



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

## SEMINARS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

### “Approaches and Issue in Comparative Politics”

#### Course Syllabus

Instructor: Paul Matthew Loveless ([paulmatthew.loveless@unibo.it](mailto:paulmatthew.loveless@unibo.it))

#### ‘Comparative Politics is the empirical version of political philosophy/theory’

##### Learning outcomes:

These seminars provide an overview of the key approaches and issues in the substantive sub-fields of Comparative Politics. This introduction will outline the key sub-fields of Comparative Politics, cultivate individual academic-mindedness, and highlight promising research topics. We will engage seminal works as well as more recent research in order to familiarize ourselves with the origin and development of streams of research central to the field. This course is designed to be a foundational survey of the field and students will engage key dimensions of major sub-field literatures in discussion, interaction, and research.

##### Course Outline

- **Seminar 1:** Comparative Politics and Methods of Analysis
- **Seminar 2:** Development, Democratization, and Drift
- **Seminar 3:** Party Systems: Origins and Properties
- **Seminar 4:** Governance and Representation
- **Seminar 5:** Electoral Behavior: Voting and Political Participation
- **Seminar 6:** Rational Choice and New Institutionalism
- **Seminar 7:** Political Culture: Democracy and A Civic Culture

This seminar is designed for both beginner and advanced graduate students in Political Science. There is a considerable amount of reading to be done, and the expectation is that you will have done the assigned readings before the seminars. Required readings are indicated although other readings are included for any further interest in related branches and debates. The required book readings will be available from the library and if the topic interests you, I encourage you to purchase the ones that align with your overall research agenda. Required journal articles are available from the library and online.

Participation in the seminar constitutes one important portion of your grade (40%). To incentivize active participation, each student will be the presenter - or part of a group of presenters - of the assigned readings for one seminar. The presenter(s) will provide a summary, around 3-4 pages (single-spaced), of the assigned readings, discussing:

- The conceptual and empirical issues raised
- An evaluation of the conceptual and empirical problems encountered
- The implications of the research
- Possible strategies to remedy the conceptual and/or empirical flaws



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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

This will be the basis for our discussion and is to be distributed via email to all the participants in the seminar, including the instructor by 16:00 on the day *before* the class. The presenter(s) will open the seminar with a brief discussion of what they think are the most important topics for discussion (15-20 minutes). Presenters are asked not to read what they submitted but rather present what they see as the most important issues from their summary.

Non-presenters are to write a 1-page (max) memorandum (single-spaced) that raises one or two key conceptual/methodological questions [in the format: "PhD Memo *X* – *Last name*.doc"]. This is an opportunity to draw attention to a particular aspect of the reading material you would like to see addressed in the seminar. It is not a summary but rather an indication of a particular issue you would like to see discussed. This memorandum is also due at the same time as the summary of the week (16:00 day before the seminar). This is to be submitted via email to the instructor only.

The second portion of your grade (60%) is building the foundation of a research paper in the form of a literature review and preliminary theory section. Students will present a research question (agreed with the instructor by the 3rd seminar) and will investigate and summarize the literature and theory related to their specific question. Together, the research question, literature review, and theory section will be approximately 3,500 words (excluding the bibliography) and due [on a date to be determined].



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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

## Readings

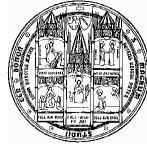
### Seminar 1: Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method

#### Required:

- Bates, Robert H. 1997. "Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy" *Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 166-169.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. Designing Social Inquiry: Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method" *American Political Science Review* 65(3):682-93.
- Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. 1970. The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry. Wiley. Chapter 2.
- Sartori, Giovanni 1970. "Concept Misinformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64(4): 1033-1053.
- Yarkoni T, Westfall J. 2017. "Choosing Prediction Over Explanation in Psychology: Lessons From Machine Learning" *Perspectives on Psychological Science* 12(6):1100-1122. doi: 10.1177/1745691617693393

