

PS 21: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Tufts University
Spring semester 2012
MW 10:30-11:45pm (Block E+)
CABT ASEAN

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment

Course website accessible through <http://trunk.tufts.edu/>

Teaching Assistant: Irina Chindea

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Individual meetings by appointment

- Wednesday 6 pm (EATN 203) recitation section
- Thursday 6 pm (BRAK 225) recitation section

Teaching Assistant: Amit Paz

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Individual meetings by appointment

- Friday 12 noon (EAST 016) recitation section

Course description and objectives

If you are interested in why some countries are democratic and others are not, why some countries are rich and some are poor, and why some countries break apart and others hold together, then this course is for you. In this course we will examine and evaluate competing theoretical approaches (institutional, cultural, agency-centered, and others) to important phenomena in world politics, including democracy and democratization; economic development; revolutions; and ethnicity and ethnic conflict. We will also explore recent debates about the role of the state, political institutions, ideologies, culture, and civil society in shaping regime types, economic development, and political violence. For students majoring in political science, this course will introduce you to some of the big ideas and issues in comparative politics and prepare you for higher level courses.

Course requirements

This course meets three times a week: Monday and Wednesday are lectures, and the third meeting is a recitation with your teaching assistant. Recitation sections are mandatory, and your participation in section represents a significant component of your grade. You are expected to attend all classes and participate actively in recitation section discussions. To do so, you need to keep up with the reading, which averages around 50-60 pages a week. Recitations will begin the week of January 30th.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- 1) **Section participation (15%).** Recitation section grade will include attendance and active participation, weekly reading question you are to submit via Trunk (see instructional handout on Trunk under Assignments) and may include pop quizzes on the week's readings or other short assignments to be given by your section leader.
- 2) **Mid-term exam # 1 (30%).** The in-class mid-term will include essay questions and may include multiple choice and/or term identification questions. It will take place on **March 14**.
- 3) **Mid-term exam # 2 (30%).** In-class mid-term will take place during the last class meeting on **April 30**. The format will be similar to the first mid-term's format. This mid-term is not cumulative, it will cover material from the second half of the course.
- 4) **Short paper (25%).** This paper can be EITHER in the format of a critique of a group of theories we examine in this course, OR in the format of an empirical test of one or two theories of democratization against recent events in one of the countries of the Arab world (or you may chose another example of authoritarian regime(s) collapse). The paper has to be 8-10 pages long, double-spaced. It will be due during finals week.

Grading scale and policy: The following grading scale is used when grading each assignment/exam, and when determining final course grades (final grades are weighted averages of all assignments/exams).

A	93 and higher	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	59 and below

A document explaining grading policy, including policy on re-evaluating grades, is posted on Trunk under "Assignments."

On academic integrity: Tufts University values academic integrity. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences by familiarizing themselves with *The Academic Integrity* booklet available at <http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/Academic%20Integrity.pdf> and also on Trunk. If a student's work is suspected of not being original, Turn-it-in.com will be used to investigate the case. Per Tufts policy, any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will also be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs office.

Late policy: Late papers will be accepted and make-ups allowed *only at the discretion of the instructors and only in the event of significant and verifiable (i.e., documented) personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in the family)*. Students experiencing such circumstances should inform the instructor as far as possible in advance. In the interest of fairness to all, under no condition will extensions will be granted due to the stresses of academic life (e.g., demands of other classes, other papers or exams, extracurricular activities, etc). No exceptions will be made to this rule. Please take care and plan accordingly.

Special needs: Please inform me in advance of any special needs.

Possible changes to the syllabus. This syllabus may change as the semester progresses. Updates will be announced in class, and updated syllabus will be posted to the course website on Trunk. Please treat the online syllabus on Trunk as the most recent, most definitive version.

Course materials

1. Patrick H. O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski, *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 3rd Edition (WW Norton 2010).

This book is available for purchase at the bookstore. If you are buying a used copy elsewhere, make sure you are purchasing the 3rd edition! A copy of the book is also placed on reserve at Tisch.

2. Additional required readings posted on Trunk course site. Marked **TR** in the syllabus.

Class schedule and readings

*NOTE: Readings should be completed *before* the start of the class for which they are assigned.*

1. Mon, Jan 23. Introduction to the course.

No readings assigned.

Part I: Key concepts and theoretical approaches in comparative politics

2. Wed, Jan 25: The discipline of comparative politics and its methods.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 3-7 (Lichbach and Zuckerman, "Research traditions and theory in comparative politics.")
2. Essential Readings, pp. 7-9 (Fukuyama, "How academia failed the nation.")
3. Essential Readings, pp. 11-13 (Bates, "Area studies and the discipline." Start reading from "Deeper fusion" on p. 11).
4. Michel Sodaro, *Comparative politics: A global introduction*, "Critical thinking about politics," pp. 56-70; 76-87 (from "nonfalsifiable hypothesis" on p. 76 till "indirect hypothesis testing" on p. 87) (**TR**).

