

Tulane University
Fall 2015
Class meetings – MW 11:00-11:50
Classroom – Lindy Boggs 105

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Office hours: Wednesday, 12:45-2:45

POLC 2300: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

“In our time the destiny of man presents its meanings in political terms.” —Thomas Mann

This course explores a number of political and economic developments in a wide variety of national contexts, from Europe, to Asia, to Latin America. The main goal of the course is to help you to evaluate competing theoretical approaches to the political phenomena that shape all of our lives and to place your experience within the broader context of different national and historical experiences. It will rely largely upon a “political-economy” approach—that is, one that emphasizes how political and economic developments intersect. Because the kinds of events that we will be studying—democratization, economic development, and revolution, to name a few—vary so much by both place and time, the case studies that we will read are meant to be illustrative rather than exhaustive. That said, thinking carefully about the persuasiveness of the theories and explanatory frameworks that we will encounter will help you to become a savvy observer of political developments around the world.

In order to relate the material in this course to current events, you should keep up with contemporary international developments as they are reported in the news media. *The New York Times* and *The Economist* are the best English-language periodicals on international political events, and part of your assignment will be to read one (or both) of these sources on a regular basis and be prepared to relate what you learn to the themes of the course in your essay and on the exams.

The course lecture will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Fridays, you will have a discussion section with one of the two teaching assistants for this course: Ms. Jessica Webb and Mr. Michael Jones. Attendance and active participation in these sections is a required component of the course. Poor attendance and/or lack of participation will affect your course participation grade negatively, not to mention its inevitably negative effects on your performance on exams.

I take writing very seriously. I therefore *strongly* suggest that you begin your essay early, edit multiple drafts, and proofread carefully before turning it in. Grammar, diction, and style all shape the effectiveness of your writing and, as a result, will affect your grade. Consult William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, for helpful hints regarding written expression. Joseph M. Williams and Gregory G. Colomb, *The Craft of Argument* (New York: Longman, 2003), provides an excellent overview of the art of effective persuasive writing.

Requirements (and weighting in final grade)

1. An essay of 6-8 pages in length on topics to be assigned by the instructor (25%). The essay will be due in hard copy at the beginning of class (11:00) on 26 October. It may be turned in before the due date and time but not afterwards. No exceptions or extensions. No electronic copies of any kind will be accepted.
2. In-class midterm examination (25%)
3. Final examination, covering the material from the entire course (35%)
4. Active, informed participation in class discussion; attendance in both lectures and discussion section and any reading quizzes will be counted towards this total (15%)

All course reading is expected to have been completed by the beginning of the week in which that material is listed on the syllabus. Periodic, unannounced reading quizzes will be administered and will become part of the participation grade.

Please refer to the Tulane University honor code for details on academic dishonesty. If you have any questions, please ask me. I will enforce the honor code strictly and deal severely with any violations of any kind.

No computers, phones, or any other electronic devices may be used in lecture for any reason—no exceptions. Any such devices on your person must be *off* (e.g., not merely on silent) and put completely away. Those who do not respect this requirement will be asked to leave class. Your TA will have his or her own policies about this matter.

Most of the readings for the course will be available on Blackboard. In addition, the following texts are required and should be purchased:

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, trans. Stephen Kallberg (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

David McLellan, ed., *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979).

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (24-26 August): What is Comparative Politics?

John Stuart Mill, "Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry," in *idem, A System of Logic Ratiocinative and Inductive* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1974 [1843]), pp. 388-391.

William Sewall, "Marc Bloch and the Logic of Comparative History," *History and Theory: Studies in the Philosophy of History*, vol. VI (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1967), pp. 208-218.

Week 2 (31 August): The Complexities of Historical and Political Analysis

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Hedgehog, the Fox, and the Magister's Pox: Mending the Gap between Science and the Humanities* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2003), chs. 1-3.

George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language," in *George Orwell: A Collection of Essays* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1981), pp. 156-171.

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), pp. 1-51, 160-173.

Aristotle, *Politics*, trans. T.A. Sinclair (London: Penguin, 1992), pp. 53-61.

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER

NO CLASS MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)

PART II: IDEAS, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

Week 3 (9 September): Classical Approaches to Political Economy I: Liberalism, the Birth of Capitalism, and the Industrial Revolution

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, trans. Stephen Kallberg (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), chs. 2, 3, and 5.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, Books I-III (London: Penguin, 1986 [1776]), pp. 109-126, 429-449.

Robert L. Heilbroner, "The Wonderful World of Adam Smith," in *idem, The Worldly Philosophers* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1961).

