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## **V53.0500**

### **Introduction to Comparative Politics**

This course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, which is defined as the study of domestic politics anywhere in the world. As a way of cutting into this vast topic, we specifically focus on the process of democratic transition by analyzing the democratic revolution that has swept the globe during the last thirty-five years. In turn we will explore the causes of democratization, threats to democratization, and factors that may aid in a successful consolidation of democracy. As part of this process, students will be exposed to a wide range of topics in comparative politics, including the politics of economic reform, party systems and voting, theories of ethnic politics, and social capital.

### **Requirements**

The course is taught in two lectures (M, W, 11:00 – 12:15 in Cantor Film Center 101) and one recitation each week. Grading is based on a final exam (50%), a mid-term (20%), a 5-7 page paper (20%, due December 6), and section participation (10%). Note that the paper does *not* require outside research, so you can alternatively conceive of it as a take home midterm consisting of one essay question that you have a week to complete.

### **Office Hours**

All TAs will hold office hours weekly. Students should always contact their TA first concerning any logistical questions regarding the course.

Professor Tucker will hold office hours on Tuesdays from 10:30 – 12:00 in his office in room 430 at 19 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. If you need to schedule a time to meet outside of the scheduled office hours, please email Professor Tucker directly.

### **Readings**

This course is *not* taught from a textbook. Students are welcome to purchase a comparative politics textbook if they like, but there is no particular text for this class. Instead, readings will be drawn from 5 books recommended for purchase and a “virtual course pack” that contains a collection of articles and book chapters which can be downloaded individually from the course website on Blackboard. It is also suggested that students read the blog that Professor Tucker co-authors, “The Monkey Cage”, ([www.themonkeycage.org](http://www.themonkeycage.org)).

All students are expected to have completed the relevant reading **before** the recitation meeting each week. There are approximately **100 – 150** pages of reading a week; some are more and some are less. In particular, the weeks on the moment of transition, economic reform, and social capital have heavy reading requirement, as does the economic voting lecture. Others are shorter. Please plan ahead accordingly! Also, please note that “recommended” readings are included only for students who want to know more about the topic; you will *not* be expected to have read these works, nor will you be tested on them.

The following books are recommended for purchase and are available for purchase at the NYU Book Store:

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton University Press, 1993)

Jeffrey Sachs, *Poland's Jump to the Market Economy* (MIT University Press, 1994)

Timothy G. Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, (Vintage Books, 1993)

Larry Diamond et. al. (eds.) *The Global Resurgence of Democracy 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, (Johns Hopkins, 1996)

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Johns Hopkins, 1996)

For a few of the reading, I have provided a link as to where you can find the material online. All other readings are posted on Blackboard.

## Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

### I. Introduction to Comparative Politics: Sept 7, 12

Almond, Powell, Strom and Dalton, *Comparative Politics Today* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition), 31-45

Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek, *Analyzing Politics*, Ch.9: 220-259

Hirshman, Albert (1970). *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Response to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press., Ch. 1-3, p.1-43

### II. Regimes: Sept. 14, 19

*Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Ch 1, 3, 4 (p.3-15, 38-65)

*Global Resurgence*: Schmitter and Karl, “What Democracy is...” Ch.4, 49-62

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy*. 13 (2):51-65.

*Recommended:*

Dahl, Robert, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, Yale University Press, 1971, Ch.1-3, p.1-47

### III: The Moment of Transition: Sept 21, 26

Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, all

*Global Resurgence*: Huntington, “Democracy’s Third Wave”, Ch.1, p.3-25

Mapping the Fall of Communism: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7972232.stm>

Tucker, Joshua A. ““[Is Regime Change Ahead in the Mideast?](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0111/48366.html)” *Politico*, January 28, 2011. (http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0111/48366.html)

Aday, Sean et al. 2010. “Blogs and Bullets: New Media in Contentious Politics”, United States Institute of Peace.

*Recommended:*

*Global Studies: Russia*, “Central-Eastern Europe: From Dictatorship to Democracy”, p.97-115

Nalepa, Monika. 2009. *Skeletons in the closet : transitional justice in post-Communist Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

#### **IV: Forms of Government after Transition: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems: Sept. 28, Oct. 3**

*Global Resurgence*, Ch. 8 –10, 12 (p.111-149, 154-161)

Lijphart, Arend (ed) *Parliamentary vs. Presidential Government* :Intro (p.1-27);

Siaroff, Alan. 2003. "Comparative presidencies: The inadequacy of the presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentary distinction." *European Journal of Political Research*. 42:285-312.

