

Comparative Human Rights and Repression

Comparative Human Rights and Repression
PSCI 5108
Wednesday

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One searches in vain through the thousands of articles and books written by political scientists, political sociologists, economists, and anthropologists for references to the awful and bloody deeds of governments and for explanations of how and why these deeds are done.

John McCammant

All I ask is that, in the middle of a murderous world,
we agree to reflect on murder and to make a choice

Albert Camus

Course Outline

This course is directed towards filling gaps within the existing literature on repression and human rights. We will address the “state of the art” research, rigorously go through it, and then attempt to develop it further - pushing the discipline as far as possible. The student taking this class and extending effort will be at the forefront of this burgeoning subfield within comparative and contentious politics. Knowledge of empirical strategies not essential (but would be helpful).

Course Requirements

The course in run on six principles:

- 1) careful reading of the assigned material;
- 2) active participation in class (15% of the grade);
- 3) clear and concise oral presentations (15% of the grade);
- 4) brief (5 page) and well constructed review essays of each reading (35% of the grade);
- 5) a 3-5 page outline of the final paper (5%) – **Due November 25th**
- 6) 1 final paper (30% of the grade) – **Due December 9th**

Number 4 and 6 are discussed in more detail below.

Review essays - each class individuals will prepare and submit written assignments (the assignments will rotate between individual students).

The paper is due at the beginning of the class. Late assignments are not acceptable. The assignments themselves will be **5 pages** (12 point font, 1 inch margins, cover page not included nor references) in length and will address the criteria provided within the appendix. Students will be evaluated on how well they meet these criteria.

Final paper - submitted on DECEMBER 14TH - here will be a paper concerning a topic of the students choice (discussed with the Professor). Primarily the student should seek to extend the already existing literature or take the area in a new direction. The paper should not exceed 30 pages in text (not including notes, tables, references and so forth).

As the area that we are addressing is relatively underdeveloped this task should not be that difficult. The paper is open to geographic location, time period, and methodological technique (i.e., econometrics, computer simulation, case studies, or some combination [preferred]), as long as the one(s) selected is(are) appropriate for the particular research question put forth. Throughout the course we shall be going over all of these differences in some detail, so if you do not feel comfortable with one, you will be.

Class Schedule -
(All reading material is on reserve or
available from the instructor)

1) introduction (aug. 25th)

Overview:

Writing Exercises and Questions to be answered:

- 1) What is the research question?
- 2) What independent variable is being highlighted?
- 3) How is it measured? Problems? What is left out?
- 4) What is the independent variable expected to effect: i.e., how do we get from the independent to the dependent variable? [DRAW MODEL]
- 5) What contextual factors are important for the relationship to manifest itself?
- 6) What theoretical tradition does the study follow?
- 7) What data source is used for the dependent variable? What is the dependent variable (be specific)?
- 8) Are problems with the data mentioned within the text (specify)?
- 9) How would the study be altered by investigating alternative measurement schemes?

- 10) What methodological technique is employed in order to investigate the research question?
- 11) What problems exist with the technique selected? What would be better?
- 12) What conclusions are drawn from the analysis?
- 13) Do these conclusions follow from the theory/relationships identified earlier within the work? Why? Why not?
- 14) What are the implications of the analysis for the study of human rights and political repression (direct question towards: policy, practical, or research orientations)?
- 15) How does this piece differ from others that you have read on the subject? What would you suggest in order to improve or extend the analysis (Research design, theoretical background/emphasis, future questions)? [DESIGN and LAYOUT YOUR SUGGESTED STUDY]

2) conceptualization (sept. 9th)

Dennis Wrong (1979) – chapters 1-5, 9

Power: Its Forms, Bases and Uses
 [source - book]
 call number: not needed
 status: provided

Alex Schmid (1991)

“Repression, State Terror and Genocide: Conceptual Clarifications”
 [source – chapter in *State Organized Terror*]
 call number: jc571.s786
 status: not provided

Christian Davenport (1998)

“Can’t We All Just Get Along: Exploring Divisions within the Repression Literature”
 [source - article]
 call number: not needed
 status: provided

George Lopez (1986)

“A Scheme for the Analysis of Government as Terrorist”
 [source – Professor]

