

Government 90gh

Classics and Contemporaries in Comparative Politics

Spring 2006

David M. Woodruff

Location: CGIS-Knafel N-109

Meeting Time: W., 1-3

Catalog Number: 2680

This course covers some important contemporary debates in comparative politics—on such matters as the origins of democracy, comparative political economy, and social capital and governance—and relates them to classic works in the discipline. Beyond an understanding of how comparative politics has evolved, students will gain insight into how to research, and participate in, an ongoing scholarly discussion.

Requirements

Participation

Discussion is vital to the course, which will be conducted as a seminar. The purpose of the seminar format is to encourage you to engage these texts independently. Your thoughtful and well-prepared participation in class discussions will be decisive in whether or not the course is a success for you. If you are not keeping up with the readings you will not enjoy nor benefit from the course. Participation will count for 20% of your course grade

Written Assignments:

The written work in this course is designed to prepare you to complete a research paper at the end of the term and acquire the skills you will need to write a senior thesis.

The first assignment is a paper of 6-10 pages on the readings for the first five weeks. It is due on March 13th. Details about this assignment will be supplied in class. It will count for 15% of your course grade.

The major assignment of the term is an original research paper of 25-30 pages, due late in reading period. The paper must have an argument supported with appropriate evidence, rather than just a descriptive survey of a topic. It will be 40% of the grade. There are several preparatory assignments to keep you moving on this paper

* Two paragraphs formulating your topic and immediate research plans, OR several anguished, heartfelt pages explaining why you don't have one yet, what you've done so far, what you're planning to do next, and when I will get a topic from you. 5% of your course grade. Everyone who turns it in on time gets an A. Down one full grade for each day late. No extensions on other terms allowed. Due March 2nd.

* A status report, including: (1) provisional argument; (2) main potential counterarguments you foresee; (3) outline of research done and how it supports your argument; (4) outline of research remaining; (5) key difficulties with the project. 5% of your course grade. Everyone who turns it in on time gets an A. Down one full grade for each day late. No extensions on other terms allowed. Due April 7th.

* A draft of the paper. Graded as if it were the final paper, but one full letter grade (B becomes an A, A or A- becomes an A+) will be added to grades on drafts turned in on time only. Due May 1st. 15% of your course grade.

The Harvard Writing Center's "handouts" on academic papers are outstanding; re-reading them before writing each paper is a productive thing to do.

Grading procedures

The final grade will be based on class participation (20%), the final paper (40%), and the other assignments (40%) as specified above. Grades are assigned on a letter basis, and averaged numerically using the following conversions: A+=4.3, A=4, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3, B-=2.7, etc., rounded to the nearest grade.

Participation grading: Especially frequent and productive participation is necessary for an A. Giving evidence of some thoughtful reading at each session will merit at least a B+. Less regular participation will lead to progressively lower grades.

SYLLABUS

February 1 -- Introduction

DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

February 8

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto,"
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/manifest.pdf>. Pp. 1-32

Lipset, Seymour Martin. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *The American Political Science Review* 53, no. 1 (1959): 69-105.

February 15

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Papaterra Limongi Neto. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49, no. 2 (1997): 155-183.

Boix, C., and S. C. Stokes. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics* 55, no. 4 (2003): 517-+.

February 22

LIBRARY INFORMATION SESSION.

March 1

Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1966.

MARCH 2 – PAPER TOPICS DUE

March 8

Luebbert, Gregory M. *Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy: Social Classes and the Political Origins of Regimes in Interwar Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

MARCH 13 – SHORT PAPER DUE

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY

March 15

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 2nd Beacon Paperback ed. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2001.

March 22

Gourevitch, Peter. *Politics in Hard Times*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986.

April 5

Weber, Max. "Introduction to the Economic Ethics of the World Religions." In *The Essential Weber: A Reader*, ed. Sam Whimster, 55-80. London: Routledge, 2004.

Dobbin, Frank R. "The Social Construction of the Great Depression: Industrial Policy During the 1930s in the United States, Britain, and France." *Theory and Society* 22, no. 1 (1993): 1-56.

APRIL 7 – STATUS REPORT DUE

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

April 12

De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Lawrence translation). Selections.

Edward Banfield, *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society* (Free Press 1958), 17-34, 83-122, 139-166.

April 19

Robert Putnam with Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Nanetti, "Institutional Performance and Political Culture: Some Puzzles about the Power of the Past," *Governance: An International Journal of Policy and Administration* v. 1, n. 3 (July 1988): 221-242.

Robert Putnam with Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Nanetti, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton 1994): 63-82, 163-185

April 26

Goldberg, Ellis. "Thinking About How Democracy Works." *Politics & Society* 24, no. 1 (1996): 7-18.

Sabetti, Filippo. "Path Dependency and Civic Culture: Some Lessons in Interpreting Social Experiments." *Politics & Society* 24, no. 1 (1996): 19-44.

Riley, Dylan. "Civic Associations and Authoritarian Regimes in Interwar Europe: Italy and Spain in Comparative Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 70, no. 2 (2005): 288-310.

MAY 1 – PAPER DRAFT DUE

May 3

PRESENTATIONS ON STUDENT PROJECTS