*Recommended:*

Baylis, Thomas A. 1996. "Presidents Versus Prime Ministers." *World Politics* 48:297-323.

Tavits, Margit. 2008. *Presidents with Prime Ministers: Do Direct Elections Matter?* Oxford University Press 2008

#### **V: Electoral Systems: October 5, 12**

Norris, Pippa, 2004, ch.2, "Classifying Electoral Systems" p.39-65.

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Chapter 7, p.166-191.

<http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/> (just poke around the site – I'll refer to it in class. Useful for impressing your relatives when you go home for the break.)

Tucker, Joshua A. "[Why Egypt Needs a Two Round Presidential Election](http://blogs.wsj.com/ideas-market/2011/02/18/why-egypt-needs-a-two-round-presidential-election)", *The Wall Street Journal*, Ideas Market Blog, February 18, 2011. (<http://blogs.wsj.com/ideas-market/2011/02/18/why-egypt-needs-a-two-round-presidential-election>)

#### **MID TERM EXAMINATION: MONDAY , OCTOBER 17th**

#### **VI: Four Approaches to Voting and Elections (October 19, 24, 26, 31)**

*October 19th: Sociological Approach to Voting*

Dalton, 2006, Chapter 8 "The Social Bases of Party Support", p.148-176,

Flanigan, William H., and Nancy H. Zingale. 1998. *Political behavior of the American electorate*. 10th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press., Chapter 5 "Social Characteristics of Partisans and Independents", p.99-116.

### ***October 24th: A Rational Approach to Voting***

Downs, Anthony (1957). *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 1-3, (p3-50)

George Rabinowitz and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. 1989. "A Directional Theory of Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 83:93-121.

#### *Recommended:*

Tomz, Michael, and Robert P Van Houweling. 2009. "Candidate Positioning and Voter Choice." *American Political Science Review*. 102:303-18.

### ***October 26<sup>th</sup>: Economic Voting***

NOTE: All of these articles have a lot of statistical analysis. Don't worry about the details of the statistics – concentrate on the arguments the authors are making and what they report as their findings.

Kinder, Donald R. and D. Roderik Kiewiet (1981). "Sociotropic Politics: The American Case." *British Journal of Political Science* 11(1): 129-61.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, et al. (1992). "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy." *American Political Science Review* 86(3): 597-611.

Powell, G. Bingham and Guy D. Whitten (1993). "A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Voting: Taking Account of the Political Context." *American Journal of Political Science* 37(2): 391-414.

Tucker, Joshua A. (2005) *Transitional Economic Voting*, manuscript, download from [http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/Tucker\\_2004\\_TEV.pdf](http://homepages.nyu.edu/~jat7/Tucker_2004_TEV.pdf)

Deegan-Krause, Kevin, Marko Klasnja, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2011. "It's the Bribe, Stupid! Pocketbook vs. Sociotropic Corruption Voting" manuscript.

#### *Recommended:*

Anderson, Christopher J. 2007. "**THE END OF ECONOMIC VOTING?** Contingency Dilemmas and the Limits of Democratic Accountability", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 10:271-96

Tucker, Joshua A. 2006. *Regional Economic Voting: Russia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, 1990-99*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Owen, Andrew, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2010. "Past is Still Present: Micro-level Comparisons of Conventional vs. Transitional Economic Voting in Three Polish Elections." *Electoral Studies*. 29 (1):235-67.

### ***October 31st: Strategic Voting***

Cox, Gary W., (1997) *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*, Chapters 2 & 4 (p.13-36, 69-98)

Meirowitz, Adam, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2007. "Run Boris Run: Strategic Voting and Information Transmission in Sequential Elections" *The Journal of Politics* 69 (1):88-99.

**NOTE:** I do *not* expect you to know the details of the models or even to be able to follow the math in this paper. Instead, I want you to focus on the basic concept of what the authors have to say about how voters choose the candidate/party for which to vote, and, in particular, when they will choose to vote for a candidate/party that is *not* their most preferred candidate/party. To the extent that you understand these basic points, feel free to skim the rest of the reading.

*Recommended:*

Alesina, Alberto, and Howard Rosenthal. 2000. "Polarized Platforms and Moderate Policies with Checks and Balance," *Journal of Public Economics*, 75(1): 1-20

### **VII. Parties and Party Systems: November 2, 7**

Mair, Peter. 2002. "Comparing Party Systems," (Chapter 4) in *Comparing democracies 2 : new challenges in the study of elections and voting*. Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris, eds. London: Sage: 88-107.

