

THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (SIS 672-002)
American University, School of International Service

Fall 2009
Mondays, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Location: Ward 301
<http://dss.ucsd.edu/~clevan>

Dr. Carl LeVan
levan@american.edu
Asbury room 224B
Office hrs: Mon. 2-4/Thurs. 2-5

Course description:

This course examines the central issues and theoretical approaches comparative and international relations. These areas of inquiry have traditionally been treated separately but analysts increasingly recognize a conceptual and practical convergence between them. The course takes up the “discrete” concerns of these fields while attempting to bridge the gap between them. Democracy is a central theme of the course due to its importance to modern social science, to theorists who study development and stability, and to intellectuals concerned about contemporary illiberal regimes.

The course is divided into five broad units: the introductory unit begins with an overview of the sociological tradition in politics. Social theory provides the intellectual foundations for many of the comparative analyses that follow. Second, the course focuses on structural theories including modernization and dependency theories. These explanations for economic development and change are relevant to the analysis of “domestic” systems as well as international interactions. Third, we address broad theories that emphasize the state and human agency. This includes an overview of the realist tradition in international relations, which focuses on the strategic interactions among states, and various critiques of realism. Fourth, we consider how cultures and identities influence the domestic and international political scene. We take up the concept of political culture and explore how civil society and social movements animate democratization. Critical research here covers constructivism as an emerging IR theory, as well as new approaches to ethnic identities. Fifth, the course compares domestic and international causes of democratization before concluding with a study of countries that have resisted democratization.

Required texts:

- O’Neil, Patrick and Ronald Rogowski, eds. 2006. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. 2nd ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton. From here on “**O&R**.”
- Keohane, Robert. 1986. *Neorealism and its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Lichbach, Mark and Alan Zukerman, eds. 2009. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. From here on “**L&Z**.”
- Brownlee, Jason. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Required readings posted on Blackboard are denoted with an *asterisk below.

Recommended:

- Marsh, David and Gerry Stoker, eds. 2002. *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Course Requirements:

The requirements include two short analytical papers of your choice and a final exam.

- For each of the analytical papers, you are required to answer one of the questions listed in *italics* at the beginning of each new section of the course. You cannot choose two questions from the same section. You should come to class prepared to discuss your essay for a few minutes; this will count toward your class participation grade. Outside research is permitted but you will primarily be evaluated based on your command of the course material. You are encouraged to bring short handouts or outlines to class. Each paper should be 6 – 7 pages long. A hardcopy will be due in the mailbox outside my office by 6 pm the day after class.
 - Structural analysis will be due on Tuesday, September 22.
 - Agency, autonomy and state power will be due on Tuesday, October 13.
 - Society, identity and political culture will be due on Tuesday, November 10.
- A take home final exam due on December 7 before 8:00 pm.

Early papers are always welcome. Late papers will be penalized. All papers must follow a standard formatting style such as Chicago, APSA or MLA. If you use in-text (Author year, page) citations, you must include a bibliography. If you have questions about format, consult the library's Style Guide: <http://www.library.american.edu/subject/citation.html>. Use one-inch margins, 12-point type, double-spacing, and do not exceed the page limit. For tips on grammar, take a look at *Elements of Style*. Papers will not be accepted by email without prior permission. AU's Academic Integrity Code will be strictly enforced. For information see: <http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm>).

A passing grade cannot be awarded without completion of all course requirements. If you anticipate missing an assignment deadline due to medical or other emergency, please notify the instructor before the due date. Your course grade will be based on the following calculation: First analytical paper (30%), second analytical paper (30%), final exam (30%), and participation (10%). A note on participation: *Do not browse, email, IM, etc. during class!!!*

INTRODUCTION

(1) Course Overview (August 24)

Lichbach and Zukerman, Chapter 1: "Paradigms and Pragmatism" in L & Z.

- * Bennett, Andrew and G. John Ikenberry. 2006. "The *Review's* Evolving Relevance for U.S. Foreign Policy, 1906 – 2006." *American Political Science Review* 100 (Nov.): 651–658.
- * Berlin, Isaiah. 1978. "The Decline of Utopian Ideas in the West," in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: 20-48.

(2) Social Theory and Social Science (August 31)

Lichbach, Mark. Chapter 2: "Thinking and Working in the Midst of Things," in L & Z.

Marx, Karl. "Manifesto of the Communist Party," in O & R.

Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation," in O & R.

- * Durkheim, Emile. 2000. Chapter 2: "The Division of Labor in Society," in *From Modernization to Globalization*. ed. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.

Recommended:

Zuckerman, Alan. Chapter 3: "Advancing Explanation in Comparative Politics," in L&Z.

Morrison, Ken. 1995. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought*. London: Sage Publications.
Weber, Max. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism." in Roberts and Hite.

