INSTRUCTORS:
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Office hours:  
Thursdays 2-4pm  
Mondays 1-3pm

Format:  
This seminar is reading and discussion intensive. All students are expected to have covered the required readings for each session. The recommended readings listed complement the required readings and the expectation is that, together, the required and recommended readings will provide a foundation for students preparing for field examinations.

Requirements:  
The grade for the course will be based on a combination of participation in class and six assignments. First, active participation reflecting close familiarity with the required reading for each week is essential. Class participation is worth 10% of the final grade.

Second, students are required to complete a variety of written assignments as specified below:

1. Two essay responses to assigned books, one in each semester. No outside sources or references are required. The books to be reviewed are as follows
   i) Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*; due Oct 16th [10% of final grade]
   ii) Bernard Yack, *Nationalism and the Moral Psychology of Community*; due Mar 12th [20% of final grade]

The purpose of these written exercises is to summarize, contextualize, and critically analyze key texts in the field of comparative politics. To do this, you will need to marry two slightly different approaches. On the one hand, you should think “big”. What are the main arguments that the book advances? What is the main problem or puzzle that the author addresses?
On the other hand, you should also think “small.” It is not sufficient to summarize the author’s argument. Rather, we want you to “unpack” the argument and provide a critique of it. The instructors are interested in your own ideas, thoughts and reactions. The best critiques will focus, in detail (with quotes and page numbers), on one or two key aspects of the text – e.g., the use of a particular concept; application of the argument to different cases, choice of methodology. It is much better to cover a small, important part of the book in a precise and scholarly manner than to analyze broad swaths of the text in an imprecise way. Every effort should be made to critique the author in terms of the questions he or she is trying to address rather than other questions you might find more interesting. You should make sure to back up any claim with specific cites from the text. Every major concept used in the paper should be precisely defined.

2. Two essay responses to assigned questions based on the following books (questions TBD):
   ii) Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; due Jan 29th[20% of final grade]

3. Article Review: Approaches and schools: Pick a recent comparative politics article from one of the following political science journals (*APSR, World Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Perspectives on Politics or the Canadian Journal of Political Science*). [By “recent” we mean anything published in the last decade.]

   Situate and contextualize the argument being made in your selected article within the broader history of comparative politics. What are the intellectual antecedents of the argument being made and how, if at all, is the argument being made advancing those? Reference at least four sources from the relevant week of readings on approaches. Due January 8th [20% of final grade]

4. Class participation: 10% of final grade

   In each case, your assignment submissions are to be no more than 8 pages of 12-point, double-spaced text.

   No late papers will be accepted without a physician’s note
Readings:
Readings can be obtained from Blackboard; Some are also available electronically through the library website, at Robarts and/or for purchase at the U of T bookstore. All journal articles should be directly downloaded from the U of T library website.

Students are advised to purchase the following books from the U of T bookstore or from the vendor of your choice.

Texts for assignments:
Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*;  
Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*; and  

Required reading or frequently assigned texts that are also available from the bookstore and/or have been placed on reserve at Robarts Library.  
Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*  

Required reading or frequently assigned texts that have been placed on reserve at Robarts Library.  
Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Theda Skocpol (eds.) *Bringing the state back in*. New York: Cambridge University Press.  

FALL SEMESTER

*September 11th Week one: Introduction to the Course; and State Formation (KM)*

Required readings:
Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" Part I, Chap IV in From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology


Strongly suggested:

Recommended Readings:


**September 18th Week two: State Capacity; State-Society Relations (KM)**

*Note: We will come back to issues of state capacity and economic development in the winter term during the week on States, Markets, and Prosperity.*

**Required Readings:**

Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Theda Skocpol (eds). 1985. *Bringing the State Back In.* Chapter 1, Chap 11 Conclusion.


**Recommended Readings:**


**METHODS AND CAUSAL INference I**

**September 25th Week three:** (RV)

Discussion led by Prof Lucan Way

**Required Readings:**

*The Dominant Paradigm*
Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*: Chaps 1, 3; the rest of KKV is recommended.

*Critiques of the dominant paradigm*

*Quasi-experimental research*

*Multiple Methods*
Gellbach, Scott. 2015. “The Fallacy of Multiple Methods” in *Comparative Politics Newsletter* (Fall 2015)

**Recommended Readings:**

Peter Hall, “Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics,” in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*.


