

POL3800: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ANALYSIS SPRING SEMESTER 2008

Professor Davidson-Schmich

Class Time/ Location:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 10:45; LC170

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:30AM - 1PM
After class, by appointment

Office: 314J Jenkins Building

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I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three primary objectives. The first is to help you to learn about what makes democracy succeed or fail in a given country. The second is prepare you to design and carry out a social science research paper. The third is for you to become a critical consumer of other people's research. By the end of this class you should not only be prepared to do research papers for upper level political science courses and/or a senior thesis, but you should also be able to evaluate the quality of arguments made to you by politicians, the media, and professors regarding democratization and other social science topics.

II. GRADING

Your final grade will be based on the following assignments. *In addition, all students will receive a writing credit for this course.*

50%: Daily analytical in-class writing assignments. We will have 24 class periods not including the first week of class. At the start of each class after the first week, students will receive 10 minutes to briefly answer an analytical question regarding the reading assignment for the day. Half of your grade will be based on the top 20 scores you receive. This means you can be absent 4 times before a lack of attendance will begin to hurt your grade. If you have to miss class for a University-sponsored event (such as an athletic competition or Model UN trip) you may make up the question outside of class. However, you must notify me that you need to make up the writing question *before* your absence to use this option. Otherwise no makeup options are available.

50%: Research paper. This component is broken down as follows:

- Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (10% of final grade)
- Research Paper (40% of final grade)

III. READING ASSIGNMENTS

This course has two required textbooks. These books will help you understand the basics of designing, carrying out, and presenting a research project. Additionally, there will be articles to read that I post on the class website; these are marked with a * on the syllabus.

Baglione, Lisa A. 2007. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Johnson, Janet B. and H. T. Reynolds. 2008. *Political Science Research Methods*. 6th ed. Washington, D.C.: C Q Press.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE (* = READING AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)

1-15 **Introduction**
Read: Syllabus and Course Policies, Skim Johnson Ch. 1

1-17 **What is social science research/ an academic argument?**
Read: Johnson Ch. 2

1-22 **What is democratization?**
Read: Samuel P. Huntington. 1991. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. **Chapter 1 "What?"**

Research: Begin to think about a potential case to study in your paper and whether you want to write with a partner

1/23 *Last Day to Add Course*

1-24 **Degrees of Democracy**
Read: *Schedler. Andreas. 1998. What is democratic consolidation? *Journal of Democracy*. 9 (2): 91-107. **Read first 4 pages of electronic version.**

* Michael Burton, Richard Gunther, and John Higley. 1992. "Introduction" in *Elites and Democratic Consolidation in Latin America and Southern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Read pages 1 – 8.**

Research: Begin to think about a potential case to study in your paper and select a partner if you want to write with someone else

1-29 **How can we explain why some countries become established democracies and others don't?**

Read: Johnson pages 60-70

Huntington, **Chapter 2 “Why?”** (pages 31-45)

Research: Begin to phrase your research question as a “why” question

*1-30 Last Day to Make a Change in Credit-Only Designation
or Drop Course without a “W”*

1-31 **Individual Conferences to discuss Paper Topic**

Read: Baglione Chapters 1& 2

Research: Write down your research question and turn it in today!

2-5 **Literature Reviews / Finding Political Science Sources in Electronic Databases**

Special Guest: Ms. Vaidyanathan from Richter Library

Read: Johnson Chapter 6

Research:

Begin to look for sources for your paper.

2-7 **How and Why to Cite Sources**

Read: *UM Honor Code

* Northey, Margot, Lorne Tepperman, and James Russell. 2002. *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Social Sciences Second Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Research: When collecting sources, be sure to collect all relevant bibliographic information!

2-12 **Evaluating Sources**

Read: Booth, Wayne C. et al. 2003. *The Craft of Research*. 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 5 and 6.

Research: Be sure to assess the quality of a source before you begin to use it!

2-14 **Explaining Democratization: Theory #1: Class / Modernization**

Read:

* Seymour Martin Lipset. 1959. Some social requisites of democracy: Economic development and political legitimacy. *American Political Science Review* 53 (1): 69- 85 only.

* Amor, Ville. 2002. Kuwait and the democracy thing. Paper Prepared for POL 380.

Research: At the time your country democratized (or failed to), could it be considered “modern”? To answer this question you will need to gather indicators along the lines of those Lipset used.

2-19 **Explaining Democratization: Theory #2: Economic Inequality**

Read:

*Terry Lynn Karl, “Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability”, *Journal of Democracy*, 11:1, January 2000.

*French, Omari. 2002. “The Implications of the Failure of Democracy in Chile.” Paper prepared for POL380.

Research: How is/was wealth distributed in your country at the time you consider? To answer this question, you will need to find the country’s GINI coefficient or other evidence of (in)equality.

2-21 **Explaining Democratization: Theory #3: Culture/Civil Society**

Read:

* Putnam, Robert D. with Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. 1995. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.

* Charlie, Havana. 2006. “Failure to Democratize: A Look at Cuba in the Third Wave.” Paper Prepared for POL380.

Research: Characterize the type of civil society in your country by finding empirical indicators like those Putnam uses.

