

Comparative Public Policy: Democracy Promotion, The State, & Development

POL6/7050-001
Spring 2010
Class Time: Th, 2:15-5pm
Classroom: Bowman 313

Professor: Joshua Stacher
Office: 302 Bowman (office 17)
Office Hours: M: 1:45-3:45pm
 W: 9am-12pm
Office Phone: (330) 672-8922
Email: jstacher@kent.edu

This graduate seminar is an explorative journey that revolves around two central themes:

- 1) The worldwide promotion of democracy
- 2) The character of “The State” in promoting development.

The seminar expressly examines these themes from the views of policy and the theoretical study of politics. We will discuss an array of theories. These range from conventional views of modernization and dependency to the layered explanations from the fields of post-structuralism, critical theory, and symbolic politics. While the readings explore various regions of the world, seminar participants will detect a Middle Eastern case bias when considering democratization and development. Lastly, we also will constantly emphasize and reconsider the relationships between the disciplines of Political Science, Area Studies, and Public Policy.

This seminar is designed for Ph.D. students in Political Science who are planning to take comprehensive exams, write dissertations, and reflect long afterwards about the significance of the theory and its interaction with the “real” world policy questions. This course will be reading and thought-intensive. Seminars are intended to bring together advanced students for the purposes of generating new knowledge. Our gatherings should thus help all of us – including me, the seminar’s convener – learn from our engagement with the readings.

One of the highlights of this course will be the engaging, exciting, and complex reading list that has been carefully crafted to inspire different modes of thinking while challenging what we know and how we know it.

We will address these central themes:

- 1) Public policy and democracy promotion
- 2) International assistance and aid
- 3) Relationships between social sciences, the academy, and policy
- 4) The role and character of “the State”
- 5) Post-structuralism and Critical Theory
- 6) The politics of development
- 7) Changing modes of repression
- 8) Symbolism and the politics of the spectacle
- 9) The Middle East, Nationalism, and Colonialism

Assessment

- 1) Weekly Participation (50% of grade): This course's success is dependent on the consistent, sustained, and active contributions of the seminar's participants.
 - a. Participants are expected to attend the seminar regularly in addition to reading and discussing the readings on a weekly basis.
 - b. Each week, a student is responsible for leading the discussion, which should entail providing an incisive, analytic critique of the assigned material. Students should come prepared with a set of provocative questions that will organize our meeting.
 - c. Each week, students will compose a 2/3-page synopsis of the readings that 1) lays out the main argument(s), 2) indicates what you found provocative and/or mundane, and (3) poses questions for class discussion. These discussion papers will be distributed via email to the rest of the class by **Tuesday at 5pm**. In class, on Thursday, students will make informal 10-15 minute presentations of the material that initiate focused and critical discussion of the readings.

- 2) Paper/Exam (50% of grade): You have two options:
 - Option A: Research Paper
 - 1) 3-5 page précis presenting an original research question, theoretical context, and plan for conducting the research is due on Thursday March 11th
 - 2) 20-to 25 page paper due on Monday May 10th.
 - Option B: Mock Comprehensive Exam
 - 1) Students will have 6 hours to complete this three-question exam. Questions will address major topics covered in the course and will resemble potential comprehensive exam questions in comparative politics/international relations.
 - 2) The exam will take place on Monday May 10th between 9am-3pm.

The research essay and exam will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- * Relevance to question;
- * Sound ordering and structuring of material;
- * Quality and clarity of written expression;
- * Effective use of evidence;
- * Demonstration of sound understanding of topic;
- * Identification of major themes and arguments.
- * Critical evaluation and judgment;
- * Range of sources used;
- * Insight and originality

University, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science Notes & Disclaimers:

- 1) Help: If you are having problems with this course, the evaluations, or the readings, I urge you to come to my office hours. If those times are not convenient for you, please call my office (330-672-8922) or email me (jstacher@kent.edu) and I will gladly schedule an appointment to suit your schedule. Whatever you do, **DO NOT** wait until it is too late to get help from the seminar's convener.
- 2) Kent Emails: I will occasionally need to contact you by email. Since you are all given "kent.edu" emails when you matriculate, I will keep all professional work emails directed at this account. It is your responsibility to check your kent.edu account regularly for announcements, supplementary readings, and general information.
- 3) Accessibility Services: University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas <<http://www.registrars.kent.edu/disability/>> for more information on registration procedures).
- 4) Registration Requirement: The official registration deadline for this course is January 31, 2010. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.
- 5) Administrative Policy and Procedures Regarding Student Cheating and Plagiarism:

Condensed Version

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

"Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;
3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;

5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
6. Falsifying experimental data or information;
7. Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;
8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;
9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and
10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

“Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

- a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;
- b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and
- c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

Academic Sanctions

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or
2. Assign a grade of "F" or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or
3. Assign a grade of "F" for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;
4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.

Academic Appeals

The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates.

Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

- a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable,
- b. The decision resulted from a procedural error,
- c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented,
- d. New information is available which may suggest modification of the decision.

