Comparative Politics of Eurasia

Higher School of Economics 2018-19
Schedule: TBD
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Teaching Assistant:
Coordinator:

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Course Description: This course is a graduate seminar on comparative politics of modernization and development in Eurasia with an emphasis on research design and empirical analysis. The lectures formulate a comparative theory of modernization, political stability and political change, while the seminars focus on data methods in the context of nine canonical cases: China, France, Germany, Iran, Japan, Russia, the U.S., the U.K. and Turkey.\(^1\) We verify the theoretical trajectories of development in these countries, study their political experiments with popular mobilization and institutionalization of democracy and autocracy. At the end of the instruction period, students are expected to produce a research paper based on the results of their work during the course.

Comparative politics of modernization and development are outlined as a paradigm for inquiry, the formulation includes three theoretical axes and an empirical complement:

1. Elements of political participation: electoral mobilization (turnout), economic mobilization (shifts in sectorization)

2. Elements of political stability: institutions of electoral politics (presidential, or parliamentary politics), (de)stabilizing themes (nationalist unification, ethnic, religious, economic classification), party formation and alliance

3. Elements of political instability and disorder: breakdown of order (revolts, coups) and civil violence, breakdown of institutions—autocratic or democratic (corruption, fraud), breakdown of themes (new nationalist/ideological mobilization, religious radicalization, economic restructuring)

4. Microlevel studies of political modernization: democratic and authoritarian consolidation, economic transformation and social change in focal Eurasian polities

\(^1\)Classified in comparative groups (France, U.S., U.K.), (Germany, Russia), (China, Japan), (Iran, Turkey).
Each session is divided into a lecture and a seminar. Lectures are focused on analytical theory on the themes outlined above, while seminars are specifically focused on historical case studies and data methods, i.e. structuring empirics for the aforementioned case studies. Pragmatic limitations of the cases shape our empirical strategies. Required readings are marked with (R).

By the end of the first module each student adopts a) a theoretical puzzle b) a case study nation-state whose sub-national statistics they use to provide an—albeit imperfect—answer to a theoretical puzzle of comparative politics. Innovative research designs are encouraged.

Students are expected to synthesize the concepts outlined in class, devise an empirical strategy to examine the implications of their theoretical argument, and use data to test the validity of their comparative arguments. Working on the nine aforementioned cases is strongly encouraged, but exceptions are made on a case by case basis. Those who intend to finish the equivalent of a conference paper during the course, are required to produce a plan for a microlevel quantitative—or qualitative—study of their own, and start preliminary analysis by the end of the first module. Extra points are given to successful compilation of primary data, of quantitative type, during the course.

Evaluation: The grade for this course is based on four responses to assigned readings for lectures (1000 words each, for a total of 40%), attendance in lectures and seminars (10%), and the final paper—5000 words (50%). The responses to assigned readings should be sent to the instructor in the digital format, on the day before the lectures. Students are asked to briefly present selected readings at the beginning of each lecture. There are no final or midterm exams.

The final paper should include some elements of theory building and production of empirics. Students can opt for a 30-30% division of the final paper grade, into two reports (each 2500 words), each one due at the end of two modules.

Readings: Assigned weekly

Office Hours: TBD
**Prerequisites:** undergraduate level courses on 1) comparative politics 2) research methods

**Course Type:** TBD

**Learning Objectives:** Research design and implementation in comparative politics

**Learning Outcomes:** Final report in the format of a conference paper/policy appraisal memo including data analysis and student presentations

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**Outline and Schedule of Lectures**

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**Segment 1:** Political modernization: socioeconomic participation and institutionalization of politics – 3 sessions

- **Lecture 1:** Modernization as a comparative paradigm
- **Lecture 2:** Turnout and the electorate
- **Lecture 3:** Participation in politics and economy

**Segment 2:** Institutions of Democracy and Autocracy – 4 sessions

- **Lecture 4:** Institutions of Democracy
- **Lecture 5:** Choice of electoral systems, presidentialism and parliamentarism
- **Lecture 6:** Institutionalization of democracy and rule of law
- **Lecture 7:** Institutionalization of Authority

Seminars are dedicated to the discussion of case studies and relevant data methods.
Segment 3: components of political change and instability - 5 sessions

- **Lecture 8:** Varieties of authoritarianism and democracy: competitive authoritarianism and authoritarian governance
- **Lecture 9:** Hybrid Regimes and Electoral dysfunction
- **Lecture 10:** Divisions, Cleavages and Effective Governance
- **Lecture 11:** Electoral dysfunction: Resource curse
- **Lecture 12:** Democratic Breakdown

Segment 4: Outcomes of Mass Participation in Politics and Economy: Party Politics and Modes of Governance - 4 sessions

- **Lecture 13:** Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Party Position and Party Politics
- **Lecture 14:** Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Type of Government (Presidentialism v. Parliamentarism) and Type of Elections (PR v. Majoritarian inter alia)
- **Lecture 15:** Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Public Expenditure and Redistribution
- **Lecture 16:** Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Odds and Success of New Party Entry

Conclusion: Discussion and student presentations

Weekly Readings:
Segment 1: Political modernization: socioeconomic participation and institutionalization of politics

Lecture 1: Modernization as a comparative paradigm

- Samuel Huntington, (1968) Political Order in Changing Societies, New Haven: Yale University Press, selections

Seminar 1: Germany and Russia before 1917

- **(S1) Russia:** Theda Skocpol (1979) States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, selections