3) confronting the dark-side of the state (sept. 16th)

Michael Taussig (1997)

The Magic of the State

[source - *book*]
call number: not needed
status: provided

Anthony Giddens (1987)

The Nation State and Violence
[source - *book*]
call number: not needed
status: provided

John McCamant (1991)

“Domination, State Power and Political Repression”
[source – chapter in *State Organized Terror*]
call number: not needed
status: provided

Phillippe Faucher and Kevin Fitzgibbons (1989)

“Dissent and the State in Latin America”
[source – chapter in *Dissent and the State*]
call number: JC328.3.D57
status: not provided

Ted Gurr (1986)

“Persisting Patterns of Repression and Rebellion: Foundations for
a General Theory of Political Coercion”
[source – chapter in *Persistent Patterns and Emergent
Structures in a Waning Century*]
call number: cannot be found
status: not provided

Franz Oppenheimer (1922)

The State
[source: *book*]
call number: JC336.D63
status: not provided

Eugene Walter (1969)

Terror and Resistance
[source: *book*]
call number: JC330.W3
status: not provided

Alexander Dallin and George Breslauer (1970)
Political Terror in Communist Systems
[source: *book*]
call number: JC474.D34
status: not provided

4) data (sept. 23rd)

Robert Goldstein (1986)

“The Limitations of Using Quantitative Data in Studying Human Rights Abuses”
[source - *Human Rights Quarterly* 8(4): 607-627]
call number: JC571.U64
status: provided

Michael Stohl et al. (1986)

“State Violation of Human Rights: Issues and Problems of Measurement”
[source - *Human Rights Quarterly* vol 8(4): 592-606]
call number: JC571.U64
status: provided

Alison Brysk (1994)

“The Politics of Measurement: The Contested Count of Disappeared in Argentina”
[source - *Human Rights Quarterly* 16: 676-692]
call number: JC571.U64
status: not provided

Christian Davenport and Glen Galaich (1998)

‘What You See Might Be What You Get, But What You Get Ain’t All There Is: Examining Biases in News Coverage and the “Observation” of Human Rights Violations’
[source - *article*]
call number: not needed
status: provided

John, McCarthy, Clark McPhail and Jacke Smith. (1996)

"Images of Protest: Dimensions of Selection Bias in Media Coverage of Washington Demonstrations, 1982, 1991."
[source – American *Sociological Review* 61: 468-499]
call number:
status: not provided

explanatory variables:

5) Democracy/regime type (sept. 30th)

C. Neal Tate and Steve Poe (1994)

“Democracy and the Human Right to Personal Integrity: A Causal Model”
[source - Professor]

Christian Davenport (1995)

“Human Rights and the Democratic Peace”
[source - Professor]

Blasi and Cingranelli (1991)

“Do Constitutions and Institutions Help Protect Human Rights”
[source - Professor]

Anthony Pereira (1995)

“Political Repression in Brazil and the Southern Cone: Patterns and Legacies”
[source - Professor]

R.J. Rummel (1997)

“Power Kills”
[source - *book*]
call number:
status: not provided

Samuel Finer (1997)

“The History of Government”
[source – *book*]
call number:

status: not provided

6) Political Conflict/Political dissent (oct. 7th)

Steve Jackson et al. (1978)

“Conflict and Coercion in Dependent States”

[source - *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 22:627-657]

call number: JX1901.J6

status: not provided

Eduard Ziegenhagen (1986)

The Regulation of Political Conflict

[source: *book*]

call number: not needed

status: provided

David Kowalewski and Dean Hoover (1995)

*Dynamic Models of Conflict and Pacification: Dissenters,
Officials and Peacemakers*

[source: *book*]

call number: not needed

status: provided

Christian Davenport (1995)

“Multi-Dimensional Threat Perception and State Repression: An
Inquiry Into Why States Apply Negative Sanctions”

[source - Professor]

Ron Francisco (1996)

“Coercion and Protest: An Empirical Test on Two Democratic
States”

[source - *American Journal of Political Science*: 40: 1179-
1204]

call number: JA1.M5

status: not provided

Will Moore. 1998.

“Repression and Dissent: Substitution, Context and Timing.”

