

THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (SIS 672-002)
American University, School of International Service

Fall 2015
Thursdays, 5:30 – 8:00 in Ward 107
Course RA: TBA
<http://carllewan.com>

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Office hours: Thurs 2-5 & by appt

Course description:

This course provides a survey of major theoretical approaches to comparative politics and international relations, fields which have traditionally been treated separately. Our class readings and discussions aim to build bridges between them, cultivating an interdisciplinary approach to international studies broadly conceived. We critically examine core topics such as the relationship between democracy and development, the evolving nature of the state, political culture and social mobilization, and ethnicity.

The course is divided into five broad units. The introductory unit gives a brief history of political science, and an overview of social theory, which provides the intellectual foundations for many of the analyses that follow. Second, we address the state, human agency, and different factors that shape or constrain international interactions. This includes an overview of realist traditions in international relations theory, and an emphasis on constructivism as an alternative mode of analysis. Third, we explore development and economics through theories that emphasize historical structures, political institutions, and democratic politics. Fourth, we consider cultural contexts of politics, including social capital, ethnic identity, and civil society, and we explore different explanations for the emergence of social movements. Fifth, we conclude with a discussion of democratization, analyzing the Arab spring in the context of existing theory and new concepts such as “hybrid” regimes. The final exam will concentrate mostly on this last course unit.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Become familiar with core themes in comparative politics, international relations, and the interdisciplinary realm of international studies
- Demonstrate understanding of theories and concepts from the course by (1) applying them to contemporary political questions and (2) defending an argument through effective use of relevant literatures
- Learn how to identify and interpret emerging issues in international politics

These required texts are in the AU bookstore:

- Lichbach, Mark, and Alan Zukerman, eds. 2009. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. From here on “**L&Z**.”
- Barkin, J. Samuel. 2010. *Realist Constructivism: Rethinking International Relations Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds. 2015. *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- A subscription to *The New York Times*.
- Required readings posted on Blackboard are noted with an ***asterisk** below.

If you are new to academic research on international relations, I recommend books such as *International Relations Theories* (3rd edition), edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve

Smith (Oxford University Press, 2013), or *International Relations Theory* (5th edition), by Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi (Longman, 2011). For an introduction to comparative politics, consult *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (4th edition), by Patrick O'Neil (Norton, 2012).

Course Requirements:

The assignments include a discussion group post, two short analytical papers, a literature review, and a final exam. During an ideal class meeting, every student will participate at least once. This means you should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Participation comes in all forms: by posing questions to your classmates or to the professor, or by developing critical observations about the readings. Online participation is encouraged but is not a substitute for in class discussion. This counts for 10% of your final grade.

Instructions for the analytical papers are posted on Blackboard under “content.” Outside research is permitted for these papers but you will primarily be evaluated based on your command of course material. I strongly encourage students to form small study groups to meet regularly outside of class. Discuss the readings, debate the ideas, familiarize yourself with the terminology, and get to know each other. Each paper should be 5-6 pages long, plus bibliography. Come to class prepared to discuss your essay.

- Research question – Pick a topic of your choosing and utilize the readings from Part 1 of the course to formulate a research question in a post of 300-400 words. Post your question to the Blackboard blog on **September 9**, the day before class meets. We will collectively view and discuss some of the questions during class (10% of final grade).
- Analytical paper on “Politics, Power, Development” – due on **October 9** at 5 pm via Blackboard upload (20% of final grade).
- Analytical paper on “States, Structures, Agency” – due on **October 30** at 5 pm via Blackboard upload (20% of final grade).
- Literature review on “Society, Identity, Culture” – Pick a topic related to the theories and concepts discuss in Part 4 of the course, and assess the state of existing research on the subject. Unlike the analytical papers, you have a lot of latitude with your topic so be sure to choose one that excites you. However, before you begin I strongly encourage you to consult my tips and suggestions about how to do a literature review, posted at <http://carllewan.com/teaching/student-resources/>. Because this is a literature review rather than a full research paper, you do not have to test a hypothesis or “prove” a thesis. The best papers will identify a clever topic with a clearly delimited scope, bring in interesting research and situate it appropriately, and be organized around a coherent and compelling logical structure that shows evidence of careful editing. The papers should be 8-12 double-spaced pages with one-inch margins, plus end notes. Please slip a **hardcopy** under my office door on **November 20 by 5 pm**. Double-sided printing is appreciated (20% of final grade).
- An in-class exam, focusing mostly on Part 5, on December 10 at 5:30 (20% of final grade).

