

CINR 5017 Comparative Approaches to Area Studies and Global Issues

Department of Politics and International Relations

Fall 2011

Class hours: 2-4.40pm, Charles Perry Bldg 416

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Office Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays 1-2pm

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Course Objectives:

This course is designed as a graduate-level introduction to study regions as a whole, comparatively through analyses of component states, or in comparison with other regions ('comparative regionalism'). The overall purpose of the course is to explore to what extent and how various socio-political conditions affect distinctive areas of the world. It does so by covering the theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches - in disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary ways- that aim to explore the factors supporting political institutions and their societal underpinnings, such as political cultures and public spheres. The course draws mainly on literature from developed regions (such as Europe/the EU), but is designed so as to provide theoretical perspectives open to other regions & countries of various stages of political or economic development. After an initial discussion of the field of area studies & a historical introduction to political institutions, social science theories (such as norm-, culture- & rational based theories) & approaches (quantitative, qualitative, case-studies, process-tracing, ethnographic), we explore & discuss themes of political sociology (pol. Culture, civil society, public spheres) before ending with more complex, inter-regional comparisons.

Required Texts:

George, Alexander. *Case Studies & Social Theory Development*. MIT Press: Cambridge, 2005.

DellaPorta, D. & Keating, M. (eds). *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*, CUP, 2008.

Crothers, Lane and Charles Lockhart, eds. *Culture and Politics: A Reader*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.

Gripsrud, Jostein, Hallvard, M., Molander, A. & Murdock, G. *The Idea of the Public Sphere: A Reader*. Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2010.

Inglehart, Ronald. *Modernization & Human Development Sequence*.

Fukuyama, Francis. *The Origins of Political Order*. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux: New York, 2011.

Telo, Mario (ed.). *EU & New Regionalism*. Ashgate: New York, 2007.

Other readings may be posted on FIU's course website on Moodle, <http://ecampus.fiu.edu>

Class Participation and Attendance

You are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings, written the critique and prepared to actively participate in discussions. Please let me know in advance if you cannot attend.

Papers

Each student is asked to write a 20-25 page research paper (which I may submit to turnitin.com), which should critically & theoretically analyze an area studies topic of your choice, taking into account some of the literature presented here. The paper is worth 50% and due at the end of the semester, although a 2 page outline is expected mid-term. Aside from the presented literature in class, there are many good books && journals that you should use in the library (as e-journals & in print). Both the paper & your critical lit-review (below) will be graded based on clarity and logic of the arguments, the depth of critical &-transfer thinking, as well as the cohesion & range of sources.

Oral Presentation of Readings

A discussion leader (rapporteur) should discuss the readings for each session by outlining the main arguments, critiquing the works (covering the theoretical focus, methodological approach and substantive conclusions/significance/evaluation of the literature), and stimulating a critical discussion. Also, a 5-6 page/1500 words critical review of the readings is required before class. In addition, the presenter is asked to prepare (at least 3) discussion questions, while each student ought not only to participate, but also prepare a 300 word critique, incl. 1 question, from the readings for each class (to be submitted electronically before WED noon).

The final grade will consist of the following components:

Participation (& weekly critiques)	20 %
Discussion Leadership + crit. Review	30 % (20 for review, 10 for leading the discussion)
Paper (incl. outline)	50 %

Course Outline

WED, 8/24: Introduction & Overview (Instructor out this week for conferences)

WED, 8/31: The concept of Area Studies: history & future of a field of inquiry

Required reading: Area Studies & the Discipline- a useful controversy?,
PS: Pol. Science & Politics, Vol. 6, 1997: 166-69.

http://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/3638435/bates_areastudies.pdf?sequence=4

Szanton, David. The Origin, Nature & Challenges of Area Studies in the U.S., 2003, available at: <http://files.us.splinder.com/7e7e185d69201623a24f809208230bc2.pdf>

Recommended: Mary M. Lay, Janice J. Monk, Deborah Silverton Rosenfel (eds). Encompassing gender: integrating international studies and women's studies (Introduction)

WED, 9/7: The evolution of political order

Required: Fukuyama, Part 1,2 (choose 1: China, India or Ottoman)+ Ch. 16

Recommended: Diamond, Jared. Collapse: How societies choose to fail or succeed, Viking 2004.

Moore, Barrington. Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. Beacon Press: Boston, 1967.