E.J. Hobsbawm, *Industry and Empire: An Economic History of Britain since 1750* (London: Weidenfield and Nicolson, 1968), pp. 1-60.

Week 4 (14-16 September): Classical Approaches to Political Economy II: Marx and the Critique of Capitalism

Robert L. Heilbroner, "The Inexorable World of Karl Marx," in *idem, The Worldly Philosophers* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1961).

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, in David McLellan, ed., *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 245-271.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, excerpt from *The German Ideology*, in McLellan, ed., pp. 184-200.

Karl Marx, excerpts from *Capital*, in McLellan, ed., pp. 472-480, 488-508.

ESSAY TOPICS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS, MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Week 5 (21-23 September): Classical Approaches to Political Economy III: Paths to Modernization and Economic Growth

Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East* (London: Free Press, 1958), pp. 43-75.

Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1962), pp. 5-30.

W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960), pp. 1-12.

Joseph R. Gusfield, "Tradition and Modernity: Misplaced Polarities in the Study of Social Change," *The American Journal of Sociology* 72, no. 4. (Jan. 1967), pp. 351-362.

PART III: TYPES OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE: REVOLUTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Week 6 (28-30 September): Competing Explanations of Revolutions

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979), pp. 3-43.

Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution* (London: Penguin, 1990 [1963]), pp. 11-58.

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1968), pp. 1-8, 265-308.

Weeks 7-8 (5-12 October): Comparative Cases of Revolution: England and France

Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, pp. 47-67 and 112-128.

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848* (New York: New American Library, 1962), ch. 3.

Michael Walzer, *The Revolution of the Saints: A Study in the Origins of Radical Politics* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1965), pp. 1-21.

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER

NO CLASS, MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER

Week 9 (21 October): Competing Explanations of Democratization

Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Boston: Beacon, 1964), preface, chs. 1 and 7.

Samuel P. Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 3-25.

Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1959), pp. 45-76.

ESSAYS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (HARD COPY), MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER

Week 10 (26-28 October): Comparative Cases of Democratization

Elisabeth Jean Wood, *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 3-107.

Frances Hagopian, "‘Democracy by Undemocratic Means’? Elites, Political Pacts, and Regime Transitions in Brazil," *Comparative Political Studies* 23, no. 2 (July 1990), pp. 147-170.

Re-read Moore, ch. 1.

PART IV: COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE 20TH CENTURY: THE CHALLENGES OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Week 11 (2-4 November): Inter-War Régime Outcomes in Europe: Fascism and Assaults on the Liberal Order

Gregory M. Luebbert, "Social Foundations of Political Order in Interwar Europe," *World Politics* 39, no. 4 (July 1987), pp. 449-478.

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978), vol. II, chs. 1-2.

Ian Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation* (London: Edward Arnold, 1993), pp. 17-39.

William L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960), chs. 5-6.

Eugen Weber, *The Hollow Years: France in the 1930s* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1994), chs. 1-2, 6.

Week 12 (9-11 November): Case Studies: Development and Liberalization in Late Developers

Kiren Aziz Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers," *Politics and Society* 21, no. 3 (1993): 245-273.

Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," in Peter K. Klarén and Thomas J. Bossert, eds., *Promise of Development* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1986), pp. 111-123.

Peter Evans, *Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State and Local Capital in Brazil* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1979), chs. 1, 2, and 6.

Weeks 13-14 (16-23 November): Post-war Politics in Advanced Industrial Countries: Institutions, Economic Growth, and the Rise of the Post-war Welfare State

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments," in Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), ch. 9.

Peter A. Hall, *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), ch. 9.

Andrew Shonfield, *Modern Capitalism: The Changing Balance of Public and Private Power* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965), chs. 1 and 4.

T. H. Marshall, "Citizenship and Social Class," in *Class, Citizenship, and Social Development: Essays by T. H. Marshall* (London: Heinemann, 1963), pp. 67-122.

NO CLASS, WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

NO CLASS, WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Week 15 (30 November-2 December): The Post-2007 Economic Crisis, the Politics of Austerity, and Debates over the Future of Capitalism

Joseph Stiglitz, *The Prince of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2012), preface and chs. 1-3.

Paul Krugman, "How Did Economists Get It So Wrong?" *The New York Times Magazine*, 6 September 2009, pp. 36-46.

James B. Stewart, "Eight Days: The Battle to Save the American Financial System," *The New Yorker*, 21 September 2009, pp. 58-81.

Mark Blyth, *Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), ch. 1.

Suzanne Mettler, *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), introduction and chs. 1-2.

John Gray, "The Liberal Delusion," *Prospect*, October 2014, pp. 38-45.

FINAL EXAMINATION, SATURDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 8:00-12:00