

PLSC 116 – Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2017)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35-12:25, Luce 101

David Simon (david.simon (at) yale.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00

Sections: M, 4:00, 5:00

T, 4:00, 5:00

W, 10:30, 11:35

Teaching Fellows: Melis Laebens, Shikhar Singh

Overview

This course is about how we can try to understand trends and variations in politics across time and space. We will search for commonalities in political behavior, institutions, and outcomes across different political entities – including and focusing on the modern state. We will also highlight differences – unique elements and anomalies – in the politics of different entities, and ask what might begin to explain them. Along the way, we will attempt to gain an understanding of what is scientific about political science, and how comparativist methodologies can help us understand our world a little bit better.

Components

There are two lectures and a discussion section each week. Students will be responsible for 2 short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final, as well as for making informed contributions to discussion sections.

The grading breakdown is as follows:

Section participation: 10%

Short paper assignment #1 (an annotated bibliography, due September 25): 10%

For this assignment, pick a topic regarding an issue of politics in another country, region, or in a set of countries or regions. Find 7 bibliographic sources, and write a three-to-five sentence summary of each. Present the bibliographic data for the source using either MLA or APA style (but not both!). Make sure your sources include a mix of articles and books. Newspaper articles are not valid sources for this assignment.

Midterm exam (October 12): 20%

Short paper assignment #2 (a research design, due November 16): 20%

For this assignment, find a question regarding an issue of politics in another country, region, or in a set of countries or regions. Formulate an answer to your question as a falsifiable hypothesis, and propose a way to test its accuracy. The methodology you propose may be either qualitative or quantitative, but you must make clear what data you would need to have in order to test your hypothesis. Conclude with a discussion of possible implications of either finding support for your hypothesis or finding cause to reject it, respectively. Papers will be graded on the importance, significance, and creativity of the question (20%); clarity of hypothesis (20%); feasibility of methodology (20%); discussion of implications (20%); and clarity of writing (20%).

Final exam (December 18, at 2 pm): 40%

Book and Readings

The text for this course, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th Edition, by Patrick H. O’Neil (W.W.Norton & Co., 2015) is available for purchase or rent at the Yale bookstore (\$84 new; \$63 used; \$75.60 for rent). It can also be found at [Amazon \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#) (\$53.95 new, from \$45.24 used, and \$17.43 rented), and presumably from other sellers as well.

There will be 3-6 non-text readings each week as well. These are generally articles or book chapters that can be found through the Canvas site for this course.

Policy on Academic Honesty

All work that you submit in the course of completing the class requirements must be your own. The use of others’ work as if it were one’s own constitutes plagiarism. Please familiarize yourself with the appropriate standards and techniques for citing all sources that are used in you the work you submit. Failure to adhere to appropriate citation standards will not be excused.

Schedule of topics and readings

August 31 Shopping Session: What is “Comparative Politics”

- Reading: Chapter 1 in Patrick O’Neill, *The Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 5th Edition (herein: O’Neill), pp. 3-27. [RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT ESSENTIAL. THIS READING JUST GIVES ONE AN IDEA OF THE TOPICS AND APPROACH OF THE COURSE]

September 5 The Origin of States

- O’Neill, pp. 30-46
- Robert Bates, “The Formation of States,” chapter 3 (pp. 50-69) from *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development* (Norton, 2001). [Canvas only, under FILES]
- Charles Tilly, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime”, chapter 5 from *Bringing the State Back In* (Evans, Rueschemeyer, and Skocpol, eds., University of Cambridge Press, 1985) pp. 169-190. [[LINK \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)]
- Brian D Taylor and Roxana Botea. "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World." *International Studies Review* 10.1 (2008): 27-56. ([LINK \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#))

September 7 States and Statehood

- O’Neill, pp. 46-58
- Christopher Clapham. "Degrees of Statehood." *Review of International Studies* 24.2 (1998): 143-157. ([LINK \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#))
- James C. Scott, “Cities, People, and Language,” chapter 2 from *Seeing Like a State: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press, 1998), pp. 53-83. [Canvas only, UNDER FILES]

September 12 Ethnicity and National Identity

- O'Neill, pp. 62-77
- Anderson, Benedict. Excerpt from "Introduction" in *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso Books, 2006, pp. xx-xx.
- Kanchan Chandra, "What is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9 (2006), pp. 397-424. ([LINK](#))
- FOR SECTION: Arend Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method," in *APSR* 1971 [[LINK \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.]
- AND Daniel N. Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 98, No. 4 (Nov., 2004), pp. 529-545.

September 14 Political Identity

- O'Neill, pp. 77-95
- Lisa Wedeen (2002). Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science. *American Political Science Review*, 96(4), pp. 713-728. doi:10.1017/S0003055402000400.
- Anna Grzymala-Busse, "Why Comparative Politics Should Take Religion (More) Seriously" *Annual Review of Political Science*, V.15, 2012, pp. 421-442.