Papers are graded on the following scale: 100 to 94 is an A, 93 to 90 is an A-; 89 to 87 is a B+, 86 to 83 is a B, 82 to 80 is a B-, etc. If you anticipate missing an assignment deadline due to a medical or other emergency, please notify the instructor before the due date. Late papers will be penalized. All papers must follow a standard formatting style such as Chicago, APSA or MLA. Please see my website for additional information: <http://carllewan.com/wp->

content/uploads/2010/02/Style-guide-for-papers-Spring-2011.pdf. The University's Academic Integrity Code will be strictly enforced. For information see: <http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/code.cfm>. Do not browse, email, text, etc. during class! Not only is this rude, a fair amount of scientific research (summarized on my web page) reports that we cannot multi-task as well as we think we can.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

(1) Course Overview (September 3)

- * Bennett, Andrew and G. John Ikenberry. 2006. "The Review's Evolving Relevance for U.S. Foreign Policy, 1906 – 2006." *American Political Science Review* 100 (Nov.): 651–658.
- Lichbach and Zukerman, Chapter 1: "Paradigms and Pragmatism" in L&Z.
- Weber, Max. 1918. "Politics as a Vocation" and "Science as a Vocation" online at:
<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/Iridener/DSS/Weber/polvoc.html>
http://www.sociosite.net/topics/texts/weber_science_as_a_profession.php

(2) Social Theory and Social Science (September 10)

- Lichbach, Mark. Chapter 2: "Thinking and Working in the Midst of Things," in L & Z.
- Katznelson, Ira. Chapter 4: "Strong Theory, Complex History," in L & Z.
- * Durkheim, Emile. 2000. Chapter 2: "The Division of Labor in Society," in *From Modernization to Globalization*. ed. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.

Recommended:

- Zuckerman, Alan. Chapter 3: "Advancing Explanation in Comparative Politics," in L&Z.
- Morrison, Ken. 2006. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought* (2nd ed.) London: Sage.
- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
- Marx, Karl. "Manifesto of the Communist Party," available free on Google Books.

PART 2: STATES, STRUCTURES, AND AGENCY

(3) The State (September 17)

- Migdal, Joel. Chapter 7: "Researching the State," in L & Z.
- * Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14, 4 (Spring 1990): 117-39.
- * Vu, Tuong. 2010. "Studying the State through State Formation," *World Politics* 62, 1 (January): 148-75.
- * Fukuyama, Francis. 2014. "States and democracy." *Democratization* 21 (7):1326-40.

Recommended:

- Patrick, Stewart. 2011. "The Brutal Truth: Failed States Are Mainly a Threat to Their Own Inhabitants. We Should Help Them Anyway." *Foreign Policy* (July/August).
- Pham, Peter. 2011. "Somalia: When a State Isn't a State," *Fletcher Forum on World Affairs* 35, 2 (2011): 135-151.
- Leeson, Peter. 2007. "Better off Stateless: Somalia Before and After Government Collapse," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 35 (2007): 689-710.

(4) Realism and Neo-Realism in International Relations (September 24)

- * Keohane, Robert. 1986. "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond," In *Neorealism and its Critics*, ed. R. Keohane. New York: Columbia University Press.