→ No class on Monday, September 7, Labor Day Holiday

PART 2: STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS IN POLITICS

1. *Is the distinction between developed and developing countries necessary or conceptually useful?*
2. *While overall global wealth has increased dramatically in the last century, so has economic inequality. Compare how dependency, Marxism, and modernization theories would respond to this claim.*
3. *Summarize the main arguments and critiques of modernization and dependency theories. How did these scholars advance our understanding of politics?*

(3) Modernization Theory and Political Development (September 14)

Lipset, Seymour M. 1960. "Economic Development and Democracy," in O & R.

* Rostow, W.W. 1959. "The Stages of Economic Growth." *Economic History Review* 12(1):1–16.

* Lederer, Bill and Eugene Burdick. 1999. "A Note from the Authors" and Chapter 18: "The Ugly American and the Ugly Sarkhanese" and Chapter 19: "The Bent Backs of Chang 'Dong'" *The Ugly American*. Reissue edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.: 214-238.

* Lerner, Daniel. 1955. "The Grocer and the Chief," *Harper's Magazine* (September): 47-56.

Fan, Maureen. 2009 "An Ancient Culture, Bulldozed Away," *Washington Post*, 24 March 2009.
Available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032302935.html>

Recommended:

Deutsch, Karl. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *APSR* 55(3)(September): 493-514

Diamond, Larry. 2006. "Commentary on Seymour Martin Lipset's 'Some Social Requisites of Democracy.'" *American Political Science Review* 100: 675 – 76.

Lerner, Daniel. 1958. Excerpts from *The Passing of Traditional Society*, in 2007. *From Modernization to Globalization*, eds. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.

Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

(4) Power, Inequality, and Dependency (September 21)

Katznelson, Ira. Chapter 4: "Strong Theory, Complex History," in L & Z.

*Frank, Andre Gunder. 1969. "The Development of Underdevelopment." in *Monthly Review* 18(4).

*Cardoso, Fernando Henrique. 1972. "Dependency and Development in Latin America." *New Left Review* 74 (July/August).

Galbraith, James K. 2002. "A Perfect Crime: Inequality in the Age of Globalization," in O & R.

PART 3: AGENCY, AUTONOMY, AND STATE POWER

1. *Will recent developments in Iraq, Iran, or elsewhere usher in a return to theories grounded in realism? Center your answer on a comparison of two or more IR theories, evaluating their parsimony and explanatory power in light of a changing political arena.*
2. *Did the international relations theories that emerged during the Cold War exaggerate the centrality of conflict and understate the potential for cooperation?*
3. *Is Weber's definition of a state still relevant? Discuss the evolving nature of sovereignty by reflecting on global trends in international institutions, borders, or other relevant factors.*

(5) Agency and Autonomy (September 28)

Levi, Margaret. Chapter 5: "Reconsiderations of Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis." in L & Z.

Migdal, Joel. Chapter 7: "Researching the State," in L & Z.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa," in O & R.

North, Douglass. 1991. "Institutions," in O & R.

Recommended:

Rodden, Jonathan. Chapter 13: "Back to the Future: Endogenous Institutions and Comparative Politics," in L & Z.

Evans, Peter. 1987. "Foreign Capital and the Third World State," in *Understanding Political Development*. eds. Myron Weiner and Samuel Huntington. Illinois: Waveland Press.

Nordlinger, Eric. 1987. "Taking the State Seriously," in Weiner and Huntington, op cit.

Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In."

(6) Realism in International Relations (October 5)

Keohane, Robert. 1986. Chapter 1: "Realism, Neorealism and the Study of World Politics," in Keohane.

Ruggie, John. 1983. Chapter 6: "Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis," in Keohane.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. Chapter 3: "Reductionist and Systemic Theories," in Keohane.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. Chapter 5: "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power," in Keohane.

(7) Beyond Realism in International Relations (October 12)

Keohane, Robert. Chapter 7: "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond," in Keohane.

Ashley, Richard. 1984. Chapter 9: "The Poverty of Neorealism," in Keohane.

* Schuster, Jürgen and Herbert Maier. 2006. "The Rift: Explaining Europe's Divergent Iraq Policies in the Run-Up of the American-Led War on Iraq." *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 2: 223-244.

* Nuruzzaman, Mohammed. 2006. "Beyond Realist Theories: 'Neo-Conservative Realism' and the American Invasion of Iraq." *International Studies Perspectives* 7: 239-253.

Recommended:

* Jervis, Robert. 2009. "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective," *World Politics* 61(1): 188–213.

Kessler, Glenn and Thomas Ricks. 2006. "The Realists' Repudiation of Policies for a War, Region," *Washington Post*, 7 December 2006: p. A1.

Mueller, John. 2006. *Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them*. Free Press.

Payne, Rodger A. 2007. "Neorealists as Critical Theorists: the Purpose of Foreign Policy Debate," *Perspectives on Politics* 5(3): 503–514.