September 19 Authoritarian Rule

- O'Neill, pp. 187-202
- James C. Scott, "Authoritarian High Modernism," chapter 3 from *Seeing Like a State: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press, 1998.
- Johannes Gerschewski. "The Three Pillars of Stability: Legitimation, Repression, and Co-optation in Autocratic Regimes." *Democratization* 20.1 (2013): pp. 13-38
- FOR SECTION: Ronald Wintrobe. 1990. "The Tinpot and the Totalitarian: An Economic Theory of Dictatorship," *American Political Science Review* 84 (September): pp. 849-872.

September 21 Accountability

- Susan C. Stokes, "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina," *American Political Science Review* 99 (2005): 315- 325.
- Thaveeporn Vasavakul, "Authoritarianism reconfigured: Evolving accountability relations within Vietnam's one-party rule." *Politics in Contemporary Vietnam*. Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2014. 42-63.
- Abel Escribà-Folch, "Accountable for what? Regime types, performance, and the fate of outgoing dictators, 1946-2004." *Democratization* 20.1 (2013): 160-185.

September 26 Democratization

- O'Neill, pp. 136-152
- Sheri Berman, "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 18, no. 1 (January 2007), pp. 28-41.

- Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some social requisites of democracy: Economic development and political legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53.1 (1959): pp. 69-105.
- Maya Tudor, "Explaining Democracy's Origins: Lessons from South Asia." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 45, no. 3, 2013, pp. 253–272. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43664320 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..
- FOR SECTION: Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics*, 58, 4 (July 2003): 517-549.

September 28 Democratic Institutions: Presidentialism and Parliamentary Systems

- O'Neill, pp. 152-158
- Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, (Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds.; Johns Hopkins University Press), pp. 162-174.
- Juan Linz and Arturo Valenzuela, "Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does it Make a Difference?" in *The failure of presidential democracy. Vol. 1*. JHU Press, 1994.

October 3 Elections and Parties

- O'Neill, pp. 158-170
- Nils-Christian Bormann and Matt Golder. "Democratic Electoral Systems around the World, 1946–2011." *Electoral Studies* 32.2 (2013): pp. 360-369.
- Carlos Boix, "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review*, 93:3 (1999), pp. 609-624.
- Maurice Duverger. 2006. "Duverger's Law, Forty Years Later" in *Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences* (Bernard Dorfman and Arend Lijphart, eds; Agathon Press), pp. 69-84.
- FOR SECTIONS: Winters, Matthew S., and Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro. "Lacking Information or Condoning Corruption: When Do Voters Support Corrupt Politicians?" *Comparative Politics*, vol. 45, no. 4, 2013, pp. 418–436. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43664074.

October 5 Voting and Participation

- Pippa Norris, "The Impact of Electoral Engineering" from *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior* (Cambridge University Press), pp. 249-264.
- Sam Wilkin, Brandon Haller and Helmut Norpoth, "From Argentina to Zambia: A World-Wide Test of Economic Voting." *Electoral Studies* 16: 3 (1997), pp. 301-316.
- Leonard Wantchekon. "Clientelism and voting behavior: Evidence from a field experiment in Benin." *World politics* 55.3 (2003): pp. 399-422.

October 10 The Rise of Populism

- O'Neill, pp. 181-187.
- Fareed Zakaria. "Populism on the March: Why the West is in Trouble." *Foreign Affairs*. 95 (2016): 9.

- Erdem Aytaç, and Ziya Öniş. "Varieties of Populism in a Changing Global Context: The Divergent Paths of Erdoğan and Kirchnerismo." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 47, no. 1 (2014), pp. 41–59. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43664342 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..
- FOR SECTIONS: Review of concepts for the midterm.

October 12 Midterm

October 17 Comparative Political Humor

- James C. Scott, "Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 13.2 (1986): pp. 5-35.
- Lisa Wedeen, "[Ideology and Humor in Dark Times: Notes from Syria \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)," *Critical Inquiry* 2013 39:4, pp. 841-873.
- Majken Jul Sørensen. "Humorous Political Stunts: Speaking "Truth" to Power?." *The European Journal of Humour Research* 1.2 (2013): pp. 69-83.

October 24 Introduction of Comparative Political Economy

- O'Neill, pp. 98-111
- Kenneth L. Sokoloff, and Stanley L. Engerman. "History Lessons: Institutions, Factors Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14.3 (2000): pp. 217-232.
- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty," chapter 3 from *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. Crown Business, 2013.
- FOR SECTIONS: Rogowski, Ronald. "Political cleavages and changing exposure to trade." *American Political Science Review* 81.4 (1987): pp. 1121-1137.
- ...AND Anna Maria Mayda and Dani Rodrik. "Why are some people (and countries) more protectionist than others?." *European Economic Review* 49.6 (2005): pp. 1393-1430.

