

PS4: Introduction to Comparing Political Systems
Stanford University
Department of Political Science
Spring 2008

Instructor: Jeremy Weinstein
Teaching Assistants: Rikhil Bhavnani, Avital Livny

I. COURSE SUMMARY

The underlying purpose of this course is to identify and explain differences in political life among a set of diverse states. Although countries differ on many dimensions of political consequence, we will pay attention to differences on four of them: (1) the state (whether orderly or civil war prone); (2) the regime (democracy and dictatorship); (3) the nation (ethnically homogeneous and heterogeneous countries); and (4) the level of development (whether rich or poor). The differences we seek to explain will be called “dependent variables”. The sources of the differences among countries on these dependent variables are manifold, and include prior levels of development, social diversity, institutional factors, and historical time (ie. when the country was consolidated as a state). Factors that help explain differences will be called “independent variables.”

II. REQUIREMENTS

1. A group exercise to code a dependent variable (15% of grade) (due April 11)
2. A data exercise using a dataset provided to students and the STATA statistical package to demonstrate variation on a key dependent variable (15% of grade) (due April 23)
3. An in-class midterm (15% of grade) (May 6)
4. A data exercise using a dataset provided to students and the STATA statistical package to test a hypothesis (15% of grade) (due May 14)
5. An essay examining a case in which the outcome is different than that predicted by a general theory (15% of grade) (due June 2)
6. A final exam (25% of grade but passing final is a necessary condition for passing the course)

III. BOOKS AND PROGRAMS FOR PURCHASE

Samuels, David. Forthcoming. *Comparative Politics: A Thematic Introduction* [available on-line]

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*

STATA – statistical program [students can use campus computers without buying it, but also available in the bookstore]

Pollock, Philip H. 2006. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*

Course Reader [available on-line]

IV. LECTURES, READINGS, AND SECTIONS

1. Students are required to attend all lectures. Lectures will include material *in addition* to what is covered in the readings. Please note that computer use will not be permitted during lectures and that lecture slides will not be handed out or posted.
2. Although the class will be larger than a seminar, participation in class is *encouraged*. There will be regular opportunities for students to ask questions, answer questions I pose, and make arguments drawing on the material you have read. Please be prepared to participate.
3. Sections are *required*. New material will often be covered in sections, although there will be plenty of time for discussion (and clarification) of the material covered in class. TAs will also hold office hours and be available to answer questions about the use of STATA for the required assignments.

IV. SCHEDULE: LECTURES, READINGS, AND SECTIONS

Part A: Introduction

Lecture 1: Comparative Politics and Public Policy (April 1)

Fukuyama, Francis. 2004. "The Imperative of State-Building." *Journal of Democracy*
Birdsall, Nancy et al. 2005. "How to Help Poor Countries." *Foreign Affairs*

Lecture 2: What is Comparative Politics? (April 3)

Samuels, Chapter 1
Kenneth Hoover and Todd Donovan. 2004. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking*, 8th
ed. Toronto, Canada: Thomson-Wadsworth. pp. 15-43.

Section 1: Logic of Social Science, Introduction to Stata

Montesquieu, "Of Laws in Relation to the Nature of the Climate"
Pollock, Philip H. 2006. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*. Washington, D.C.:
CQ Press. Chapter 2.

Assignment #1: Group Exercise (handed out in section, due April 11)

Part B: States

Lecture 3: The Fundamental Problem of Order (April 8)

Samuels, Chapter 2 (parts 1, 2)
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 13, 17

Lecture 4: Why Do Some States Collapse? (April 10)

Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs*
Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War."
American Political Science Review
Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolution*. pp. 3-42

Section 2: Thinking About Variation

Sambanis, Nicolas. 2004. "What is Civil War?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6), pp.
814-828.
Pollock, Philip H. 2006. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: CQ
Press. Chapter 4

Lecture 5: Why Are Some States Strong? (April 15)

Samuels, Chapter 2 (parts 3 – 7)
Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War-Making and State-Making as Organized Crime"

Lecture 6: The European Experience in Comparative Perspective (April 17)

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. Chapter 1, Conclusion
Centeno, Miguel. 2002. *Blood and Debt: War and the Nation State in Latin America*. Chapter 1

Section 3: Iraq's Civil War

Dawisha, Adeed and Karen Dawisha. 2003. "How to Build a Democratic Iraq." *Foreign Affairs*
Fearon, James. 2007. "Iraq's Civil War." *Foreign Affairs*

Assignment #2: Variation on a Dependent Variable (handed out in section, due April 23)

Part C: Regimes

Lecture 7: Democracy and Its Alternatives (April 22)

Samuels, Chapter 3
Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book III (Chapters 6-12), Chapter 18, Book IV, Chapters 1-2
Karl, Terry and Phillippe Schmitter. 1991. "What Democracy is... and is Not." *Journal of Democracy*
Diamond, Larry and Leonardo Morlino. 2004. "The Quality of Democracy: An Overview." *Journal of Democracy*

Lecture 8: Why Does Democracy Emerge in Some Countries and Not Others? (April 24)

Samuels, Chapter 5
Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1963. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. Chapter 2
Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*. Chapter 2

Section 4: Testing Theories

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*. Chapter 3
Pollock, Philip H. 2006. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. Chapter 5, 8

Lecture 9: The Birth of Democracy (April 29)

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 9

Lecture 10: Democracy's Mixed Record in the Developing World (May 1)

Samuels, Chapter 6

Horowitz, Donald. 1993. "Democracy in Divided Societies." *Journal of Democracy*

Section 5: Islam and Democracy

Ross, Michael. 2008. "Oil, Islam, and Women." *American Political Science Review*.

Bellin, Eva. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East." *Comparative Politics*

Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs*

Part D: Nations

Lecture 11: In-Class Midterm / The Rise of Nationalism and the Nation-State (May 6)

Samuels, Chapter 7

Gellner, Ernest. 1964. *Thought and Change*. Chapter 7

Lecture 12: What Distinguishes Homogenous Countries from Heterogeneous Ones? (May 8)

Samuels, Chapter 8

de Swaan, Abram. 2001. *Words of the World*. Chapter 2

Section 6: Measuring Identity

Eifert, Benn, Ted Miguel, and Daniel Posner. 2008. "Sources of Ethnic Identification in Africa."

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review*

Assignment #3: Hypothesis Testing (handed out in section, due May 14)

Lecture 13: The Formation of National Identities in Europe (May 13)

Weber, Eugen. 1976. *Peasants into Frenchmen*. Chapter 6 (67-94), 29 (485-496)

Hechter, Michael. 1999. *Internal Colonialism*. pp. 191-207

Lecture 14: The Politicization of Ethnic Cleavages (May 15)

Bates, Robert. 1983. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa," in Rothchild and Olorunsola, *State Versus Ethnic Claims*

Miguel, Edward. 2004. "Tribe or Nation?" *World Politics*

Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference."
American Political Science Review

Section 7: Identities and Violence

De Waal, Alex and Julie Flint. 2006. *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War*.
[Selections]

Part E: Development

Lecture 15: How to Think About Development (May 20)

Samuels, Chapter 11
"The Road to Riches," *The Economist*, 31 December 1999
Lerner, Daniel. 1958. "The Grocer and the Chief: A Parable" in *The Passing of
Traditional Society*
Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty*. Chapter 1.
Sen, Amartya. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. pp. 13-54.

Lecture 16: What Explains Why Some Countries are Rich and Other Countries are Poor?
(May 22)

Landes, David. 1998. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*. Chapter 1
Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. "The
Colonial Origins of Comparative Development." *The American
Economic Review*
Easterly, William. 2001. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Chapter 1, 13.

Section 8: A Micro-Perspective on Development

Boston Review. 2006. *Making Aid Work*.
[Read Banerjee and responses]

Assignment #4: Explanations for Deviant Cases (handed out in section, due June 2)

Lecture 17: The Asian Miracle and Africa's Stagnation (May 27)

The World Bank. 1993. *The East Asian Miracle*. Overview, Chapter 1.
Krugman, Paul. 1994. "The Myth of Asia's Miracle." *Foreign Affairs*.
Van de Walle, Nicholas. 2003. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent
Crisis*. Chapter 1.
Bates, Robert. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. Introduction,
Chapter 1, 6.

Part F: Conclusion

Lecture 18: The Field of Comparative Politics (May 29)

- Miller, Grant. 2007. "Women's Suffrage, Political Responsiveness, and Child Survival in American History."
- Doyle, Michael and Nicolas Sambanis. 2000. "International Peacebuilding." *American Political Science Review*
- Olken, Benjamin. 2007. "Monitoring Corruption." *Journal of Political Economy*
- Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Policing Politicians: Citizen Empowerment and Political Accountability in Uganda."

Section 9: Review for Final, Discussion of Textbook

Final Exam