3. Mon, Jan 30: Approaches to the study of the state.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 22-28 (Weber, "Politics as a vocation.")
2. Essential Readings, pp. 28-40 (Herbst, "War and state in Africa.")
3. Essential Readings, pp. 43-51 (Rotbeg, "The new nature of nation-state failure.")

#4. Wed, Feb 1: Approaches to the study of the state (cont.)

1. Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the state back in: strategies of analysis in current research." In Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, *Bringing the state back in* (Cambridge UP, 1995), pp. 3-28 (TR).

5. Mon, Feb 6: Political culture.

1. Edward Banfield, *The moral basis of a backward society*, pp. 7-31, 85-104, 147-161 (TR).
2. Gabriel Almond et. al., *Comparative politics* (ch. 3, "Political culture and socialization," pp. 56-67) (TR).

6. Wed, Feb 8: Political institutions: theoretical approaches.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 116-126 (North, "Institutions.")
2. Samuel Huntington, *Political order in changing societies* (Yale UP, 1968), pp. 8-24 (TR).
3. Paul David, "Clio and the economics of QWERTY," *American Economic Review* v. 75, no. 2, May 1985, pp. 332-337 (TR).

7. Mon, Feb 13: Institutional design (I): Presidentialism vs. parliamentarism.

1. Juan Linz, "The perils of presidentialism," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP 1996), pp. 108-126 (TR).
2. Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal," *Comparative Politics* v. 29, no. 4 (July 1997), pp. 449-471 (TR).
3. Seymour Martin Lipset, "The Centrality of Political Culture," in Diamond and Plattner, eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP 1996), pp. 150-153 (TR).

8. Wed, Feb 15: Institutional design (II): Electoral rules and party systems.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 161-169 (Lijphart, "Constitutional choices for new democracies.")
2. Essential Readings, pp. 282-286 (Duverger, "The number of parties.")
3. Essential Readings, pp. 287-294 (Iversen and Soskice, "Why some democracies redistribute more than others?")

Mon, Feb 20: HOLIDAY (no class)

Part II: Explaining regime types.

9. Wed, Feb. 22: Types of political regimes.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 151-159 (Schmitter and Karl, "What democracy is and is not.")
2. Essential Readings, pp. 206-218 (Linz and Stepan, "Modern non-democratic regimes.")

10. Thur, Feb 23 (Monday schedule): Democracy and democratization: classical approaches.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 268-282 (Lipset, "Economic development and democracy.")
2. Barrington Moore, *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy* (Beacon Press, 1993), pp. 413-432 (TR).

#11. Mon, Feb 27: Civil society, social capital, and democracy.

3. Robert Putnam, *Making democracy work* (Princeton University Press, 1993), pp. 1-16, pp. 163-185 (TR).
4. Sheri Berman, "Civil society and the collapse of Weimar Germany," *World Politics*, v. 49, no. 3 (April 1997), pp. 401-429 (excerpts) (TR).

12. Wed, Feb 29: Explaining democratization (or its absence) in the developing world (I): what hinders democracy?

1. Eva Bellin, "The robustness of authoritarianism in the Middle East: exceptionalism in comparative perspective," *Comparative Politics*, v. 36, no. 2 (January 2004), pp. 139-157 (TR).
2. Essential Readings, pp. 219-233 (Zakaria, "Islam, democracy, and constitutional liberalism.")
3. Michael Ross, "Does oil hinder democracy?" *World Politics*, v. 53, no. 3 (April 2001), pp. 325-337; 356-357 (TR).
4. Essential Readings, pp. 241-252 (Weinthal and Jones Luong, "Combating resource curse.")

13. Mon, March 5: Explaining democratization (or its absence) in the developing world (II): what helps democracy?

1. Ashutosh Varshney, "India defies the odds: Why democracy survives," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 9, no. 3 (July 1998), pp. 36-50 (TR).
2. Lucan Way, "Authoritarian state building and the sources of regime competitiveness in the fourth wave: the cases of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine," *World Politics*, v. 57, no. 1 (January 2005), pp. 231-161 (TR).
3. Essential Readings, pp. 235-241 (Diamond, "The democratic rollback.")

#14. Wed, March 7: Recent waves of democratization (I): causes and prospects

1. Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's third wave," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 2, no. 2 (April 1991), pp. 12-34 (TR).
2. Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The rise of competitive authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 13, no. 2 (April 2002), pp. 51-65 (TR).
3. Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 3-24 (TR).

15. Mon, March 12: Recent waves of democratization (II): the Arab Spring in light of theories of democratization

1. Eva Bellin, "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East. Lessons from the Arab Spring," *Comparative Politics*, v. 44, no. 2 (January 2012), pp. 127-149 (TR).
2. Michael Ross, "Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring?" *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2011, pp. 17-22 (TR).
3. Lucan Way, "The Lessons of 1989," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 22, no. 4 (October 2011), pp. 17-26 (TR).

