Course Design and Objectives

This course surveys major topics and theoretical contributions in the construction of political order, the choice of constitutional regimes and the sources of citizens’ compliance. The courses examines: the formation and development of the modern state; democracy; authoritarianism; revolution and political stability; legitimacy and compliance; nationalism; and macro theories of political change. 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 addition, students are expected to complete:

(1) Six 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) and should be placed in a box outside the instructor’s office. 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: January 20, 2011.

Grades: 20% participation, 40% papers, 40% final exam (paper).

Readings

Books marked with an (*) have been ordered at the Labyrinth and put on reserve. All other readings have been put on electronic reserve.
Week 1. Power and Consent. (September 13)

Required reading


Week 2. The Formation of the State. (September 20)

Required Reading


Further reading


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


**Week 3. Dictatorships I. (September 27)**

**Required reading**


**Further reading**


Samuel Huntington and Joan Nelson, No Easy Choice: Political Participation in Developing Countries (1976).


John H. Nerz, ed. From Dictatorship to Democracy: Coping with the Legacies of Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism (1982).

Further reading (communist regimes)


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


3. Dictatorships (II). (October 4)

Required reading


Further Reading


**Week 5. Democracy as an Equilibrium.** (October 11)

**Required Reading**


**Further reading**


**Week 6. Endogenous Democracy?** (October 18)

**Required Reading**


**Further reading**


**Week 7. Imperfect Democracies (I).** (October 25)

**Required Readings**


**Further Readings**


**Week 8. Imperfect Democracies (II).** (November 8)

**Required Readings**


**Further Reading**


Week 9. Imperfect Democracies (III). (November 15)

Required Readings


Further Reading


Required reading


Further reading


Simon Schama. Citizens.


Week 11. Nations and National Identities II. (December 6)

Required reading


Week 12. Number and Size of States. (December 13)

Required Reading


Further Reading