For complete policy and procedure go to www.kent.edu/policyregister 3342-3-01.8.

Seminar & Reading Schedule

Week One (January 21st): Seminar introduction, design, & expectations. Discussion about current state of Political Science, Public Policy, & Area Studies

Part One:

Academic Democracy and Policy Approaches to Democracy Promotion

Week Two (January 28th): Democracy, Authoritarianism, & Development

- 1) Steven Levitsky & Lucan Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13: 2 (April 2002): 51-65.
- 2) Jennifer Gandhi & Ellen Lust, "Elections Under Authoritarianism," *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (June 2009).
- 3) Lisa Wedeen, "Concepts and Commitments in the study of democracy," in Shapiro, Smith, & Masoud (eds.), *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, Cambridge UP, 2004) pgs. 274-306.

Week Three (February 4th): Democracy Promotion in the Arab World

- 1) Tamara Cofman Wittes, *Freedom's Unsteady March: America's Role in Building Arab Democracy* Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2008)
- 2) Michele Dunne, "The Baby, the Bathwater, and the Freedom Agenda in the Middle East" (*The Washington Quarterly*, 2009): 129-141.
Available here:
http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/09jan_Dunne.pdf
- 3) Steven A. Cook, "The Right Way to Promote Arab Reform," *Foreign Affairs*, (March/April 2005): 91-102.

Part Two: Penetrating Political Power and Modernity

Week Four (February 11th): Democracy & USAID (focus on Egypt)

- 1) "\$50 billion later, taking stock of US Aid to Egypt," *Christian Science Monitor*, (April 12, 2004): Available here: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0412/p07s01-wome.html>
- 2) Shadi Hamid, "The Cairo Conundrum," *Democracy Journal.ORG* (Winter 2010): 34-45. Available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24290653/Shadi-Hamid-The-Cairo-Conundrum>
- 3) Robert Vitalis, "The Democratization Industry and the Limits of the New Interventionism," *Middle East Report* (March-June 1994: 46-50).
- 4) Timothy Mitchell, "America's Egypt: Discourse of the Development Industry," *Middle East Report* (March-April 1991: 18-34).

Week Five (February 18th): **No Meeting** - Seminar Convener at the ISA Conference

Week Six (February 24th): The Academy & Political Power

- 1) Timothy Mitchell, "The Middle East in the Past and Future of Social Science," UCIAS Edited Volume 3, *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines* (2003). Available here: <http://www.escholarship.org/uc/item/3618c31x>
- 2) Lisa Wedeen, "Scientific Knowledge, Liberalism, and Empire: American Political Science and the Modern Middle East," Working Draft (NOT FOR CITATION). Available from the seminar convener.
- 3) Robert Vitalis, "Birth of the Discipline," in David Long (ed.) *Imperialism and Internationalism in the Discipline of International Relations* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2006) 159-182.

Week Seven (March 4th): Modernity

- 1) Timothy Mitchell, "The Stage of Modernity," in Mitchell (ed.) *Questions of Modernity* (University of Minnesota Press, 2000) 1-34.
- 2) Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed*, (Columbia University Press, 2004) chapters. 1-3, pgs. 3-79

Part Three: The State?

Week Eight (March 11th): The State?

- 1) Aradhana Sharma & Akhil Gupta (eds.), *The Anthropology of the State*, pgs. 45-162 (chapters 1-6)

Paper Proposals Due

Week Nine (March 18th): The State?

- 1) *The Anthropology of the State*, Introduction, pgs. 1-41.
- 2) Timothy Mitchell, "The Limits of the State," *APSR* 1991 (77-91): Available here: <http://stateinafrica.files.wordpress.com/2008/02/mitchell-limits-of-state.pdf>

Part Four: The State in Action

Week Ten (March 25th): The Politics of Repression

- 1) Michel Foucault, "Truth and Power," in Colin Gordon (ed.) *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1980): pgs. 109-133
- 2) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume 1* (New York: Vintage, 1990)

Week Eleven (April 1st): **No Meeting** - Spring Break

Week Twelve (April 8th): Planning and Development

- 1) James C. Scott, *Seeing Like A State* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1998), Chapters 1-5, pgs. 1-179

Week Thirteen (April 15th): Planning and Development Cont.

- 1) Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Chapters 6-10, pgs. 181-357.

Week Fourteen (April 22nd): The State, Symbols, & The Politics of Development

- 1) Lisa Wedeen, *Peripheral Visions: Publics, Power, and Performance in Yemen* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 2008)

Week Fifteen (April 29th): More Symbolic Politics

- 1) Clifford Geertz, *Negara: The Theatre State in 19th Century Bali* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1980)

Week Sixteen (May 6th): Making Nationalism

- 1) Joseph Massad, *Colonial Effects: The Making of National Identity in Jordan* (New York: Columbia UP, 2001).
- 2) Concluding Remarks

Research Papers due and/or Mock Comprehensive Exam on Monday, May 10, 2010

There are a lot of books on the syllabus so please plan ahead if you intend to use Inter-library loan.

Have a Productive Semester!