

POLS 520
Comparative Politics Proseminar
FALL 2021

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Mala Htun

Time and Location: Monday 6:00-8:30 pm online

Contact: malahtun@unm.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm online or by appointment

Overview and Objectives

Why do some countries turn into stable democracies while others remain under dictatorships? Why do some social groups enjoy more political power and influence than others? How can we account for variation in government performance and social service delivery across countries and subnational units? What accounts for the development of strong state institutions in some places and not others? This course, an advanced survey of the field of comparative politics, tackles these questions and many others. Each week analyzes one of the subfield's thematic areas of inquiry including state formation, democratization, authoritarianism, political parties, institutions, collective action, racial and ethnic identities, representation, accountability, and the welfare state. The course is designed to train Ph.D. students preparing for qualifying exams in comparative politics and involves extensive reading.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed to achieve the following learning objectives:

- Analysis of theoretical concepts
- Exploration of how concepts apply and relate to empirical data
- Critical and comparative analysis of scholarly arguments
- Comparison of different approaches to and interpretations of data
- Formulation and expression of original perspectives on scholarly contributions orally and in writing

Requirements

You are expected to complete the assigned readings for each session, attend course meetings, and participate actively in the discussion.

Short papers. Each student will write two short papers that engage with the readings of the week. Each paper must be no more than 1000 words in length and count for 15% of your final grade.

In class, you should be prepared to discuss and explain the ideas from your paper. Papers are due the Monday of class before 12 pm. Assignments turned in late will lose one letter grade for each day they are late. (For example, a paper otherwise receiving a grade of “A” will become a “B” paper.)

You can pick any week of the course to turn in these papers. I strongly suggest you do not wait until the end of the semester, so you can benefit from feedback as early as possible.

Final exam. During the final class session, students will take a synchronous exam with a similar structure to the existing PhD comprehensive exam. You will pick one question from a list of questions and you will have 2.5 hours to write a focused essay answering the question.

Evaluation

You are expected to arrive to class having completed the assigned reading and ready to participate in a sustained scholarly discussion about it. Class participation will count for 30% of your grade. The short papers will each count for 15% for a combined total of 30%. The final exam will count for 40%.

UNM Administrative Mandate on Vaccination

All students, staff, and instructors are required by [UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations](#) to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2021, and must provide proof of vaccination or of a UNM validated limited exemption or exemption no later than September 30, 2021 to the [UNM vaccination verification site](#). Students seeking medical exemption from the vaccination policy must submit a request to the UNM verification site for review by the [UNM Accessibility Resource Center](#). Students seeking religious exemption from the vaccination policy must submit a request for reasonable accommodation to the UNM verification site for review by the [Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity Office](#). For further information on the requirement and on limited exemptions and exemptions, see the UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations.

Academic integrity

UNM and the Department of Political Science expect each student to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism; dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

In order to avoid plagiarizing others' work, be sure to include exact words in quotation marks and to cite others' claims whenever relevant.

Title IX

Title IX of the Federal Educational Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual assault, rape, sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted and would like to receive support and academic advocacy, there are numerous confidential routes available to you. For example, you can contact the Women's Resource Center, the LGBTQ Resource Center, Student Health and Counseling (SHAC), or LoboRESPECT. LoboRESPECT can be contacted on their 24-hour crisis line, (505) 277-2911 and online at loborespect@unm.edu. You can receive non-confidential support and learn more about Title IX through the Title IX Coordinator at (505) 277-5251 and <http://oeo.unm.edu/title-ix/>. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UNM Police Department at (505) 277-2241.

Accessibility

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 505-277-3506 or arc.unm.edu for additional information.

If you need an accommodation based on how course requirements interact with the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment, we can discuss the course format and requirements, anticipate the need for adjustments, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Disability Services Office for assistance in developing strategies and verifying accommodation needs. If you have not previously contacted them I encourage you to do so.

Credit hour statement

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for one 150-minute session of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the Fall 2021 semester. Students are expected to complete a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work each week.

Course Outline

Week 1 (August 23): Introduction

- Introduction to objectives, syllabus, and plan.
- Discussion of comparative politics: approaches, theory, and method.

Munck, G. L., Snyder, R., Almond, G. A., et al. (2007). *Passion, craft, and method in comparative politics*. JHU Press(Ch. 2)(Optional)

Week 2 (August 30): Modernization theory and its critics

Lerner, D. (1958). *The passing of traditional society: Modernizing the Middle East*. The Free Press(Chs. 1-2, pages 19-75).

Lipset, S. M. (1950). *Political man: The social bases of politics*. Doubleday, New York(Ch. 2).

Huntington, S. P. (1968). *Political order in changing societies*. Yale University Press (pp. 1-92).

Valenzuela, J. S. and Valenzuela, A. (1978). Modernization and dependency: Alternative perspectives in the study of latin american underdevelopment. *Comparative politics*, 10(4):535–557.

Inglehart, R. and Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, cultural change, and democracy: The human development sequence*. Cambridge University Press(Chs. 1-2, pp. 15-76).