#### Recommended:

- Collier, David and James Mahoney. 1993. "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adopting Categories in Comparative Analysis" *American Political Science Review* 87(4): 845-855.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research" *World Politics* 49(3): 430-451.
- Dion, Douglas. 1998. "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study," *Comparative Politics* 30(2): 127-146.
- Eckstein, H. 1975. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science" in Handbook of Political Science, Addison-Wesley. Chapter 3.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in Interpretation of Cultures. Basic Books, pp.3-32.
- Jackman, Robert W. 1985. "Cross-National Statistical Research and the Study of Comparative Politics" *American Journal of Political Science* 29(1):1161-1182.
- Kuhn, Thomas. 1962. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Chicago University Press.
- Popper, Karl. 1959. The Logic of Scientific Discovery, particularly chapters 1, 2 and 10.



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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

## **Seminar 2: Development and Democratization**

### Required:

- Bratton, Michael and Nicolas Van de Walle. 1997. Democratic Experiments in Africa. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1
- Lipset, Seymour M. 1994. "The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited," *American Sociological Review* 9(1):1-22
- Luebbert, Gregory M. 1991. Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy. Oxford University Press. Chapters 2-3.
- Przeworski, A. and Limongi, F. 1997. Modernization: theories and facts. *World Politics*, 49: 155-83.
- Schedler, Andreas. 2001. "Measuring Democratic Consolidation" *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1):66-92.

### Recommended:

- Bates, Robert H. 1989. Beyond the Miracle of the Market: The Political Economy of Development in Kenya. Cambridge University Press
- Boix, C. and Stokes, S. 2003. "Endogenous democratization" *World Politics*, 55: 517-49.
- Deutsch, Karl W. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *American Political Science Review* 55 (September): 493-514.
- Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. 1995. The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions. Princeton University Press.
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1968. Political Order in Changing Societies. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press.
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. The Third Wave. Oklahoma University Press.
- Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan. 1996. Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation. Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapters 1-2
- Mainwaring, Scott, Guillermo O'Donnell and J. Samuel Valenzuela (eds.) 1992. Issues in Democratic Consolidation. Notre Dame University Press.
- Moore, Barrington. 1966. Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World. Boston: Beacon.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Rueschemeyer, Dietrich, Evelyn Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens. 1992. Capitalist Development and Democracy. Chicago University Press, chaps. 1-4, 7.



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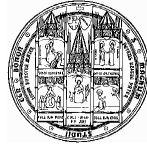
### **Seminar 3: Party Systems: Origins and Properties**

#### Required:

- Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93(3): 609-624
- Cox, Gary. 1997. *Making Votes Count*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2
- Lipset, Seymour and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments," in Lipset and Rokkan (eds.) Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives. Free Press. pp. 1-64.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1999. Patterns of Democracy. Yale University Press. Chapter 5
- Przeworski, Adam and John Sprague. 1985. *Party Strategy, Class Organization and Individual Voting*. Capitalism and Social Democracy. pp. 99-132.

#### Recommended:

- Duverger, Maurice 1954. Political Parties. London: Methuen
- Kitschelt, H., Z. Mansfeldova, R. Markowski, and G. Toka. 1999. [Post-communist party systems: competition, representation, and inter-party cooperation](#). Cambridge University Press.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1979. "Religious vs. Linguistic vs. Class Voting." *American Political Science Review* 73: 442-58.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1994. Electoral Systems and Party Systems. Oxford University Press.
- Mainwaring, Scott. 1991. "Politicians, Parties, and Electoral Systems: Brazil in Comparative Perspective" *Comparative Politics*, 24(1) :21-43. doi:10.2307/422200
- Powell, G. Bingham. 1982. Contemporary Democracies. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Riker, William H. 1986. "Duverger's Law Revisited" in B. Groffian and A. Lijphart (eds.) Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequence N.Y.: Agathan Press
- Sartori, Giovanni. 1976. Parties and Party Systems. Cambridge University Press. pp. 173-243.