16. Wed, March 14: IN-CLASS MIDTERM #1 (closed book)

SPRING BREAK: March 19th – 25th (HAVE FUN!)

Part III: Explaining economic development.

#17. Mon, March 26: The politics of economic development (I): classical approaches.

1. Max Weber, *The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism* (New York, Routledge 2002), pp. 102-109; 120-121 (TR).
2. Walt Whitman Rostow, *The stages of economic growth: A non-Communist manifesto* (Cambridge UP 1960), pp. 4-16 (TR).
3. Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic backwardness in historical perspective* (Harvard UP, 1962), pp. 5-30 (TR).

#18. Wed, March 28: The politics of economic development (II): dependency and state-led development.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 105-111 (Smith, "The wealth of nations.")
2. Andre Gunder Frank, "The development of underdevelopment," *Monthly Review*, vol. 18, 1966 (TR).
3. Robert Wade, *Governing the market. Economic theory and the role of government in East Asian development* (Princeton UP, 1990), pp. 1-14; 22-29; 334-344 (TR).

19. Mon, Apr 2: The politics of economic development (III): markets and development.

1. Kiren Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers," *Politics and Society*, v. 21, no. 3 (1993), pp. 245-274 (TR).
2. Joel Hellman, "Winners take all. The politics of partial reform in postcommunist transitions," *World Politics*, v. 50 (January 1998), pp. 203-234 (TR).

#20. Wed, Apr 4: Is democracy good or bad for economic growth?

1. Gabriel Almond, "Capitalism and democracy," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, September 1991, pp. 467-474 (TR).
2. Essential Readings, pp. 428-431 (Barrow, "Democracy: A recipe for growth?").
3. Essential Readings, pp. 431-438 (Przeworski "Political regimes and economic growth.")

PART IV: Explaining political violence: revolutions and ethnic conflicts

#21. Mon, Apr 9: Theories of social revolutions (I): leadership-centered and Marxist approaches.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 323-336 (Marx and Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist party.")
2. Eric Selbin, "Revolutions in the real world: bringing agency back in," in John Foran, ed., *Theorizing Revolutions* (Routledge, 1997), pp. 123-136 (TR).
3. James Davis, "Towards a theory of revolution," *American Sociological Review*, v. 27, no. 1 (February 1962), pp. 5-19 (TR).

#22. Wed, Apr 11: Theories of social revolutions (II): relative deprivation and state-centered theories.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 442-457 (Skocpol, "France, Russia, China: a structural analysis of social revolutions.")
2. Essential Readings, pp. 485-499 (Berman, "Islamism, revolution, and civil society.")

Mon, April 16th Holiday (NO CLASS).

23. Wed, Apr 18: Theories of nationalism: primordialist and constructivist accounts.

1. Max Weber, "The Nation," in John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds., *Nationalism*, pp. 21-25 (TR).
2. Clifford Geertz, "Primordial ties," Jack Eller and Reed Coughlan "The poverty of primordialism" in John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. *Ethnicity*, pp. 40-51 (TR).
3. Ernest Gellner, *Nations and nationalism* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1988), pp. 1-7, 35-62 (from "The age of universal high culture" on p. 35) (TR).
4. Ernest Gellner and Anthony Smith debate (the "Warwick Debate" on nationalism). Online at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gellner/Warwick0.html> (from Anthony Smith, "Nations and Their Pasts" in *Nations and Nationalism*, vol.2, no.3, 1996, pp. 358-365 and Ernest Gellner, "Do nations have navels?" in *Nations and Nationalism* vol.2, no.3, 1996, pp. 366-370) (TR).
5. James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein, "Is ethnic conflict inevitable? Parting ways over nationalism and separatism," *Foreign Affairs* (July-August 2008), pp. 138-141 (TR).

24. Mon, Apr 23: Theories of ethnic conflict.

1. Essential Readings, pp. 84-95 (Huntington, "Clash of civilizations.")
2. Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic conflict and civil society," *World Politics*, v. 53 (April 2001), pp. 362-392 (TR).
3. David Laitin, "Secessionist Rebellion in the Former Soviet Union," *Comparative Political Studies*, v. 34, no. 8 (October 2001), pp. 839-861 [22] (TR).

25. Wed, Apr. 25: Preventing ethnic conflict and managing multiculturalism

1. Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in plural societies* (Yale UP 1977), pp. 1-52 (TR).

26. Mon, Apr 30: IN CLASS MIDTERM # 2 (closed book)

*** PAPERS are due by 5pm Monday, May 7th in BOTH hard copy (drop off in the PS department, there will be a box next to the front desk) AND electronically via Trunk (use Assignments function to upload your papers). Papers not received in HARD COPY by the deadline will be considered late. ***

There is no final exam.