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:

Diana Fu, Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018).
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. Svolik, *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 (Ap 7): Gendered Violence in War
Dara Kay Cohen, *Rape During Civil War*


Week 13 (Ap 21): Party Strategies for Cultivating Cross-Class Loyalty
Tariq Thachil, *Elite Parties, Poor Voters*

Week 14 (Ap 28): How Political Parties Shape Political Regimes
Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*