POLI220A: State and Society
SSB 104, Wednesday 12-2.50pm
Spring 2011

Course Summary and Objectives
This seminar complements Political Science 220B (Comparative Politics: Institutions) to prepare students for the Comparative Politics comprehensive exam and to provide them with the background and training necessary to undertake original research in comparative politics. Each week will introduce a new theme, typically a dependent variable in comparative politics. This seminar will focus on the non-institutional side of political science, specifically on themes such as behavior, culture, identity, order and violence. Although this course tries to be comprehensive, it is far from exhaustive. Students should familiarize themselves with the list of recommended readings as well in order to prepare for the comprehensive exam.

Format
This course meets as a seminar once a week for the ten weeks of the quarter. Each week, except for the first week (Methods in CP), will cover a dependent variable in Comparative Politics. Readings for each week are categorized as either Required or Recommended. Students are expected to come to class having done all Required readings. In addition to reading all Required readings, students should take a look at the list of Recommended readings, which itself is not exhaustive. Covering both Required and Recommended readings is a good way to prepare for the comprehensive exam. Furthermore, familiarizing oneself with this literature will, I hope, help students identify research questions that they may want to pursue for their own dissertations. In addition to the works cited here, students may want to periodically follow the blogs below to keep up with the latest conversations and work in political science and political economy:

http://chrisblattman.com
http://www.themonkeycage.org/
http://www.marginalrevolution.com/
http://www.stat.columbia.edu/~gelman/blog/

Requirements
Students will be graded based on class participation (30%), two response papers (30%), and a final exam (40%) that mimics the comprehensive exam. The distribution of requirements is as follows:

• Class participation (30%):
  o Students are expected to do all required readings for the week before coming to class, and to participate actively in class. All books from which readings are assigned should be on reserve at the library. (15%)
  o Students will sign-up to lead discussion for one week. This means posting discussion questions on the class website 48 hours before class and leading the discussion at the beginning of class. (15%)
Two response papers (30%): Students will have to write two response papers, 4-5pp in length each (double-spaced). Students cannot write a response paper for the week in which they are assigned to lead discussion. Response papers should discuss how and how well each required reading for the week sheds light on that week’s theme. For each reading, papers should identify the research question, dependent and independent variables, main argument and empirical strategy. They should also evaluate the readings, discussing potential issues such as (but not limited to) the operationalization of variables, the sources of bias in the empirical strategy, and external validity. Top response papers will explore new researchable/testable ways to shed light on some unanswered questions. Papers are due by email at cadida@ucsd.edu before class begins.

Final exam (40%): The final exam will be a take-home, open-book, written exam, to be completed over the course of 5 hours. Students will have to answer 2 out of 3 essay questions. The exam will take place on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, from 2pm to 7pm. Questions will be emailed to the class roster just before 2pm. Exams should be emailed back as PDF documents to cadida@ucsd.edu by 7pm. Beginning at 7.05pm, half a letter grade will be deducted every 15 minutes, such that an A exam will become an A- exam if it is emailed between 7.06 and 7.20pm; a B+ exam if it arrives between 7.21pm and 7.35pm, etc… This silly system is intended to create incentives to submit a slightly unfinished exam on time rather than a slightly more finished exam late.

Policies
Extensions, incompletes, etc… will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under very pressing circumstances, they will be discouraged.

Please consult http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm for UCSD’s Academic Integrity Policy. Students in this course are expected to comply with this policy. Any student in violation of UCSD’s policy will automatically fail this class.

If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, please come see me as soon as possible and present your certification to me and to Ariane Parkes (aparkes@ucsd.edu).
Week 1: Methods in Comparative Politics (3/28)

Required:


Recommended:

- Barrett, Chris and Jeff Cason. Overseas Research, A Practical Guide.
**Week 2: The State (4/6)**

**Required:**

- Migdal, J. *Strong Societies and Weak States*: Chapter 1

**Recommended:**

- North, Douglas *Structure and Change in Economic History*
- Olson, M. *The Rise and Decline of Nations*
Week 3: Democracy and Transitions (4/13)

Required:


Recommended:

- Przeworski, A. *Democracy and the Market*: Chapters 1 and 2
Week 4: Autocracy (4/20)

Required:

- Lust-Okar Ellen. 2005. Structuring Conflict in the Arab World: Chapters 2-3

Recommended:

- Decalo, S. *Coup and Army Rule in Africa* 
- Stepan, A. *The State and Society*: Chapters 1 and 2
**Week 5: Economic Development and Reform (4/27)**

**Required:**

- Boix, C. *Democracy and Redistribution* (Cambridge) Introduction, Chs 1-2

**Recommended:**

- Easterly. The Elusive Quest for Growth.
- Geertz, ed. *Old Societies and New States*.
- Stokes, S. *Public Support for Market Oriented Reforms in New Democracies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 1
Week 6: Identity Politics (5/4)

Required:

- Fearon, J.D. “What is Identity (As We Now Use the Word)?” Unpublished manuscript: http://www.stanford.edu/~jfearon/papers/idem1v2.pdf
- Laitin, D. Hegemony and Culture: Chapter 1
- Wilkinson, S. Votes and Violence Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapters 1-2, 6

Recommended:

- Gellner, E. "Nationalism.” In Thought and Change: Chapter 7
- Hardin, R. One for All: Chaps. 1, 4, 6.
- Kalyvas, S. The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe
- Weber, E. Peasants into Frenchmen: Chapters 6, 27, 29
Week 7: Culture, Norms, Ideas (5/11)

Required:

- Axelrod, R. “Disseminating Culture.” In The Complexity of Cooperation: 148-77
- Chwe, M. Rational Ritual: Chapters 1 and 2
- Schelling, T. A Strategy of Conflict: Chapter 3

Recommended:

- Bednar, J. and Scott Page (February 2007) “Can game(s) theory explain culture? The emergence of cultural behavior within multiple games” Rationality and Society 19(1): 65-98
- Elster, J. Cement of Society: Chapter 3
Week 8: Social Movements, Participation (5/18)

Required:


Recommended:

Week 9: Conflict and Violence (5/25)

Required:

• Fearon, J. and David Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War” *APSR*
• Kalyvas, S. “Ethnic defection in civil war” *Comparative Political Studies* 41(8)

Recommended:

• Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapters 1-3
• Weinstein, J. *Inside Rebellion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 1
Week 10: Governance and Government Performance (6/1)

Required:


Recommended:


