussions led jointly by the professor and several different students each week. Classes will be geared toward understanding and discussing the major themes and questions of the weekly readings, as well as analyzing the methods utilized by scholars to develop and test their theories. In addition to leading several different discussions over the course of the semester and preparing “bullet points” for the rest of the class in advance of those discussions, students will be expected to write a final research paper related to themes from the course.

**COURSE GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Participation (20%)**

**Students are expected to attend all classes and to have done the readings in advance of every class**. Attendance is particularly important because the class meets only once a week. If you must miss a class, you should notify me in advance. Attendance alone, however, is not enough to satisfy the course requirements. Students are expected to arrive prepared to discuss the readings and to participate in seminar discussions (to the levels of their own comfort).

**Discussion Leadership (30%)**

Groups of students will be responsible for leading the discussion with me each week. This will first entail preparing written “bullet points” summarizing key issues for 1-2 of our weekly readings (chosen in consultation with me) and disseminating those bullet points to the rest of the class a day in advance. Students will then be responsible for leading the part of the discussion that relates specifically to those 1-2 readings.

**Research Paper (50%)**

The major written assignment for the course will be a research paper of roughly 20 pages (double-spaced) in length. These papers should involve the deployment of empirical information garnered from sources outside the syllabus in order to probe or test an original hypothesis related to major course themes. Unless discussed with me, they should not take the form of “literature reviews” (e.g., simple summaries or discussions of extant research on a topic). Instead, the goal is to produce a research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference.

The week after fall break, I will schedule meetings with students to discuss their plans for the research paper. Prior to this meeting, students will be expected to email me a 3-4 page outline summarizing their plans for the paper and any research already conducted.

**COURSE READINGS**

Most course readings are articles and book chapters that I have posted to Canvass. There are also six books that we will use more heavily and that I cannot reproduce for you without violating copyright agreements. You are responsible for buying or loaning these books. Three are easy: The library provides online access to the full text. The other three I either own or have loaned already from Marriot Library. If you would like to copy the relevant chapters, I am happy to let you borrow the book.

Cox, Gary. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World’s Electoral Systems*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Second Edition. **Marriott Library has Online Access to this Book.**

Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. **Marriott Library has Online Access to this Book.**

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hall, Peter and David Soskice (eds). 2001. *Varieties of Capitalism: Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. **Marriott Library has Online Access to this Book.**

Yashar, Deborah. 2005. *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America: The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge*.

**MISCELLANEA**

**Academic Misconduct**

All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.com and other measures. All quotations in written assignments must include a clear citation to the work from which they are taken. Otherwise they will be treated as plagiarism. **Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the university.**

**Late Assignments**

Late written assignments will lose one third of a grade (ie, from A to A-) for every day they are late. Extensions are only available on rare circumstances, in the case of documented emergencies and medical conditions, and **must be discussed with me prior to the deadline for that assignment.**

**Cell Phones in Class**

Cell phones must be turned off in class and kept out of sight. I don’t want to ever see the phone in your hand or on your desk.

**Wellness**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - [www.wellness.utah.edu](https://www.umail.utah.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=Ymwy-SOKuE6GY48_wj6EqSLsK2zAUc8IDJsotYSsy8asD2rKSYVrD9MEPeQ0puY8N0Q3xhhKSK4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wellness.utah.edu" \t "_blank); 801-581-7776.

**ADA Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**August 23 – Introduction**

**August 30 – The State and State Formation in Europe and the Post-Colonial World**

Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation.”

Tilly, Charles. 1985. War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. *Bringing the State Back In*. Peter Evans, Dietrich Reuschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. Cambridge, UK; Cambridge University Press.

Centeño, Miguel. *Blood and Debt*. State College, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press. Chapters 1, 3

Kurtz, Marcus. 2009. The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the “Resource Curse” in Third World State Building. *Politics & Society*, 37:4. 479-520

**September 6 – State-Building, Legibility, and Colonial Legacies**

Scott, James. 1998. Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

*You can access the Scott online through the library. There is also an entire PDF made available online that I have downloaded and put on Canvass.*

Slater, Dan. *Ordering Power: Contentious Politic and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapter 5.

Lange, Mathew. 2004. “British Colonial Legacies and Political Development.” *World Development*, 32:6, 905-922.

**September 13 – Regimes and Democracy: Conceptualization and Measurement**

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press: 1-32.

Mazzuca, Sebastian. 2010. Access to Power Versus Exercise of Power: Reconceptualizing the Quality of Democracy in Latin America. *Studies in Comparative International Development*. 45:3. 334-357.

Coppedge, Michael and John Gerring. 2011. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach. *Perspectives on Politics*, 9:2. 247-267.

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2. 51-65.