- * Waltz, Kenneth. 1986. "Reductionist and Systemic Theories," In *Neorealism and its Critics*, ed. R. Keohane. New York: Columbia University Press.
- * Ruggie, John. 1983. "Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis," *World Politics* 35(2): 261-85.

And read one of the following:

- * Clark, John. "Realism, Neo-Realism and Africa's International Relations in the Post Cold-War Era," in Kevin Dunn and Timothy Shaw, eds., *Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory*, New York: Palgrave, 2001: 85-102.
- * Jervis, Robert. 2009. "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective," *World Politics* 61(1): 188– 213.

Recommended Reading:

Viotti, Paul, and Mark Kauppi. 2010. *International Relations Theory*. 4th ed. New York: Longman.

(5) "Realist Constructivism" as Theoretical Synthesis (October 1)

Barkin. *Realist Constructivism*. You can skim chapters 8 and 9.

PART 3: POLITICS, POWER, AND DEVELOPMENT

(6) Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory (October 8)

- *Lerner, Daniel. 1955. "The Grocer and the Chief," *Harper's* (September): 47-56.
- *Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," *American Political Science Review* 53 (1):69-105.
- *Frank, Andre Gunder. 1969. "The Development of Underdevelopment." *Monthly Review* 18, 4.
- *Cardoso, Fernando Henrique. 1972. "Dependency and Development in Latin America," *New Left Review* 74 (July/August).

Recommended:

- Deutsch, Karl. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *APSR* 55, 3 (Sept. 1961): 493-514
- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Lerner, Daniel. 1958. Excerpts from *The Passing of Traditional Society*, in 2007. *From Modernization to Globalization*, eds. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.
- Piketty, Thomas. 2015. *The Economics of Inequality*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap.
- Rostow, W.W. 1959. "The Stages of Economic Growth." *Economic History Review* 12:1–16.

(7) Institutions and Incentives (October 15)

Levi, Margaret. Chapter 5: "Reconsiderations of Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis," in L & Z.

- *Mahoney, James. 2000. "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29 (2000): 507- 548.
- *Acemoglu, Daron, and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: the Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Chapter 3, "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty," pages 70-95. New York: Random House.

Sachs, Jeffrey D. 2012. "Government, Geography, and Growth," *Foreign Affairs*.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138016/jeffrey-d-sachs/government-geography-and-growth>

Recommended:

- North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rodden, Jonathan. Chapter 13: "Back to the Future: Endogenous Institutions and Comparative Politics," in L & Z.
- Taylor-Robinson, Michelle. 2010. *Do the Poor Count? Democratic Institutions and Accountability in a Context of Poverty*. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania State University Press.

(8) Term limits and as Institutional Constraints (October 22)

GUEST LECTURE: Aaron Sampson, Visiting SIS Fellow 2015-16

- * Ginsburg, Melton and Zachary Elkins. 2011. "On the Evasion of Executive Term Limits," *William and Mary Law Review* 52 (6): 1807-72.
- * Maltz, Gideon. 2007. "The Case for Presidential Term Limits," *Journal of Democracy* 18, (1): 128-42.
- * Dionne, Kim Yi, and Boniface Dulani. 2013. "Constitutional provisions and executive succession: Malawi's 2012 transition in comparative perspective," *African Affairs* 112 (446): 111-37.

PART 4: SOCIETY, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE

(9) Political Culture (October 29)

Ross, Marc Howard. Chapter 6: "Culture in Comparative Political Analysis," in L & Z.

- * de Tocqueville, Alexis. Introduction to *Democracy in America*.
 - * Welzel, Christian, and Ronald Inglehart. 2010. "Agency, Values, and Well-Being: A Human Development Model." *Social Indicators Research* 97 (1):43-63.
 - * Marien, Sofie, and Marc Hooghe. 2011. "Does Political Trust Matter? An Empirical Investigation into the Relation between Political Trust and Support for Law Compliance," *European Journal of Political Research* 50, 2 (2011): 267-91.
- Wade, Nicholas. 2010. "Human Culture, an Evolutionary Force," *New York Times*, March 2.

