

Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley  
 Spring 2021  
 Political Science 200B  
 Prof. Steven Fish  
 W 2-4

## MAJOR THEMES IN COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This course is a graduate seminar in comparative politics. It aims to help provide students with the conceptual, theoretical, and analytical tools necessary for comparative research. It takes the form of a “great books” course that focuses on outstanding recently published texts. The authors of the books we are reading will be joining us for discussions.

Our focus will not only be on critiquing and discussing the books with the authors, but also on using our conversations with them to learn how to do research. Topics will include how they formulated their research questions, developed their concepts and measures, grappled with causal inference, and dealt with methodological challenges. Students will also be encouraged to discuss their own research with our guest authors, including the challenges of working in the age of Covid.

Free links to digital copies of the books have been provided by eReserves and posted on the bCourses page. Our books for the course are:

- Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels, *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016).
- Jennifer Bussell, *Clients and Constituents: Political Responsiveness in Patronage Democracies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).
- Dara Kay Cohen, *Rape During Civil War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019).
- Diana Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018).
- Mary E. Gallagher, *Authoritarian Legality in China: Law, Workers, and the State* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- Stanislav Markus, *Property, Predation, and Protection: Piranha Capitalism in Russia and Ukraine* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- Tarek Masoud, *Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- Rachel Beatty Riedl, *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Prerna Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare: Subnationalism and Social Development in India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- Milan W. Svoblik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012).
- Tariq Thachil, *Elite Parties, Poor Voters: How Social Services Win Votes in India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

## *Syllabus*

### Week 1 (Jan 20): Introduction

(no reading)

### Week 2 (Jan 27): Organizing and Resisting under Duress

Diana Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses*

### Week 3 (Feb 3): The Cohesiveness of the Political Community and Social Welfare

Prerna Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare*

### Week 4 (Feb 10): Cultural Shift and Political Outcomes

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Cultural Backlash*

### Week 5 (Feb 17): Authoritarianism

Milan W. Svobik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*

### Week 6 (Feb 24): Democracy

Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels, *Democracy for Realists*

### Week 7 (March 3): Constituency and Representation

Jennifer Bussell, *Clients and Constituents*

### Week 8 (March 10): Larceny as Public Policy

Stanislav Markus, *Property, Predation, and Protection*

### Week 9 (March 17): Managing Modernization

Mary E. Gallagher, *Authoritarian Legality in China*

Week 10 (March 31): Voters' Interests and Political Choice

Tarek Masoud, *Counting Islam*

Week 11 (Apr 7): Gendered Violence in War

Dara Kay Cohen, *Rape During Civil War*

Week 12 (Apr 14): Historical Trajectories and the Origins of Party Systems

Rachel Beatty Riedl, *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa*

Week 13 (Apr 21): Party Strategies for Cultivating Cross-Class Loyalty

Tariq Thachil, *Elite Parties, Poor Voters*

Week 14 (Apr 28): How Political Parties Shape Political Regimes

Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*