Handlin, Samuel. 2016. “Observing Incumbent Abuses: Improving Measures of Electoral and Competitive Authoritarianism with New Data.” *Democratizatio*n, Onlinefirst.

**September 20 – Regimes and Democracy: Modernization Theory and its Critics**

Lipset, Seymour Martin Lipset 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic

Development and Political Legitimacy.” *American Political Science Review* 53, 69-

105.

Przeworski , Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts,” *World*

*Politics* 49, 155-183.

O’Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions About Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1-56.

Boix, Carles. 2011. Democracy, Development, and the International System. *American Political Science Review*. 105:4. 809-828. (\*)

Miller, Michael. 2012. Economic development, Violent Leader Removal, and Democratization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 56:4. 1002-1020. (\*)

**September 27 – Regimes and Democracy: Autocracies and Hybrid Regimes**

Geddes, Barbara. 1999. What Do We Know About Democratization After 20 Years? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2: 115-144.

Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 4.

Blaydes, Lisa. 2010. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 48-63, 148-170.

**October 4 – Political Institutions: Governing Institutions**

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Second Edition. Chapters 1-4.

Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. Presidentialism, Multipartism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination. *Comparative Political Studies*. 26:2. 198-228.

Tsebelis, George. 1995. “Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism.” *British Journal of Political Science* 25, 289-325.

**October 11 – No class (spring break)**

**October 18 – Political Institutions: Parties and Party Systems**

Aldrich, John. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*.

Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press, Chapter 2.

Gunter, Richard and Larry Diamond. 2001. “Types and Functions of Parties.” In Diamond and

Gunter (eds), *Political Parties and Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Daalder, Hans. 1981. “The Comparative Study of European Parties and Party Systems: An

Overview.” In *Western European Party Systems*, Daalder and Mair (eds).

Mainwaring, Scott and Timothy Scully. 1995. *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 1.

Tavits, Margit. 2008. “Party Systems in the Making: The Emergence and Success of New Parties

in New Democracies.” *British Journal of Political Science*, 38:1, 113-133.

**October 25 – Political Institutions: Electoral Institutions**

Cox, Gary. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World’s Electoral Systems*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-5

Iversen, Torben and David Soskice. 2006. “Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others.” *American Political Science Review.* 100:2, 165-181.

Boix, Carles. 1999. “Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies.” *American Political Science Review*, 93:3, 609-624.

**November 1 – Political Economy: Institutions, Regimes, and Development**

Przeworksi, Adam, Fernando Limongi, and Jose Antonio Cheibub. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.  Introduction (pgs. 1-10) and Ch3 (pgs. 142-184).

Gerring, John et al. 2005. “Democracy and Economic Growth: A Historical Perspective.” *World Politics*, 57, 323-354.

Weingast, Barry. 1995. “The Economic Role of Political Institutions: Market Preserving Federalism and Economic Development.” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 11:1, 1-37.

North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Read Ch1 (pgs 3-11) and Ch12 (107-118).

**November 8 – Political Economy: States and Development (plus a little Culture)**

Krueger, Anne. 1974. "The Political Economy of the Rent Seeking Society." *American Economic Review*, 64:3.

Williamson, John. 2004. “A Short History of the Washington Consensus,” Unpublished Manuscript.

Wade, Robert. 1990. *Governing the Market: Economic Theory and the Role of Government in East Asian Industrialization*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch 1, 2

Woo-Cummings, Meredith (ed). 1999. *The Developmental State*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Read just Chapter 1, the introduction.

Tabellini, Guido. 2010. “Culture and Institutions: Economic Development in the Regions of Europe.” *Journal of the European Economic Association*.

**November 15 – Political Economy: Varieties of Advanced Capitalist Political Economies**

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.

Hall, Peter and David Soskice (eds). 2001. *Varieties of Capitalism: Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5.

**November 22 – Macroperspectives on Civil War and Ethnicity**

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War*.* *American Political Science Review*.

Kalyvas, Stathis and Laia Balcells. 2010. “International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict.” *American Political Science Review*, 104:3. 415-429.

Roessler, Philip. 2011. “The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa.” *World Politics*, 63:2. 300-346.

Andreas Wimmer, Lars-Erik Cedarman, and Brian Min. 2009. “Ethnic Politics and Armed Conflict: A Configurational Analysis of a New Global Data Set.” *American Sociological Review*. 74:2. 316-337.

**November 29 – Microdynamics of Civil War**

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Selections TBD.

Parkinson, Sarah Elizabeth. 2013. “Organizing Rebellion: Rethinking High-Risk Mobilization

and Social Networks in War.” *American Political Science Review*, 107:3, 418-432.

Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai. 2013. “Explaining Support for Combatants during

Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan.” *American Political Science Review*.

107:4, 679-705.

**December 6 – Research Presentations and Social**

***RESEARCH PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 13***