October 26 Liberalism and the Modern Welfare State

- O'Neill, pp. 112-132 & pp. 264-268
- Torben Iversen and David Soskice, 2006, "Electoral Institutions and the politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others" *American Political Science Review*, 100:2, pp. 165-181.
- Lane Kenworthy and Jonas Pontusson. "Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries," *Perspectives on Politics*, 3(2005): pp. 449- 471.

October 31 Communism

- O'Neill, pp. 270-288
- Frederick Engels, "The Principles of Communism" available online, [here \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

- Alec Nove, "Socialism, Central Planning, and the One-Party State," chapter 4 in *Authority, Power and Policy in the USSR: Essays dedicated to Leonard Schapiro* (Palgrave MacMillan, 1983), pp. 77-97
- Gordon Skilling, "Interest Groups and Communist Politics." *World Politics*, 18.3 (1966): pp. 435-451.

November 2 Post-communism

- O'Neill, pp. 289-304
- Anna Grzymala-Busse, "Beyond Clientelism: Incumbent State Capture and State Formation." *Comparative Political Studies* 41.4-5 (2008): pp. 638-673.
- Michael Bernhard, "Civil Society after the First Transition: Dilemmas of Post-communist Democratization in Poland and beyond." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 29.3 (1996): pp. 309-330.

November 7 Development

- O'Neill, pp. 308-328
- Williamson, John. "Democracy and the "Washington consensus"." *World development* 21.8 (1993): 1329-1336.
- Mark T. Berger and Mark Beeson. "Lineages of Liberalism and Miracles of Modernisation: The World Bank, the East Asian Trajectory and the International Development Debate." *Third World Quarterly* 19.3 (1998): pp. 487-504.
- FOR SECTIONS: Terry Lynn Karl, "Oil-led Development: Social, Political, and Economic Consequences." *Encyclopedia of Energy* 4 (2007): pp. 661-672.

November 9 Pathologies of the Development State

- O'Neill, pp. 330-340
- Robert Wade. "Dirigisme Taiwan-Style." *IDS Bulletin* 15.2 (1984): pp. 65-71.
- Jean Grugel and Pía Riggirozzi. "Post-neoliberalism in Latin America: Rebuilding and Reclaiming the State after Crisis." *Development and Change* 43.1 (2012): pp. 1-21.
- Thandika Mkandawire, "Thinking about Developmental States in Africa." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 25.3 (2001): 289-314.

November 14 State Collapse

- O'Neill, pp. 209-225
- Robert H. Bates, "State Failure," *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 11 (2008): 1-12. ([LINK \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.)
- Jennifer Milliken and Keith Krause. "State Failure, State Collapse, and State Reconstruction: Concepts, Lessons and Strategies." *Development and Change*, 33.5 (2002): pp. 753-774.

FOR SECTIONS: Stephen D. Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States." *International Security* 29.2 (2004): 85-120.

November 16 Protest and Violence

- O'Neill, pp. 225-235
- Excerpt [TBD] from Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy and Mayer Zald, eds., *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*. Cambridge University Press, 1996
- Lieberman, Evan S., and Prerna Singh. "The Institutional Origins of Ethnic Violence." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 45, no. 1, 2012, pp. 1–24. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41714169 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

November 28 Civil War

- Carles Boix, "Economic Roots of Civil Wars and Revolutions in the Contemporary World," *World Politics* 60 (April 2008): 390-437.
- Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner, "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 61:1 (2009), pp. 1–27.
- FOR SECTION: Balcells, Laia, and Patricia Justino. "Bridging Micro and Macro Approaches on Civil Wars and Political Violence: Issues, Challenges, and the Way

November 30 Post-Conflict Politics

- Walter, Barbara F., "Does Conflict Beget Conflict? Explaining Recurring Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 41.3 (2004): pp. 371-388.
- Anders Themnér, "Former Military Networks and the Micro-Politics of Violence and Statebuilding in Liberia." *Comparative Politics* 47.3 (2015): pp. 334-353.

December 5 Globalization I

- O'Neill, pp. 346-370
- Layna Mosley, "Globalisation and the State: Still Room to Move?" *New Political Economy* 10.3 (2005): pp. 355-362.
- Hanspeter Kriesi, et al. "Globalization and the Transformation of the National Political Space: Six European Countries Compared." *European Journal of Political Research* 45.6 (2006): pp. 921-956.

FOR SECTIONS: Jan Arte Shulte, "Civil Society and Sovereignty in a Post-Statist Circumstance" in Trudy Jacobsen and Charles Sampford, eds, *Re-envisioning Sovereignty: The End of Westphalia?* (Routledge, 2016)

December 7 Globalization II

- Sarah A. Radcliffe, "Development, the State, and Transnational Political Connections: State and Subject Formations in Latin America." *Global Networks* 1.1 (2001): pp. 19-36.
- Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy." *Atlantic Monthly* 273 (1994): 44-76.