

## **POLI 7941/7971: Order and Inequality in World Politics**

Spring 2017  
Fridays, 1:30-4:20pm  
210 Stubbs Hall

### **Instructor**

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Office Hours: by appointment

A note on office hours – please email me ahead of time to let me know what you would like to discuss during office hours so that I can prepare to assist in the best way possible.

Email office hours : 12:30-2, m-f

I prefer to structure my engagement with email. If you need a prompt response, please reach me during these hours.

**Course Description:** This course will examine the institutional foundations of order and inequality. The scope is expansive, covering the globe from the emergence of the first agricultural societies through the dominance of nation-states in contemporary politics. Along the way we will read text from across the subfields of international relations and comparative politics as well as other fields of research, ranging from historical sociology to neuro-science. What unifies this work is a concern three themes: (1) how are institutions arranged to enact and enforce order, (2) how does the institutional arrangement advantage or disadvantage diverse social groups, and (3) what contributes to

commonly leaves students with a better understanding of the craft of writing an article than a book. In this class we will cover the format of a book, how it differs from an article, and what makes for a large and well written manuscript. This should help you as you devise your prospectus and dissertation.

- Book reviews get published – An easy way for graduate students to publish early is to write a book review and submit it. Book reviews can be divided into two categories:

The first focuses on reviewing a single book. These are easiest to get published, but will not do much to inform future debates or distinguish you on the academic job market.

The second category can be referred to either as comprehensive book reviews or topical book reviews. These reviews cover 4-6 major works published within the past few years, and are much longer. The reviewer not only discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the works under review, but also connects them in a way that refines core concepts, divides the literature along paradigmatic lines, and identifies critical research questions that must be answered to advance knowledge on the topic. These are more difficult to publish, but are well cited and are often valued on par with research publications.

### **Course Structure and Grading–**

This course will work through the major works in the field with the objective of assisting students compose an agenda setting final project (35%). There are two options for the final project. You may complete either a comprehensive book review, or a book proposal along with a chapter outline. Details are described below.

Grades will also be assigned for the following:

#### *Preparedness and Participation (30%)*

This is a graduate research seminar class focused on group discussion. To help facilitate the class discussion, it is imperative that students come prepared to each class having read that week's materials. Emphasis will be placed on quality of participation, including responses to the readings and to other students' comments. In addition to participation in group discussion, students will occasionally be called upon at random to diagram the theoretical argument or empirical model employed in the texts under review, or to describe the contributions of a particular chapter within the broader book. The objective is to identify the core independent and dependent variables as well as the causal mechanisms underlying dynamic processes.

#### *Discussant Presentation (15%)*

In addition, students will be asked 1-2 two times during the semester to serve as a lead

IO  
CP  
WP  
ISR  
IARS  
Perspectives  
Journal of Global Security Studies  
JPR

You should target your review piece at one of these. And you should follow the specific style guidelines for that journal. Each one has a slightly different goals in mind when publishing these review pieces. So you should read back into recently published review pieces in the specific you intend to submit to in order to see how to structure your piece in a way that maximizes opportunities for publication.

With that in mind, *Comparative Politics* provides a general summary of comprehensive review, which can be taken as a general set of requirements for Option (1). Consider these basic requirements, and then adapt them for the journal you intend to submit your piece to.

### ***Comparative Politics* Guide to Writing a Review Essay**

1. Select the books (ideally 3 to 4). They should be published in the last two to three years (i.e., if a person undertakes to write a review in 2016, the books published before 2013 should not be reviewed although they could be mentioned in the body of the review).
2. Open with an answer to the question: why this review now? Is there some new empirical development that needs to be captured? Is there some new methodological trend in use? Is there a new clutch of books that suggests a new theoretical debate that has emerged?
3. Put books in a larger context. What is the broad theme these books are addressing? (I.e., signal to fellow comparativists under what category to put this clutch of books). Do these books contribute to a debate on the role of institutions in politics? Or theories of democratization? Or the relation of politics and culture? Or the utility of rational choice analysis? Etc. etc....

Reflect a bit on the general state of the field on this issue. Do these books suggest a useful new trend/advance?