WED, 9/14: Political development, rule of law & accountable government

Required: Fukuyama, Part 3 (only Ch. 17-19), part 4 & 5

Recommended: Pierson, Paul. Politics in Time: History, Institutions & Social Analysis. Princeton Univ Press, 2004.

Huntington, Samuel. The Change to change. Modernization, Development and Politics, Vol. 3, 3, Apr., 1971, pp. 283-322.

WED, 9/21: The philosophies of social sciences

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 1 (- p. 98)

Rec: McMahon, Patrice. Human Rights & diversity: area studies reconsidered; University of Nebraska Press, 2004.

Finnemore, Martha & Sikkink, K. The Constructivist Research Program in IR & Comparative Politics, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2001, 4: 391-416.

WED, 9/28: Epistemology: the diversity of approaches to area studies

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 1 cont. (-p. 174)

Rec: Lichbach, Mark Irving and Alan S. Zuckerman, Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure, NY: CUP, 1997.

WED, 10/5: Research Design & Methods I: concepts, case studies, process-tracing

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 2 (-p. 239)
George & Bennett, Part 1 & 2 (-p. 124)

Rec: Collier, David. The Comparative Method, in: Pol. Science: the State of the Discipline, 1993.

Ragin, Charles. The Comparative Method. Moving beyond qualitative & quantitative strategies. Univ of Cal Press: Los Angeles, 1987.

Gerring, John. What is a case study & what is it good for?, APSA Review, Vol. 98, 2, 2004: 341-353.

WED, 10/12: Research Design & Methods II: quantitative, ethnographic, comparative

Reading: DellaPorta & Keating, Part 2 cont.
George & Bennett, Part 3

Rec: Lawson, Stephanie. Political Studies & the Contextual Turn: Methodological/Normative Critique, Pol. Studies, V. 56, 3, 2008: 584-603

WED, 10/19: Culture & Politics: political culture, identity & globalization

Reading: Crothers & Lockhart, Part 1 & 2 (-p.118)

Rec: Lane, Jan-Erik & Ersson, Svante. Culture & Politics: a comparative approach, Ashgate, 2005.

Calhoun, Craig (ed). *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*. New York: Blackwell, 2004.

Castells, Manuel. The Power of Identity. Blackwell: New York, 1997.

WED, 10/26: Culture & Politics II: civil society, social capital & movements

Reading: Crothers & Lockhart, Part 4

Rec: Bartelson, Jens. "Making Sense of Global Civil Society", *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 12 (3), 2006: 371-395.

Giugni, Marco, et al. How Social Movements matter, Univ of Minnesota Press, 1999.

Della Porta & Tarrow, S. (eds). Transnational Protest & Global Activism. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

WED, 11/2: Political Culture, 'Modernization' & Value Change

Reading: Inglehart

Rec: Diamond, Larry. *Debates on Democratization*. Johns Hopkins Univ Press: Baltimore, 2010.

Inglehart, R. *Modernization & Postmodernization*. Princeton UP: New York, 1997.

WED, 11/9: Public Spheres – from Enlightenment to Habermas

Reading: Gripsrud et al., Part 1, 2 & 3 (-p. 126)

Rec: Niedermayer, Oscar & Sinnott (eds), Richard. *Public Opinion & Internationalized Governance*. OUP: New York, 1995.

WED, 11/16: The public sphere rediscovered: conceptual and factual challenges

Reading: Gripsrud et al., Part 3 cont., 4 & 5

Rec: Koopmans, R. & Statham, P. *The making of a European Public Sphere*, CUP, 2009.

Anderson, P. & McLeod, A. (2004) 'The great non-communicator? The mass communication of the European Parliament and its press directorate', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 42 (5): 897-921

WED, 11/23: Macro-analyses: Comparative (Inter-)Regionalism

Reading: Telo, Part 1 & 2 + Ch. 15

Rec: Thiel, M. "Europe as a Model for Regional Security?", *Tamkang Journal of Int'l Affairs*, Vol. 10, 3, Jan 2007.

March, James & Olsen, Johan. *The Institutional Dynamics of Int'l Political Orders*, in: Katzenstein, Peter et al.(eds.) *Exploration & Contestation in the Study of World Politics*, MIT Press: New York, 2000.

WED, Dec 2 Short Paper presentations & Conclusions: Papers Due midnight!