[source - *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 851-
73.]

call number: JA1.M5
status: not provided

7) Dependency (oct. 14th)

James Petras (1986)

“The Political Economy of State Terror: Chile, El Salvador and Brazil”
[source - *Crime and Social Justice* 27: 88-109]
call number: HV6001.C673
status: not provided

David Kowalewski and Dean Hoover (1994)

“Dissent and Repression in the World System: A Model of Future Dynamics”
[source - Professor]

Katherine Barbieri and Christian Davenport (1997)

“Pacific Inducement or Terroristic Impulse: An Examination of Dependency and State Repression”
[source - Professor]

David Richards, David Sacko, and Ronald Gelleny (1998)

“Money with a Mean Streak: Foreign Economic Penetration and Government Respect for Human Rights”
[source - Professor]

Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman (1979)

The Washington Connection and Third World Fascism
[source: book]
call number: E840.C48
status: not provided

8) Military/Militarization (oct. 21st)

John Taylor (1991)

Indonesia's Forgotten War: The Hidden History of East Timor
[source - Professor]

Ricardo Falla (1994)

Massacres in the Jungle: Ixcán, Guatemala, 1975-1982
[source - Professor]

Christian Davenport (1995)

“Assessing the Military’s Influence on Political Repression: An Examination of Different Hypotheses”

[source - Professor]

Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall (1990)

Agents of Repression: The FBI’s Secret Wars Against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement

[source: book]

call number: HV8141.C46

status: not provided

William Stanley (1996)

The Protection Racket State: Elite Politics, Military Exhortion, and Civil War in El Salvador

[source - Professor]

9) Development (oct. 28th)

Robert Goldstein (1981)

“Political Repression and Political Development: The Human Rights Issue in 19th Century Europe”

[source - *Comparative Social Research* 4: 161-198]

call number: HM48.C64

status: not provided

Dallin, Alexander, and George Breslauer (1970)

Political Terror in Communist Systems

[source: book]

call number:

status: not provided

Charles Tilly (1990)

Coercion, Capital and European States

[source: book]

call number:

status: not provided

S.N. Eisenstadt (1971)

Political Sociology: A Reader
[source: book]
call number:
status: not provided

10) Economic Doctrine/Policy (Nov. 4th)

Paul Buchanan (1989)

“State Terror as a Complement of Economic Policy: The Argentine
Proceso”
[source – chapter in *Dependence, Development, and State
Repression*]
call number: HD75.D46
status: not provided

Admantia Polis (1989)

“State Repression and Development: The Case of Turkey”
[source – chapter in *Dependence, Development, and State
Repression*]
call number: HD75.D46
status: not provided

Mahmood Monshipouri (1987)

*Political Repression and Economic Growth in the Developing
Countries*
[source - Professor]

David Pion-Berlin (1983)

“Political Repression and Economic Doctrines: The Case of
Argentina”
[source - *Comparative Political Studies* 16(1/April): 37-66]
call number: JA1.C64
status: not provided

10) Student Projects – theoretical development and
data collection (nov. 11th)

11) Student Projects – collection and preliminary
analysis (nov. 18th)

12) Student Projects – first draft presentation
(nov. 25th)

13) Student Projects - revision/presentation (dec
9th)

14) Student Projects - final
draft/submission/mailing (dec. 14th)

2) data notes:

standard based
event based

sources:

newspapers (local, international)
human rights agencies
government agencies
eyewitness accounts
expert evaluation

what could be coded:

action: violent/non-violent; type;
intensity (frequency):
scope: how many people effected, cost
location:
agent (target and sanction)
outcome: death, damage, psy (fear, intimidation)

3) Theoretical Explanations/notes

Big questions:

What causes it?
Why does it vary?
How does it vary?
How can it be stopped?

- 1) Strategic response to domestic threats
- 2) Group conflict: comp
- 3) Hierarchy: order

rational: de swann,
habitual: de la boetie, van den berghe
combination: gurr, davenport

components of process:

decision makers: rationale for action, rationale for particular strategy,
coercive agents: chain of command, entrepreneurial vs. ordered, action
targets/victims: outcome, reaction, after-effect
general population: reaction, after-effect

context: political situation, economic, cultural, geographic, external as well as internal