2-26

Explaining Democratization: Theory #4: National Unity

Read: * Rustow, Dankwart A. 1970. Transitions to Democracy: Toward A Dynamic Model. *Comparative Politics* 2 (3): Section I (pp. 337-341) and Sections IV and V (pp. 350-363)

* Del Percio, Leah Therese. 2005. "The Bahamas and Democracy." Paper prepared for POL380.

Research: Assess the level of national unity in your country at the relevant time. What evidence can you find to support your view?

2-28

Explaining Democratization: Theory #5: Institutions

Read: Excerpts from Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner, eds. 1996. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. 2d ed. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. Read excerpts:

* Juan J. Linz. "The Perils of Presidentialism" pp. 124-42

* Donald L. Horowitz. "Comparing Democratic Systems" pp. 143-9.

* Arend Lijphart. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" pp. 162-173.

* Guy Lardeyret. "The Problem with PR" pp. 175-180.

* Heuser, Brennan. 2005. "The Consolidation of Democracy in Africa: The Role of Institutions." Paper prepared for POL380.

Research: If your country adopted democratic institutions at the time you study, what form of democracy did it adopt? Do you find any evidence to support the positions of the authors we read for today?

3-4

Explaining Democratization: Theory #6: International Factors

Read:* Carothers, Thomas. 1991. The Reagan years: The 1980s. In *Exporting Democracy: The United States and Latin America*. Edited by Abraham F. Lowenthal. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. Read pages 90-7, 105-110, and Conclusion.

* Huntington pages 85-106

*Goodyear, Matthew. 2002. A sudden turn to democracy: The factors that led to South Africa ending apartheid rule. Paper prepared for POL 380.

Research: What relevant international actors were there in your case? What role did they play?

- 3-6 **Review of Major Theories**
Read: No new assignment
- Research: Continue researching how the above theories apply to your case.
- 3-18 **Critiquing Major Theories**
Read: Baglione Chapter 3
- Research: Do any of the above theories fail in the case of your country?
- 3-20 **Hypotheses and Research Design**
Read: Johnson Chapter 5 (pp. 122-165 only), pp. 70-86
- Research: Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due today!
- 3-25 **Qualitative vs. Quantitative Methods**
- Read:
Johnson pp. 42-44; 234-248
Baglione Chapter 7
- Research: Continue researching your case
- 3-27 **Sampling and Measurement**
- Read: Johnson Chapter 4 (pp. 88-109 only), 209-216; 225-228; 236-238
- * Freedom House. 2005. Freedom in the World 2005: Survey Methodology.
Available at <<http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=35&year=2005>>
Accessed 15 August 2006.
- Research: Is a Freedom House score available for your country in the relevant time period?

Note: Course may not be dropped after 3-28

4-1 **Qualitative Methods: Participant Observation (+ Research Ethics)**

Read:

Johnson Chapter 8

* Brunell, Laura. 2005. *Institutional Capital*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America. Pp. 24 and 45-8.

* Putnam, Robert D. with Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. 1995. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pages 12-14, 73.

Research: Continue researching your case.

4-3 **Class Cancelled: Midwest Political Science Association Meeting**

Reading: No assignment

Research: Continue researching your case.

4-8 **Personal Interviews/ Field Work Abroad**

Special Guest: Dr. Giuliano

Read:

Johnson pages 338-344

* Howard, Marc Morjé. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Appendix D.

* Howard, Marc Morjé. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Chapter 6.**

Research: Is it possible for you to do any interviews related to your case?

4-10 **Qualitative Methods: Document Analysis**

Special Guest: Dr. Uscinski

Read:

Johnson Chapter 9

* Ekiert, Grzegorz and Jan Kubik. 1991. *Rebellious Civil Society*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. pp. 13-18 and Appendix A.

* Skim: Ekiert, Grzegorz and Jan Kubik. "Contentious Politics in New Democracies: East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, 1989-93" *World Politics* 50.4 (1998) 547-581. **Pay special attention to tables and figures.**

Research: Are there any documents you can analyze for your case?

4-15 **Quantitative Methods: Survey Research**

Read:

Johnson pages 297-237

* Inglehart, Ronald. 2003. *Islam, Gender, Culture, and Democracy: Findings from the World Values Survey and the European Values Survey*. Place: DeSitter Publications, **Excerpt to be announced.**

Read the World Value Studies Survey at <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>

Research: Are there any surveys you can use to get evidence for your paper?

4-17 **Quantitative Methods: Statistics**

Read:

* Howard, Marc Morjé. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Chapter 4.**

Skim: Selections of Johnson Chapters 11-13

(See reading guide on course website for what to read)

Research: Pay special attention to any statistical evidence you find in your sources.

4-22 **Deductive Methods:
Game Theory / Experiments and Simulations / Formal Modeling**

Read:

Johnson pages 166-175

* Chandra, Kanchan. 2005. Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability. *Perspectives on Politics*. 3 (2): 235-252.

Research: Continue working on your paper

4-24 **Writing Up Your Research and Presenting It**

Read: Baglione Chapters 5, 8, 9

Research: Apply Baglione's ideas to your paper!

5-7 **Final Exam at 8 AM**

Final Papers due at start of exam period

5-14 **Final Grades Available** to Students in MyUM