Course Summary
This seminar surveys the major substantive topics in comparative politics, including the following: democratization, states and state formation, the origin and effect of political institutions, political violence, identity politics (especially ethnic politics), representation and accountability, and comparative political economy. We will not focus on any particular world region. As we review each of the substantive topics, we will also discuss and evaluate the theoretical and methodological approaches that scholars have used to shed light on them.

Readings
All required readings for the class are available either at the SU Bookstore (in the student center), on library reserve, or on Blackboard. When possible I have made the readings available electronically.

Students are advised to obtain copies of the following books, which are available for purchase at the SU Bookstore. *I also recommend that you look ahead on the syllabus and acquire on your own as many additional books as you can afford.*


If you can afford it, I recommend that you buy Boix and Stokes’s *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (2007).
Grading and Assignments

Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following formula:

- Class Participation: 30%
- Weekly Papers: 40%
- Final Exam: 30%

Class Participation. Students are expected to attend class and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Because this is a reading and discussion course, and because part of being a professional political scientist involves the critical understanding of relevant academic literature, active student participation is essential. You will not earn a good grade in this class if you do not contribute to class discussions.

Response Papers. In the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for contributing 6 response papers. These papers should be submitted to the course folder on our common G drive by midnight on the Monday before class. Each student should then read all posted papers prior to class.

You can find the course folder from any campus-networked computer at the following filepath:

G:\MAX-Filer\Collab\PSC 671-macleary-S13.

In the “Public” folder, I have created a different subfolder for each week of the course. Please submit your papers in those folders, with file names having a format that identifies both you, and what you are writing about, like these:

Smith_Response_Lipset_1959  or  Jones_Response_Week_2

Response papers should be short (5-7 pages), and should outline some criticisms or questions for discussion that the class might want to consider during the seminar. These papers should focus on the central argument of one or more readings listed on the syllabus, and might assess relative strengths and weaknesses, identify a common shortcoming, explain how two or three papers relate to each other, question the methodology (measures, case selection, and so on) used, or discuss how the research has contributed to the systematic understanding of the social and political world. You should minimize the summary and maximize the analysis.

Please add page numbers to all of your papers.

Final Exam. During the last week of the semester I will hand out a final exam, which will be designed to mimic the format of the Political Science Department’s comprehensive exams in comparative politics. This will be a take-home, open book essay exam, and will be due on the last day of the finals period.
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
There is no room for academic dishonesty in this class. I do submit formal reports to the
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences when I suspect academic dishonesty or
plagiarism. I encourage all students to update their understanding of what counts as
academic dishonesty by visiting this website: http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/.

Disability-Related Accommodations
Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register
with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-
443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a
current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review
those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam
administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as
early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of
Disability Services http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/

Religious Observances
SU’s religious observances policy, found at
http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of
faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students,
faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the
policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work
requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their
instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an
online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My
Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of
class.

*** All students should feel free to discuss any of the issues ***
mentioned on this page with me at any time.
Weekly Schedule

I. Introduction and Method

January 16  The State of the Discipline; Methodology
January 23  Marx and Weber
January 30  Institutions

II. States and Regime Types

February 6  State Theory and State Formation
February 13  Democratization I
February 20  Democratization II

III. Elections, Parties, and Citizens

February 27  Institutional Design
March 6    Parties and Party Systems

************************ SPRING BREAK ************************

March 20  Political Behavior and Public Opinion
March 27  Responsiveness, Accountability, and Interest Representation
April 3   Social Movements, Mobilization, and Ethnic Conflict

IV. Political Economy

April 10  Comparative Political Economy I: Development
April 17  Comparative Political Economy II: Advanced Industrial Countries

V. Blurring the Line

April 24  International and Domestic Politics
* Listed on Blackboard as “CP Symposium”


Further Reading:


*Join the Comparative Politics section of APSA and you will receive APSA-CP twice a year.*

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. [1848]. The Communist Manifesto.

Weber, Max. [1958]. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. (skim ch 4; read the rest).

January 30  Institutions


We will spend an hour on a separate topic:


Further:


February 6  

State Theory and State Formation


Further Reading:


Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*


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February 13

Democratization I


*Historical Sociology*


*Political Culture*

Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The Civic Culture*. Read chapters 1 and 13; skim a few other chapters like 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, or others.


Further Reading:

* See my syllabus for PSC 787: Democracy and Democratization
Political Economy


Ross, Michael. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics*


The Transitions Paradigm


Further Reading:

* See my syllabus for PSC 787: Democracy and Democratization


Further Reading:


March 6  Parties and Party Systems


Further Reading:


Further Reading:


McAdam, Doug, John McCarthy and Mayer Zald, eds. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, introduction, Ch 1, Ch 2 (pp.1-61).


Further Reading:


Gourevitch, Philip. 1998. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: stories from Rwanda*.


Further Reading:


Choose a few of these:


