

Ms. Golden
Bunche 3282 x6-8166
Office hrs: Th 1:30-3:30
and by appointment

Political Science 168
Spring 1995
Tues.-Thurs. 9:30-10:45
Haines 2

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with some of the ways we study comparative politics. We shall do this by focusing on an issue central to the study of comparative politics: the origins and subsequent stability and legitimacy of democratic political regimes. Under what conditions did democracy originally develop in the West? What is the relationship, if any, between the emergence of democracy and of capitalism? Under what conditions have democratic political regimes endured, rather than breaking down into authoritarianism? When are authoritarian regimes most likely to make a successful transition to stable democracy?

The theme of democracy (and of its emergence, stability, and legitimacy) is especially timely in light of the sudden collapse of authoritarian and one-party regimes across the globe. Across eastern Europe, in the former Soviet Union, in the Philippines, and in South Africa, many of the formal mechanisms for democratic political competition have only recently been established. Because these changes took scholars by surprise, established answers regarding why such events occur or what they are likely to lead to do not exist. Throughout the course, we will make reference to these transformations and consider how the available literature might be extended to explain the sudden collapse of these authoritarian and one-party regimes. The final section of the course will consider these issues directly, by focusing on the establishment of democratic institutions in the former Soviet Union.

The course is divided into three sections. In the first, we read the classic theorists of comparative politics—Marx, Weber, Tocqueville—with particular (but not exclusive) attention to how they analyze problems of democratic politics. In the second, we read some works by contemporary students of comparative politics illustrating different approaches to the study of democracy. The final section is devoted to the topical question of the conditions for the successful transformation of authoritarian into democratic regimes, with particular reference to the former Soviet Union.

Requirements

There will be an in-class, open book mid-term on May 2 covering the assigned readings from Marx, Weber, and Tocqueville and a final examination at the end of the quarter covering material from the whole course. (The final examination will not be open book.) In addition, a 7-8 page paper analyzing selected assigned readings will be due about two-thirds of the way through the quarter (May 26). Late papers will be marked down by one grade for each day or fraction thereof. Papers should be typewritten, double-spaced, with numbered pages, and 1-inch margins on all four sides.

Discussion Sections

I believe you will find attendance in discussion sections extremely helpful in working through assigned readings. This is likely to be reflected in your overall performance in the class, and not only in the portion of your grade pertaining to participation in section.. Sections are as follows:

Section A	Tu 11	Bunche 3117
Section B	Tu 12	Bunche 1265

Section C	W 9	GSM 3343B
Section D	W 1	Haines 144
Section E	Th 12	Rolfe 3131
Section F	Th 1	Bunche A152

Please do not change your section unofficially, as this may result in problems with grading.

Grades

The mid-term will contribute 25 percent to your course grade; the paper, 30 percent; and the final examination another 30 percent. The remaining 15 percent will reflect your participation in section. All grading will be done by section instructors.

Books and Readings

All readings required during the quarter will be available for purchase in the ASUCLA bookstore. In addition, all the books are on 2-hour reserve in the undergraduate library

SYLLABUS

- Tu April 4 No reading; course introduction.
- I. The Classics: Marx, Weber, Tocqueville
- Th April 6 Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (International Publishers), all.
- Tu April 11 Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louise Bonaparte* (International Publishers), all.
- Th April 13/ Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Scribner's),
Tu April 18 all.
- Th April 20/ Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*
Tu April 25 (Doubleday), all.
- Th April 27 Synthesis and summary of materials covered thus far; review for mid-term.
- Tu May 2 In-class mid-term examination (open book)
- II. Approaches to the Study of Democratic Regimes
- Th May 4/ Barrington Moore, Jr., *The Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*,
Tu May 9 preface, chs. 1-2 and 7-9 (pp. xi-110 and 413-83).
- Th May 11 No assigned reading; lecture on strategies of inquiry in the study of comparative politics
- Paper topics distributed in class, May 9
- Tu/Th May 16/18 G. Bingham Powell, *Contemporary Democracies*, chs. 1-2, 5-6 and 8-9 (pp. 1-29, 74-132, and 154-200).
- Tu May 23 William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style* (3rd ed), all.
Discussion of papers, and what it takes to write a good paper.
- Th May 25 Instructor out of town; work on papers due tomorrow
- ** 7-8 page papers due by 3:00 pm, Friday, May 26 **
- III. Contemporary Problems in the Transition to Democracy
- Tu/Th May 30/ Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave*, chs. 1-2 and 5-6 (pp. 3-108 and 208- June 2
316).
- Tu/Th June 6/8 Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market*, all.

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F June 9

Special review session for final examination (3:00-5:00 pm). Room to be announced.

** Final examination Haines 2 on Thurs. June 15, 8:00-11:00 am**