Week 3. NO CLASS FOR LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

Week 4 (September 13): The State

Weber, M. (1946). *From Max Weber*, chapter Bureaucracy. New York: Oxford University Press.

Tilly, C. (2017). Coercion, capital, and european states, ad 990–1990. In *Collective Violence, Contentious Politics, and Social Change*, pages 140–154. Routledge.

Krasner, S. D. (1984). Approaches to the state: Alternative conceptions and historical dynamics. *Comparative Politics*, 16(2):223–246.

Ang, Y. Y. (2017). Beyond weber: Conceptualizing an alternative ideal type of bureaucracy in developing contexts. *Regulation & Governance*, 11(3):282–298.

Stepan, A. C. et al. (2001). *Arguing comparative politics*. Oxford University Press on Demand (Chapter 2, “Liberal-Pluralist, Classical Marxist, and Organic Statist Approaches to the State”)

Scott, J. C. (1998). *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press(pp. 11-52, 309-41). this book is available electronically through UNM Libraries.

Bates, R. H. (2015). *When things fell apart*. Cambridge University Press(pp. 3-6, 15-29, 97-139). Available as an E-Book through UNM Libraries.

Week 5 (September 20): Collective Action

Olson, M. (1982/2008). *The rise and decline of nations: Economic growth, stagflation, and social rigidities*. Yale University Press(chs. 2-3).

Putnam, R. D., Leonardi, R., and Nanetti, R. Y. (1994). *Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy*. Princeton university press(chs. 1, 4, 5, 6).

Berman, S. (1997). Civil society and the collapse of the weimar republic. *World politics*, 49(3):401–429.

Skocpol, T., Ganz, M., and Munson, Z. (2000). A nation of organizers: The institutional origins of civic voluntarism in the united states. *American Political Science Review*, 94(3):527–546

Nunn, N. and Wantchekon, L. (2011). The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in africa. *American Economic Review*, 101(7):3221–52.

King, G., Pan, J., and Roberts, M. E. (2013). How censorship in china allows government

criticism but silences collective expression. *American Political Science Review*, 107(2):326–343.

Week 6 (September 27): Institutions

North, D. C. (1990). *Institutions, institutional change and economic performance*. Cambridge university press(pp. pp. 3-10, 107-117).

Hall, P. A. and Taylor, R. C. (1996). Political science and the three new institutionalisms. *Political studies*, 44(5):936–957.

Streeck, W. and Thelen, K. (2005). Introduction: Institutional change in advanced political economies. *Beyond continuity: Institutional change in advanced political economies*, pages 1–39.

Lijphart, A. (1991). Constitutional choices for new democracies. *Journal of democracy*, 2(1):72–84

Brinks, D. M., Levitsky, S., and Murillo, M. V. (2019). *Understanding Institutional Weakness: Power and Design in Latin American Institutions*. Cambridge University Press.

Htun, M. and Jensenius, F. R. (2022). Expressive power of anti-violence legislation: Changes in social norms on violence against women in mexico. *World Politics*.

Przeworski, A. (2004). Institutions matter? *Government and opposition*, 39(4):527–540.

Recommended: Lijphart, A. (2012). *Patterns of democracy: Government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. Yale University Press.

Week 7 (October 4): Democratization

Dahl, R. A. (1973). *Polyarchy: Participation and opposition*. Yale University Press(chapter 1, pp. 1-16).

Dahl, R. A. (2008). *Democracy and its Critics*. Yale University Press(Introduction, pp. 1-9).

Huntington, S. P. (1991). Democracy's third wave. *Journal of democracy*, 2(2):12–34.

O'Donnell, G. (1998). Polyarchies and the (un) rule of law in latin america. *Paper presented at the Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association*.

Przeworski, A. and Limongi, F. (1997). Modernization: Theories and facts. *World pol-*

itics, 49(2):155–183.

Boix, C. and Stokes, S. C. (2003). Endogenous democratization. *World politics*, 55(4):517–549.

Paxton, P. (2000). Women's suffrage in the measurement of democracy: Problems of operationalization. *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 35(3):92–111.

Ziblatt, D. (2017). *Conservative Political Parties and the Birth of Modern Democracy in Europe*. Cambridge University Press(Chs. 1, 2,10, 11 (pp. 1-53; 334-368).

Recommended: Przeworski, A. (1991). *Democracy and the market: Political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge University Press(pp. 1-40).

Week 8 (October 11): Authoritarianism

Geddes, B. (1999). What do we know about democratization after twenty years? *Annual review of political science*, 2(1):115–144.

Magaloni, B. (2008). Credible power-sharing and the longevity of authoritarian rule. *Comparative Political Studies*, 41(4-5):715–741.

Ross, M. L. (2001). Does oil hinder democracy? *World politics*, 53(3):325–361.

Slater, D. (2010). *Ordering power: Contentious politics and authoritarian leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press(pp. 1-27).

Gandhi, J. and Lust-Okar, E. (2009). Elections under authoritarianism. *Annual review of political science*, 12:403–422.

Donno, D. and Kreft, A.-K. (2019). Authoritarian institutions and women's rights. *Comparative Political Studies*, 52(5):720–753.