**Lecture 2: Turnout and the Electorate**


**Seminar 2: China and Japan before 1917**

• *(S1)* W. G. Beasley (1972) The Meiji Restoration, Stanford: Stanford University Press, Ch. 1 at this [link](#) and Ch. 11
• (S2) **China and Meiji Japan**: Theda Skocpol (1979) States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, part on China, part of Japan and Prussia in Ch.2


**Lecture 3: Participation in politics and economy**


• Saumitra Jha, Kris Mitchener and Masanori Takashim (2015) “Swords into Bank Shares: Financial Instruments, Violent Conflict Resolution and Reform in Meiji Japan”

• Seymour Martin Lipset. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy,” *American Political Science Review*, 1959
  
  *Political Economy of Authoritarianism*

• Adam Przeworski et. al. (2000) Democracy and Development. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, selections


Seminar 3: Iran and Turkey before 1917

• (S1) Feroz Ahmad and Dankwart A. Rustow (1975) Ikinci Mesrutiyet Döneminde Meclisler: 1908-1918 [Parliaments in the Second Constitutional Period: 1908-1918], Journal of Southeast European Studies, Vol. 4-5, pp 245-284


• Feroz Ahmad (2014) The Young Turks and the Ottoman Nationalities: Armenians, Greeks, Albanians, Jews, and Arabs, 1908-1918, University of Utah Press

Segment 2: Institutions of Democracy and Autocracy

Lecture 4: Institutions of Democracy


• Relevant Book Chapters


• Robert Dahl (1971) Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition, Yale University Press, selections

• Arend Lijphart (1999) Patterns of Democracy, Yale University Press, selections

• causal identification using observational data


**Seminar 4: Germany and Russia 1917–1945**


**Lecture 5: Choice of electoral systems, presidentialism and parliamentarism**


• (R3) David Austen-Smith and Jeffrey Banks (1988) Elections, Coalitions, and legislative Outcomes *American Political Science Review* 82(2): 405-422

Seminar 5: China and Japan 1917–1945


Lecture 6: Institutionalization of democracy and rule of law


• (R3) Robert W. Jackman “Political Institutions and Voter Turnout in the Industrial Democracies.” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 81:405-23

• (R4) Gary Cox, “Electoral Rules, Mobilization, and Turnout” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18:49-68


Seminar 6: Iran and Turkey 1917–1945

• (S1) Ervand Abrahamian (1982) Iran Between Two Revolutions, Princeton University Press, selections
Lecture 7: Institutionalization of authority


Seminar 7: Germany and Russia 1945–1990

Segment 3: Elements of political instability
Lecture 8: Varieties of authoritarianism and democracy: competitive authoritarianism and authoritarian governance


Seminar 8: China and Japan 1945–1990

Lecture 9: Hybrid Regimes and Electoral dysfunction


**Seminar 9: Iran and Turkey 1945–1990**

• Ervand Abrahamian (1982) Iran Between Two Revolutions, Princeton University Press, selections

• Feroz Ahmad (1976) The Turkish Experiment in Democracy, 1950-75, Hurst Publishers, selections

• Feroz Ahmad (1993) The Making of Modern Turkey, Routledge, selections

**Lecture 10: Divisions, Cleavages and Effective Governance**


**Seminar 10: Germany and Russia 1990–present**

**Lecture 11: Electoral dysfunction: Resource curse**


• Thad Dunning (2008) *Crude Democracy, Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes* Cambridge University Press, selections

**Seminar 11: China and Japan 1990–present**


• Cao, Yuanzheng, Yingyi Qian, and Barry R. Weingast. 1999. “From Federalism, Chinese Style, to Privatization, Chinese Style.” Economics of Transition 7:103-131


**Lecture 12: Democratic Breakdown**


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• (R8) Juan Linz (1978) The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Crisis, Breakdown and Reequilibration. An Introduction, Johns Hopkins University Press, selections

• Nancy Bermeo (2003) Ordinary people in extraordinary times: The citizenry and the breakdown of democracy, Princeton University Press, selections


Seminar 12: Iran and Turkey 1990–present

• (S1) Acemoglu, Daron, and Murat Ucer (2015) The Ups and Downs of Turkish Growth, 2002-2015: Political Dynamics, the EU and the Institutional Slide NBER Working Paper No. 21608


Segment 4: Outcomes of (Mass) Participation in (Electoral) Politics and Economy: Party Politics and Modes of Governance
Lecture 13: Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Party Position and Party Politics


- (S1) U.S. (Beginnings)

- (S2) Britain (Beginnings)


- (S3) France (Beginnings)


Lecture 14: Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Type of Government (Presidentialism v. Parliamentarism) and Type of Elections (PR v. Majoritarian inter alia)


• Rodden, Jonathan. 2010. The Geographic Distribution of Political Preferences. Annual Review of Political Science


• Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. “Presidentialism, Multipartism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination” Comparative Political Studies 26:198-228

Seminar 14: U.S., U.K., France, before 1918

• (S1) U.S. (Extension of Suffrage Throughout the 19th Century to 1918)

• (S2) Britain (Extension of Suffrage Throughout the 19th Century to 1918)


• (S3) France (Extension of Suffrage Throughout the 19th Century to 1918)


Lecture 15: Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Public Expenditure and Redistribution


- **(S1)** U.S. 1918-1945

- **(S2)** Britain 1918-1945
• (S3) France 1918-1945


Lecture 16: Franchise Extension & Turnout Levels: their Influence on Odds and Success of New Party Entry


• (S1) U.S. 1945-present (increasing polarization and further solidification of the two party system)

• (S2) Britain (left-right rivalries)

• (S3) France 1945-present (parliamentary versus presidentialist politics, left-right rivalries)