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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

#### **Seminar 4: Governance and Representation**

##### Required:

- Hellwig, Timothy and David Samuels. 2008. "Electoral Accountability and the Variety of Democratic Regimes" *British Journal of Political Science* 38: 65-90.
- Iverson, Torben. 1994. "Political Leadership and Representation in West European Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 38(1): 45-74.
- Riker, William. 1982. Liberalism Against Populism. Waveland Press. Chapters 1-2.
- Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1942. Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy. Harper & Brothers. Pp. 250-283. [UNIBO book]
- Stimson, James, Michael MacKuen, and Robert Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation" *American Political Science Review* 89(3): 543-655.
- Walgrave, Stefaan, Arno Jansen, Julie Sevenans, Karolin Soontjens, Jean-Benoit Pilet, Nathalie Brack, Frédéric Varone, Luzia Helfer, Rens Vliegenthart, Toni van der Meer, Christian Breunig, Stefanie Bailer, Lior Sheffer, and Peter John Loewen. 2023. "Inaccurate Politicians: Elected Representatives' Estimations of Public Opinion in Four Countries" *The Journal of Politics* 85(1):209-222I <https://doi.org/10.1086/722042>

##### Recommended:

- Dalton, Russell, David Farrell and Ian McAllister. 2012. Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7.
- Laver, Michael and Kenneth A. Shepsle. 1996. Making and Breaking Governments. Cambridge University Press.
- Laver, Michael and Norman Schofield. 1991. Multiparty Government: The Politics of Coalition in Europe. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1984. Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensus Government in Twenty One Countries. Yale University Press.
- Macdonald, Stuart Elaine, Ola Lijsthaug and George Rabinowitz. 1991. "Issues and Party Support in Multiparty Systems" *American Political Science Review* 85:1107-1131.
- Powell, G. Bingham. 2000. Elections as Instruments of Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Riker, William H. 1962. The Theory of Political Coalitions. New Haven: Yale UP.
- Shugart, Matthew S. and John M. Carey. 1992. Presidents and Assemblies. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Strom, Kaare. 1990. Minority Government and Majority Rule. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chs. 1-3.
- Thomassen, Jacques and Hermann Schmitt. 1999. "Issue Congruence" in H. Schmitt and J. Thomassen (eds.) Political Representation and Legitimacy in the European Union. Oxford University Press.



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## **Seminar 5: Political Behavior: Voting and Political Participation**

### Required:

- Barnes, Samuel H. 1997 "Electoral Behavior and Comparative Politics" in M. I. Lichbach and A. S. Zuckerman (eds.) Comparative Politics. Cambridge University Press. 2nd ed., pp.115-141. [\[UNIBO ebook\]](#)
- Brady, Henry, Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation" *American Political Science Review* 89(2): 271-294.
- Dalton, Russell and Martin Wattenberg. 1993. "The Not So Simple Act of Voting" in A. Finifter (ed.) The State of the Discipline, 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: American Political Science Association. pp.193-218.
- Kaase, Max. 1990. "Mass Participation," in M. K. Jennings and J. W. van Deth (eds.) Continuities in Political Action. Berlin/New York: de Gruyter. pp. 23-64
- Verba, Sidney, Norman Nie, and Joe-on Kim. 1978. Participation and Political Equality: A Seven-Nation Comparison. Cambridge University Press. chaps. 3 & 4
- Theocharis, Y., & Van Deth, J. W. 2018. "The continuous expansion of citizen participation: A new taxonomy" *European Political Science Review* 10(1), 139-163.

### Recommended:

- Fuchs, Dieter and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 1990. "The Left-Right Schema," in M. K. Jennings and J. van Deth (eds.). Continuities in Political Action. Berlin
- Converse, Philip. 1964. "The Nature of Mass Belief Systems in Mass Publics" in D. E. Apter (ed.), Ideology and Discontent. London: Free Press.
- Corge, P.J. 1988. "The Concept of Political Participation: Toward a Definition;" *Comparative Politics* 20(2): 241-9.
- Dalton, Russell J. 2018. Political Realignment: Economics, Culture and Electoral Change. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [\[UNIBO ebook\]](#)
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. An Economic Theory of Democracy. New York: Harper & Row.
- Macdonald, Stuart Elaine, Ola Listhaug, and George Rabinowitz. 1991. "Issues and Party Support in Multiparty Systems." *American Political Science Review* 85: 1107-1131.
- Norris, Pippa (ed). 1999. Critical Citizens: Global Support for Democratic Government. Oxford University Press.
- Zaller, John R. 1992. The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion. New York: Cambridge University Press.