PART 4: SOCIETY, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE

1. *Why is collective action a "problem" according to Mancur Olson? Explore how research on political culture and social movements challenges his view.*
2. *Civil conflict, slow economic growth, and low social trust have all been blamed on ethnicity. Explain how new research is challenging the meaning and effects of social diversity.*
3. *Does constructivism succeed in incorporating domestic politics into international relations theory? As part of your answer, reflect upon emerging research on ethnic politics which emphasizes constructed identities.*

(8) The Constructivist Alternative in IR (October 19)

- * Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: the Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 41: 391-425.
 - * Copeland, Dale. 2006. "The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism." Chapter 1 in *Constructivism and International Relations*. eds. Stefano Guzzini and Anna Leander. London and New York: Routledge.
 - * Suganami, Hidemi. 2002. "On Wendt's Philosophy: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 28: 23-37.
- Lake, David. 2003. "The New Sovereignty in International Relations." *International Studies Review* 5(3)(September): 303-323. Available at: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dlake/articles.html>

Recommended:

Wendt, Alexander. 1994. "Collective Identity Formation and the International State." *American Political Science Review* 88: 384-96.

(9) Political Culture (October 26)

- * Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "The Integrative Revolution," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* Basic Books: 255-79; 306-10.
- Ross, Marc Howard. Chapter 6: "Culture in Comparative Political Analysis," in L & Z.
- Fish, Steven. "Islam and Authoritarianism," in O & R.
- Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations," in O & R.
- Sen, Amartya. "Civilizational Imprisonments," in O & R.

Recommended:

Anderson, Margaret. 2000. *Practicing Democracy: Elections and Political Culture in Imperial Germany*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Bellin, Eva. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East," *Comparative Politics* 36(2)(January): 139-157.

Katzenstein, Peter. 1996. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

(10) Civil Society and Social Movements (November 2)

- McAdam, Doug et al. Chapter 10: "Comparative Perspectives on Contentious Politics," in L&Z.
- De Tocqueville, Alexis. Introduction to *Democracy in America*, in O & R.
- Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Turning In, Tuning Out," in O & R.
- Berman, Shari. 1997. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," in O & R.

(11) Ethnicity (November 9)

- Chandra, Kanchan. Chapter 15: "Making Causal Claims about the Effects of Ethnicity," in L&Z.
- Collier, Paul. 2001. "Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis," in O & R.
- * Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (November): 529-545.
 - * Walter, Barbara. 2006. "Information, Uncertainty, and the Decision to Secede." *International Organization* 60 (January): 105-135.

Recommended:

* Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90.

Gurr, Ted. 2000. *Minorities at Risk: A Global View of Ethnopolitics*. Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace.
Dewey, John. 1929. "Nationalism and its Fruits." in *Intelligence in the Modern World*. New York: Modern Library: 467-74.

PART 5: DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP

(12) Domestic Dimensions of Democratization (November 16)

- * Hanson, Stephen. 2007. "Rationality, Structure, and Agency in Post-Soviet Democratization." *Perspectives on Politics* 5(4)(December): 793-802.
- Bunce, Valerie. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-communist Experience." in O & R.
- Przeworski, Adam et al. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," in O & R.
- Rotberg, Robert. 2002. "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," in O & R.
- Goldstone, Jack. 2002. "States, Terrorists, and the Clash of Civilizations," in O & R.

(13) International Dimensions of Democratization (November 23)

- * Carothers, Thomas. 2006. "The Backlash against Democracy Promotion." *Foreign Affairs* (March/April).
- * Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2006. "Linkage and Leverage: How do International Factors Change Domestic Balances of Power?" from *Electoral Authoritarianism: the Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. ed. Andreas Schedler. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner.
- Hobsbawm, Eric. 2005. "The Dangers of Exporting Democracy." *The Guardian*, 22 January 2005. Available free at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1396038,00.html>
- *Finkel, Steven, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, and Mitchell Seligson. 2007. "The Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building, 1990 – 2003," *World Politics* 59(April): 404-39.

Recommended:

- Solingen, Etel. Chapter 9: "The Global Context of Comparative Politics." in Lichbach and Zuckerman.
- Mansfield, Edward and Jack Snyder. 2005 "Prone to Violence: The Paradox of the Democratic Peace," *The National Interest* (Winter 05/06). Available online at: <http://www.nationalinterest.org>
- Gleditsch, Kristian and Michael Ward. 2006. "Diffusion and the International Context of Democratization," *International Organization* 60(4)(October): 911-933.

(14) Authoritarianism (November 30)

- Brownlee, Jason. 2006. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*.

→ Final Exam due by 8 pm on December 7

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a declared pandemic (influenza or other communicable disease), American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence due to illness. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of a declared pandemic or other emergency, students should refer to the AU Web site (www.prepared.american.edu) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/ college-specific information.