4. Offer a snapshot of each book.

The goal here is not to summarize the books. That would be impossible given the space constraints of a review essay. Rather the goal is to give the reader a sense of the essence of

Does it identify new concepts or conceptual tools that might be of use to other comparativists (if so, define)? What general lesson does the book offer for comparative politics? What is its theoretical pay-off? Its punchline? What is this book a place holder for in a larger debate in comparative politics? (E.g., where might it fit in a syllabus?) Why might a comparativist who is not engaged in the specific subfield of the book be interested in this book (if at all)? Be critical. Assess both the book's strengths and weaknesses, methodologically and empirically. Reflect on how the books in the review speak to each other (Complement? Contradict?).

The primary goal of these reviews is to provide a service to colleagues who want to keep up with the latest literature but don't have time to read it all. These reviews help colleagues decide what they might add to their syllabi and what they must read. It also gives them a sense of general trends in the field outside their specialization. So write with these goals in mind.

5. Conclude with a restatement of the advance in the field represented by these books. Then, based on their lacunae (methodological? empirical?) and on questions suggested by their interaction, propose new directions for future research. What ought to be the subfield's next research agenda?

#### Option (2) – Book Proposal + Chapter Outlines

The second option for the final project is to compose a book proposal of ~3,000-4,000 words, plus a corresponding set of chapter outlines (~500 words per chapter). Because PhD students in political science typically wr



Full chapters should not be sent with the initial proposal, but if some have already been written, say so in your cover letter. You should also note whether any chapters, or substantive sections of chapters, have been previously published.

### **Notes on Budgeting Time and Money –**

#### *Time*

I recognize that your time is valuable. In the crush of the semester you should be working to satisfy your course professors, committee members, co-authors, and reviewers. Recognize that because time is finite, it is unlikely that you will be able to satisfy all of these people at once. At any given moment certain projects need to be prioritized, and thus you are likely to displease people involved in other areas of your training/teaching/work.

Having acknowledged this, you should be aware that I expect you to read each book cover to cover. There are incentives to read selectively, or to read review pieces. This will give you a loose grasp on the concepts, theory and method while demanding much less time. But there are also serious costs. First, this class is intended to inform you not only about the substance of the topic, but also about the construction of a book. And you will not learn that without reading thoroughly. Second, nearly all writers will tell you the same thing – the secret to writing well is

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139629256>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107449350>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511575839>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316227107>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107478046>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316489031>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316272121>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316771785>

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199362165.001.0001>

I will also make the remaining book (*[The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century](#)*) available for any graduate students who wish to read it in advance and/or digitize it. But I will need book requests by week 2 of the semester – Jan. 20.





**Week 1: January 13**

Review Articles

IO review - Hierarchies in World Politics

Janice Bially Mattern, Ayşe Zarakol

WP Review – Democratic Careening,

Dan Slater

Book Proposals

*Networks of Rebellion: The Social Origins of Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse*

Paul Staniland

*Why Democracy Promotes Terrorism*

Erica Chenoweth

**Week 2: January 20**

Book –

*Political Order and Inequality: Their Foundations and their Consequences for Human Welfare* by Carles Boix (2015)

Corresponding article –

The Impact of Holy Land Crusades on State Formation: War Mobilization, Trade Integration, and Political Development in Medieval Europe by Lisa Blaydes,

Book –

*Property and Political Order in Africa: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics*  
by Catherine Boone (2016)

Corresponding article –

Covenants without the Sword? Comparing Prison Self-Governance Globally by  
David Sarbek. *APSR* Online first  
<https://ssrn-com.libezp.lib.lsu.edu/abstract=2768110>

**Week 5:** February 10

Book -

*Networks of Domination: The Social Foundations of Peripheral Conquest in  
International Politics*, Paul MacDonald 2015

Corresponding article –

Language Policy and Human Development, *APSR* 2016. David Laitin and  
Rajesh Ramachandran.

**Week 6:** February 17

Book –

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*The Cartographic State: Maps, Territory, and the Origins of Sovereignty* by  
Jordan Branch (2014)

Corresponding article –

Moralistic gods, supernatural punishment and the expansion of human sociality.  
*Nature*, 530, 327–330 Purzycki, B. G., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q. D., Cohen, E.,  
McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., (2016). \*\*with Supplementary  
Materials\*\*.

**Week 8:** March 3

Book –

*Autocracy and Redistribution: The Politics of Land Reform* by Michael Albertus

Crafting Counterrevolution: How Reactionaries Learned to Combat Change in  
1848, Kurt Weiland, *APSR* Summer 2016

**Week 11:** March 24 -

Book -