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## Seminar 6: Rational Choice and New Institutionalism

### Required:

- Bates, Robert H. 1997. "Comparative Politics and Rational Choice: A Review Essay" *American Political Science Review* 91(3):699-704.
- Elster, J. 2000. "Rational Choice History: A Case of Excessive Ambition" *American Political Science Review*, 94(3):685-695.
- Levi, Margaret. 2012. "Reconsiderations of Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis" in M. I. Lichbach and A. S. Zuckerman (eds.) Comparative Politics. Cambridge University Press. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 117-133. [[UNIBO ebook](#)]
- March, James and Johan Olsen. 1989. Rediscovering Institutions: The Organizational Basis of Politics. Free Press. Chaps. 1 and 9
- Ostrom, Elinor 1991. "Rational Choice Theory and Institutional Analysis: Toward Complementarity" *American Political Science Review* 85(1): 237-43.

### Recommended:

- Bates, Robert, *et al.* 1998. Analytical Narratives. Princeton University Press.
- Cox, Gary. 1997. Making Votes Count: Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems. Cambridge University Press.
- Freidman, Jeffrey. 1995. The Rational Choice Controversy: Economic Models of Politics Reconsidered. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Green, Donald P. and David Shapiro. 1994. Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory. Yale University Press.
- March, James and Johan Olsen. 1989. Rediscovering Institutions: The Organizational Basis of Politics. Free Press.
- Monroe, Kristen Renwick (ed.). 1991. The Economic Approach to Politics. HarperCollins.
- North, Douglas. 1990. Institutions Institutional Change and Economic Performance. Cambridge University Press.
- Olson, Mancur. 1965. The Logic of Collective Action. Harvard University Press
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge University Press.
- Popkin, Samuel. 1979. The Rational Peasant. California University Press.
- Powell, Walter and Paul DiMaggio (eds.) 1991. The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis. Chicago University Press.





ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

## **Seminar 7: Political Culture: Democracy and A Civic Culture**

### Required:

- Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba, 1963. The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.
- Inglehart, Ronald. 1997. Modernization and Postmodernization. Cultural, Economic, and Political Change in 43 Societies. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1
- Jackman, Robert W. and Ross A. Miller. 1996. "A Renaissance of Political Culture?" *American Journal of Political Science* 40(3): 632-659.
- Putnam, Robert. 1993. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton University Press. chapters 4 & 5.
- Ross, Marc Howard. 2012. "Culture in Comparative Political Analysis" in M. I. Lichbach and A. S. Zuckerman (eds.) Comparative Politics. Cambridge University Press. 2nd edition, pp. 134-161. [[UNIBO ebook](#)]

### Recommended:

- Almond, Gabriel. 1990. A Discipline Divided. Sage.
- Diamond, Larry (ed.). 1993. Political Culture and Democracy in Developing Countries. Rienner.
- Elkins, David and Richard Simeon. 1979. "A Cause in Search of its Effects, or What Does Political Culture Explain?" *Comparative Politics* 11(2): 127-46.
- Lane, Ruth. 1992. "Political Culture: Residual Category or General Theory?" *Comparative Political Studies* 25:362-387
- Pye, Lucian. 1962. Politics, Personality, and Nation Building.
- Rohrschneider, Robert. 1999. Learning Democracy: Democratic and Economic Values in Unified Germany. Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 5.
- Wilson, Richard W. 2000. "The Many Voices of Political Culture: Assessing Different Approaches" *World Politics* 52(2): 246-273.