APPROACHES

October 2nd Week four: Institutionalism (KM)

Required Readings:

Institutions as authority

Rational Choice Institutionalism


Historical Institutionalism

Institutions as written rules

Institutions as non-written rules

Strongly suggested reading:
Lijphart interview in Munck and Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method* (chapter 8)

**Recommended Readings:**


**October 16th Week five: Political Culture** (RV)

***Essay due this week***

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**October 23rd Week six: Rational Choice (RV)**

Discussion led by Prof. Peter Loewen

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**October 30th Week seven: History and Political Development (RV)**

**Required Readings:**


Oxford Handbook Introduction
Recommended Readings:


*** READING WEEK BREAK***

**November 13th Week eight: Ideas and Change (RV)**

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


**November 20th Week nine: Class Analysis and Material Interests (KM)**

***Essay due this week***

**Required Readings:**

Moore, Barrington. 1966. The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. Boston: Beacon (Read the Preface, Chapter 1 (England), Chapter 2 (France), Chapter 4 (China) and Part III (Chapters 7, 8, 9 and Epilogue) for class discussion. Please note that you will be required to read the whole book for the MFE).


**Strongly suggested reading:**


Barrington Moore interview in Munck and Snyder, chapter 4

**Recommended Readings:**


Antonio Gramsci, Selections from the Prison Notebooks

David Harvey, Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism OR The Enigma of Capital

November 27th Week ten: Political Identifications I: Gender, Sexuality (KM)
Discussion led by Prof. Linda White

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


**December 4th Week eleven: Political Identifications II: Ethnicity** (KM)

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


*December 7th Week twelve: Critical Studies and Post-Colonialism (KM)*

Discussion led by Prof Theresa Enright

**Required Readings:**


Recommended Readings:


Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (1988). "Can the subaltern speak?"


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WINTER SEMESTER

TOPICS

*January 8th Week one: Modernization (KM)*
***Essay due this week (Article review)***

Required readings


• Huntington, Samuel *Political Order in Changing Societies* Chapter 1 (partial), pp. 1-77, Chapter 7 (partial); pp. 397-433


**Recommended readings**


January 15th  Week two: Political Regimes (RV)

Required Readings:

Democracy and democratization


Authoritarianism


Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*. Chapters 1 and 2.


Robert Mickey.  Paths Out of Dixie. Chapter 1

Recommended readings


Michael Ross, “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” World Politics, April 2001


January 22nd Week three: Revolution (KM)

***Essay due this week ***

Required Readings:
Big structures:
Skocpol, Theda. 1979. States and Social Revolutions. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; whole book.

Small decisions
Charles Kurzman, Unthinkable Revolution in Iran: Chapter 7 pp 125-162.

In between


Strongly suggested
Skocpol interview in Munck and Snyder, Passion, Craft, and Method

 Recommended Readings:


**January 29th  Week four: Social movements (RV)**

**Required Readings:**


OTHER READINGS TBD

**February 5th  Week five: Parties, Elections and Political Participation (RV)**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**February 12th Week six: Patronage and Clientelism (KM)**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Hagopian, Frances, Carlos Gervasoni, and Juan Andres Moraes. "From patronage to program: The emergence of party-oriented legislators in Brazil." *Comparative Political Studies* (2008).


*** READING WEEK BREAK***

**February 26th Week seven: Violence** (State violence and societal / communal violence) (KM)

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**March 5th  Week eight: Nationalism (RV)**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended readings:**
March 12th Week nine: Political Economy I (States and Markets) (KM)

Required Readings:


Atul Kohli, 2004,. State-Directed Development: Political power and industrialization in the global periphery. New York: Cambridge University Press: Read the Introduction pgs. 1-25, Chapters 1-3 (27-123), and Conclusion, pgs. 367-425


Polanyi, Karl. The Great Transformation. SELECTIONS TBD.


Recommended Readings:
Bates interview in Munck and Snyder


**Required Readings:**

Political economy of growth


Resource curse


Public goods and distribution
Readings TBD

Recommended


Terry Karl, The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States 1997


March 26th  Week eleven: Providing public goods and welfare (RV)

Required Readings:


**Recommended Readings:**


Skocpol, Theda. 1992. *Protecting Mothers and Soldiers: the political origins of social policy in the United States*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. (Reprise. This is also listed in the week on American political development.)


**April 2nd Week twelve: The Courts (RV)**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