Recommended:

- Crawford, Matthew. 2015. *The World beyond your Head: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.
- Fish, M. Steven. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism," *World Politics* 55 (October 2002): 4-37.
- Swedlow, Brendon. 2011. "Symposium: A Cultural Theory of Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44 (4):703-10.
- Welch, David. 2010. "Symposium on a Cultural Theory of International Relations," *International Theory* 2, 3.

(10) Ethnicity (November 5)

Chandra, Kanchan. Chapter 15: "Making Causal Claims about the Effects of Ethnicity," in L&Z.

- * Fearon, James D., and David Laitin. 2011. "Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War," *World Development* 39 (2):212-20.
- * LeVan, A. Carl, and Josiah Olubowale. 2014. "I am Here Until Development Comes': Displacement, Demolitions, and Property Rights in Urbanizing Nigeria." *African Affairs* 113 (452):387-408.

(11) Civil Society and Social Movements (November 12)

McAdam, Doug et al. Chapter 10: "Comparative Perspectives on Contentious Politics," in L&Z.

- * Chenoweth, Erica and Maria Stephan. 2014. "Drop your Weapons: When and Why Civil Resistance Works," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August).
- Brownlee et al. 2015. Introduction and Chapter 1

Recommended:

- Belge, Ceren, and Ekrem Karakoc. 2015. "Minorities in the Middle East: Ethnicity, Religion, and Support for Authoritarianism." *Political Research Quarterly* 68 (2):280-92.
- Bunce, Valerie. 2003. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-communist Experience," *World Politics* 55 (January 2003): 167-92.
- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97 (1):75-90.
- Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *American Political Science Review* 98 (November): 529-545.
- Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow. 2007. *Contentious Politics*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers.

PART 5: COMPARATIVE DEMOCRATIZATION

(12) The Arab Spring (November 19)

GUEST LECTURE: Tofiq Maboudi, PhD Candidate, School of Public Affairs

Brownlee et al. Chapters 2 – 5.

Recommended:

- Della Porta, Donnatella. 2014 *Mobilizing Democracy: Comparing 1989 and 2011*. Oxford: Oxford University press.
- Durac, Vincent. 2015. "Social movements, protest movements and cross-ideological coalitions – the Arab uprisings re-appraised." *Democratization* 22 (2):239-58.
- Hess, Steve. 2015. "Sources of Authoritarian Resilience in Regional Protest Waves: The Post-Communist Colour Revolutions and 2011 Arab Uprisings." *Government and Opposition* 1-29.
- Kamrava, Mehran. 2014. *Beyond the Arab Spring: the Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East*. London: Hurst & Company.
- Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, "Level of Development and Democracy: Latin American Exceptionalism, 1945-1996," *Comparative Political Studies* 36:9 (Nov. 2003): 1031-1067.

➔ NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Holiday, November 26

(13) Democratization, Foreign Policy, Global Politics (December 3)

Brownlee et al. Chapter 6

- * Scott, James M., and Ralph G. Carter. 2014. "From Cold War to Arab Spring: mapping the effects of paradigm shifts on the nature and dynamics of US democracy assistance to the Middle East and North Africa." *Democratization* 22 (4):738-63.

Recommended:

- Finkel, Steven, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, and Mitchell Seligson. 2007. "The Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building, 1990 – 2003," *World Politics* 59 (April): 404–39.
- Solingen, Etel. Chapter 9: "The Global Context of Comparative Politics." in Lichbach and Zukerman.
- Teorell, J. 2010. *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

FINAL EXAM ON DECEMBER 10

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a declared pandemic (influenza or other communicable disease), American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence due to illness. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of a declared pandemic or other emergency, students should refer to the AU Web site (www.prepared.american.edu) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/ college-specific information.