Mair, Peter, ed. *The West European Party System*, Oxford Press 1990: Ch. 3 (37-45) 5 (50-60) 20, 21, 22 (285-310)

"Political scientist of worldwide repute", *The Irish Times*, August 20, 2011:  
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/obituaries/2011/0820/1224302754108.html>

### **VIII. Partisan Identification: November 9, 14**

Flanigan, William H., and Nancy H. Zingale. 1998. *Political behavior of the American electorate*. 10th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press., Chapter 3 "Partisanship", p.57-76.

Dalton 2006, Chapter 9 "Partisanship and Electoral Behavior", p.177-200.

Brader, Ted, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2012. "Following the Party's Lead: Party Cues, Policy Opinion, and the Power of Partisanship in Three Multiparty Systems", forthcoming, *Comparative Politics*.

*Recommended:*

Campbell, Angus et al. "The Impact and Development of Party Identification" in *Classics in Voting Behavior*, eds Richard G. Niemi, Herbert F. Weisberg. Washington, DC : CQ Press, 1992, ch.22, p.224-34.

Brader, Ted, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2009. "What's Left Behind When the Party's Over: Survey Experiments on the Effects of Partisan Cues in Putin's Russia", with Ted Brader, *Politics and Policy* 37(4): 843-868.

Kitschelt, Herbert. 1992. "The Formation of Party Systems in East Central Europe." *Politics and Society* 20 (1):7-50.

### **IX: Politics of Economic Reform: November 16, 23, 28**

Sachs, Jeffrey, *Poland's Jump to the Market Economy* – all

Chu, Yun-han, Michael Bratton, Marta Lagos, Sandeep Shastri, and Mark Tessler. 2008. "Public Opinion and Democratic Legitimacy." *Journal of Democracy*. 19 (2):74-87.

Hellman, Joel, "Winners Take All: The politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions" *World Politics*, vol.50 (January 1998) p.203-34

Murrell, Peter, "What is Shock Therapy? What Did it do in Poland and Russia?" *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 9 (2) (1993) p.111-140.

Tucker, Joshua A. 2011. "[Three Ways to Ensure That Libya Isn't Just Free of Qaddafi, But Truly Democratic](http://www.tnr.com/article/world/94058/three-ways-ensure-libya-isn%E2%80%99t-just-free-gaddafi-truly-democratic)" *The New Republic*, online editions, August 23, 2011:  
<http://www.tnr.com/article/world/94058/three-ways-ensure-libya-isn%E2%80%99t-just-free-gaddafi-truly-democratic>

*Recommended:*

Diamond, Larry and Marc F. Plattner, *Economic Reform and Democracy*, chapters 2 & 6 p.13- 27, 74-85

Gould, John A. 2011. *The Politics of Privatization: Wealth and Power in Postcommunist Europe*. Lynn Rienner Publishers.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>: Documentary on 2010 British Parliamentary Election**

**PAPER ASSIGNED IN CLASS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH**

## **X: Ethnic Conflict: November 30, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Horowitz, Donald, "Democracy in Divided Societies", *Journal of Democracy*, vol.4, no.4, (Oct 1993), p.18-38

Kanchan Chandra, "What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2006, Vol. 9, p.397-424.

*Global Studies: Russia, The Eurasian Republics, and Central/Eastern Europe* "The Republics of the Former Yugoslavia", p.169-187

To skim:

Noel Malcolm, *Bosnia: A Short History* (New York: NYU Press, 1996), pp. 213-71.

Noel Malcolm, *Kosovo: A Short History* (New York: NYU Press, 1998), p.334-56

## **PAPER DUE IN CLASS MONDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## **XI. Social Capital: December 7, 12**

Putnam, Robert, *Making Democracy Work*, all

Berman, Sheri "Civil Society and Collapse of Weimar Republic", *World Politics* 49 (3) (April 1997) p. 401-429

Valenzuela, Sebastian, Namsu Park, and Kerk F. Kee. 2009. "Is There Social Capital in a Social Network Site?: Facebook Use and College Students' Life Satisfaction, Trust, and Participation." *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. 14 (875-901).

*Recommended:*

*Global Resurgence*, Ch.24, Putnam, Robert, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," p.290-306

## **December 14: Review and Democratic Consolidation**

No Readings Assigned