Week 9 (October 18): Parties and Party Systems

Downs, A. et al. (1957). An economic theory of democracy(chs. 7-8).

Lipset, S. M. and Rokkan, S. (1967). *Party systems and voter alignments: Cross-national perspectives*, volume 7. Free press(pp. 1-64).

Sartori, G. (2005). Party types, organisation and functions. *West European Politics*, 28(1):5–32.

Schlesinger, J. A. (1984). On the theory of party organization. *The Journal of Politics*, 46(2):369–400.

Cox, G. W. and Amorim Neto, O. (1997). Electoral institutions, cleavage structures and the number of parties. *American Journal of Political Science*, 41(1):149–174.

Mainwaring, S. (1999). *Rethinking party systems in the third wave of democratization: the case of Brazil*. Stanford University Press(pp. 21-60).

Chandra, K. (2005). Ethnic parties and democratic stability. *Perspectives on Politics*, (2):235.

Recommended: Aldrich, J. H. (1995). *Why parties?: The origin and transformation of political parties in America*. University of Chicago Press(pp. 3-61).

Week 10 (October 25): Racial and Ethnic Identity Politics

Brubaker, R., Loveman, M., and Stamatov, P. (2004). Ethnicity as cognition. *Theory and society*, 33(1):31–64.

Bates, R. H. (1983). Modernization, ethnic competition, and the rationality of politics in contemporary africa. *State versus ethnic claims: African policy dilemmas*, 152:171.

Dancygier, R. M. (2017). *Dilemmas of inclusion: Muslims in European politics*. Princeton University Press(Chs.1-2).

Hooker, J. (2005). Indigenous inclusion/black exclusion: Race, ethnicity and multicultural citizenship in latin america. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 37(2):285–310.

Htun, M. (2004). Is gender like ethnicity? the political representation of identity groups. *Perspectives on Politics*, 2(3):439–458.

Posner, D. N. (2004). The political salience of cultural difference: Why chewas and tum-bukas are allies in zambia and adversaries in malawi. *American Political Science Review*, 98(4):529–545.

Miguel, E. and Gugerty, M. K. (2005). Ethnic diversity, social sanctions, and public goods in kenya. *Journal of public Economics*, 89(11-12):2325–2368.

Week 11 (November 1): Representation and Accountability

Przeworski, A., Stokes, S. C., and Manin, B. (1999). *Democracy, accountability, and*

representation, volume 2. Cambridge University Press.

Mansbridge, J. (2003). Rethinking representation. *American political science review*, 97(4):515–528.

Kitschelt, H., Wilkinson, S. I., et al. (2007). Citizen-politician linkages: an introduction. *Patrons, clients, and policies: Patterns of democratic accountability and political competition*, pages 1–49.

Jensenius, F. and Suryanarayan, P. (Forthcoming). Party system institutionalization and economic voting: Evidence from india. *Journal of Politics*.

Calvo, E. and Murillo, M. V. (2013). When parties meet voters: Assessing political linkages through partisan networks and distributive expectations in argentina and chile. *Comparative Political Studies*, 46(7):851–882.

Thachil, T. (2014). Elite parties and poor voters: Theory and evidence from india. *American Political Science Review*, 108(2):454–477.

Recommended: Schmitter, P. C. (1974). Still the century of corporatism? *The Review of politics*, 36(1):85–131.

Week 12 (November 8) Welfare States

Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. Princeton University Press(Chs. 1-3).

Iversen, T. and Soskice, D. (2006). Electoral institutions and the politics of coalitions: Why some democracies redistribute more than others. *American Political Science Review*, 100(2):165–181.

Iversen, T. and Rosenbluth, F. (2006). The political economy of gender: Explaining cross-national variation in the gender division of labor and the gender voting gap. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(1):1–19.

Garay, C. (2016). *Social policy expansion in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.

Singh, P. (2015). Subnationalism and social development: A comparative analysis of indian states. *World Politics*, 67(3):506–562.

Hacker, J. S. and Pierson, P. (2010). Winner-take-all politics: Public policy, political organization, and the precipitous rise of top incomes in the united states. *Politics & Society*, 38(2):152–204.

Week 13 (November 15): The Comparative Method

Skocpol, T. and Somers, M. (1980). The uses of comparative history in macrosocial inquiry. *Comparative studies in society and history*, 22(2):174–197.

Simmons, E. S. and Smith, N. R. (2017). Comparison with an ethnographic sensibility. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(1):126–130.

Falleti, T. G. and Lynch, J. F. (2009). Context and causal mechanisms in political analysis. *Comparative political studies*, 42(9):1143–1166.

Wood, E. J. (2007). Field research. In Boix, C. and Stokes, S., editors, *The Oxford handbook of comparative politics*. Oxford University Press.

Mosley, L. (2013). *Interview research in political science*. Cornell University Press(Introduction).

Teele, D. L. (2014). *Field experiments and their critics: Essays on the uses and abuses of experimentation in the social sciences*. Yale University Press(Introduction).

Week 14. (November 22) NO CLASS. Thanksgiving Week.

Week 15 (November 29): Conclusion and Review

Readings TBA.

Week 16 (December 6) : In-class final exam