

Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
 Spring 2024
 Political Science 200B
 Prof. Steven Fish
 F 2-4, SSB 791
 Office hours: Tu 3-5 and Fri 5-7, 744 SSB

MAJOR THEMES IN COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This course is a graduate seminar in comparative politics. It aims to help provide students with the conceptual, theoretical, and analytical tools needed for comparative research. It takes the form of a “great books” course that focuses on outstanding texts in comparative politics. The authors of the books we are reading will be joining us for discussions.

Our focus will not only be on critiquing and discussing the books with the authors, but also on using our conversations with them to learn how to do research. Topics will include how they formulated their research questions, developed their concepts and measures, grappled with causal inference, and dealt with methodological challenges. Students will also be encouraged to discuss their own research with our guest authors.

Evaluation of course performance will be based on contributions to seminar discussions and a final exam.

Digital copies of the books are posted on the bcourses page. Our books for the course are:

Sener Aktürk, *Regimes of Ethnicity and Statehood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Dara Kay Cohen, *Rape During Civil War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019).

Kathleen Collins, *Politicizing Islam in Central Asia: From the Russian Revolution to the Afghan and Syrian Jibads* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023).

Diana Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Aram Hur, *Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2022).

Stanislav Markus, *Property, Predation, and Protection: Piranha Capitalism in Russia and Ukraine* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Elizabeth R. Nugent, *After Repression: How Polarization Derails Democratic Transitions* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020).

Kenneth M. Roberts, *Changing Course in Latin America: Party Systems in the Neoliberal Era* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Bryn Rosenfeld, *The Autocratic Middle Class: How State Dependency Reduces the Demand for Democracy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020).

Perna Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare: Subnationalism and Social Development in India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008).

Milan W. Svoblik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Syllabus

Week 1 (Jan 19): Introduction

(no reading)

Week 2 (Jan 26): Organizing and Resisting under Duress

Diana Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses*

Week 3 (Feb 2): Statehood and Ethnicity

Sener Aktürk, *Regimes of Ethnicity and Statehood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey*

Week 4 (Feb 9): Legacies, Psychology, and Regime Transitions

Elizabeth R. Nugent, *After Repression*

Week 5 (Feb 16): Mass Political Violence

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide*

Week 6 (Feb 23): Authoritarianism

Milan W. Svoblik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*

Week 7 (March 1): How Political Parties Shape Political Regimes

Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*

Week 8 (March 8): Larceny as Public Policy

Stanislav Markus, *Property, Predation, and Protection*

Week 9 (March 15): Economic Crisis, Economic Policy, and Political Representation

Kenneth M. Roberts, *Changing Course in Latin America*

Week 10 (March 22): Gendered Violence in War

Dara Kay Cohen, *Rape During Civil War*

Week 11 (Apr 5): Religious Movements and Political Regime

Kathleen Collins, *Politicizing Islam in Central Asia*

Week 12 (Apr 12): Narratives of the Nation

Aram Hur, *Narratives of Civic Duty*

Week 13 (Apr 19): The Cohesiveness of the Political Community and Social Welfare

Prerna Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare*

Week 14 (Apr 26): The State and Political Mobilization

Bryn Rosenfeld, *The Autocratic Middle Class*