INTRODUCTION TO (COMPARATIVE) POLITICS I
Fall 2022, Wednesday 1:30-4:20 pm.

Professor Carles Boix
Robertson Hall 406
8-2139
E-mail: cboix@princeton.edu
Office hours: Fri. 3-5 pm. or by appointment

Faculty Assistant: Alexis Runner, arunner@princeton.edu

Course Design and Objectives

This course surveys major topics and theoretical contributions in the field of comparative politics. The courses examines: the formation and development of the modern state; political development, democracy; authoritarianism; revolution and political stability; nationalism. With the explicit goal of exploring how research in comparative politics should be pursued in the future, each session assigns readings from both traditional macrohistorical and qualitative research and more recent analytical models.

Course Procedures and Evaluation

Each student is expected to read (before class) the items listed as 'required readings' for each session. In some sessions 'background' reading, which is optional, is intended to provide introductions to the week's main readings.

In addition, students are expected to complete:

(1) Four short papers (around 3 pages) answering one of the week’s discussion questions. Papers will be due by 4:30pm the day before class (with answers to the questions of that week’s session). No exceptions will be made and no extensions will be granted. The answers should not just summarize readings, but show reflection on how the readings address important issues, are
flawed in particular dimensions, or can be developed or improved in specific directions.

(2) A final take-home exam to be set by the instructor or a research paper with a topic to be determined in advanced with the instructor. Due date: December 22, 2022.

Participation in class will count for about 1/4 of the grade. The other assignment (short papers, exam) will count for 3/4 per cent of the course grade.

**Readings**

Books marked with an (B) may be bought at Labyrinth and they should be on reserve at Firestone. All other readings have been put on electronic reserve.
Week 1. Organizational Session. Problems, Microfoundations, Method. (September 7)

Required readings

(A) Predecessors: Three Examples


(B) Microfoundations


(C) Comparative method


Further readings


Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Inquiry*, pp. 3-60.

Brian Barry. *Economists, Sociologists and Democracy*.


Week 2. Power. From Anarchy to Political Order. (September 14)

Required readings


Carles Boix. 2015. Political Order and Inequality. Princeton University. Chapters 1-4. (B)

Further readings


Peter B. Evans et al., Bringing the State Back In (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 3-77.


**Week 3. State Formation.** (September 21)

**Required readings**


**Further readings**


Week 4. The Logic of Authoritarian Control (September 28)

Required readings


Further readings


Week 5. Authoritarian Institutions and Outcomes (October 5)

Required readings


Further readings


Further readings: communist regimes


*Studies in Comparative Communism* 13 no. 1 (Spring 1980): 82-90 (more of above, Skilling, Janos).


Further readings: dictatorships and outcomes


Week 6. Political Modernization (October 12)

Required readings


Huntington, Samuel *Political Order in Changing Societies* Chapter 1, 3 to 7. (B)


Further readings


Leonard Binder et al., *Crises and Sequences in Political Development* (1971), Chapter 1 (pp. 3-72).


Myron Weiner and Samuel Huntington, eds., Understanding Political Development (1987), ch. 2 (Weiner) and 3 (Dominguez), pp. 33-99.


Hollis Chenery, Redistribution with Growth (1974).


Max Millikan and Donald Blackmer, eds., The Emerging Nations (1961).

Week 7. Democratization Theory I. (October 26)

Required readings


Further readings


Science Review 90: 715-35.
Week 8. Democratization Theory II. (November 2)

Required readings


Further readings


Week 9: Political Instability, Violence, Revolutions. (November 9)

Required readings

Civil Wars


Revolutions

- Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions (1979), pp. 3-43.


Further readings


Week 10. Representative Democracy (I). (November 16)

**Required readings**


**Further readings**


Week 11. Representative Democracy (II). (November 30)

Required readings


Further readings


Week 12. National Identities and Nationalism. (December 7)

Required readings


Further readings


