

Political Science 230
Michael Strausz

Comparing Nations
Winter 2005

office: Casey 404

office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 am-11:00 am

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course web page: <http://students.washington.edu/strauszm/plsc230>

Course Description and Objectives: How do countries build and maintain legitimate authority over their populations? Why does economic development occur in some countries but not in others? How and why do revolutions and other forms of social protest occur? In this class we will examine the ways that scholars from a variety of theoretical traditions have addressed these questions. We will pay special attention to Brazil, France, Japan, and Russia. This class aims to deepen your understandings of the way that political and social systems function and to give you the tools to understand important events in the world today.

Expectations:

1. Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials. If it appears that substantial numbers of students are not doing the readings, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes that will be considered as a part of the participation grade.
2. Participate actively in class, both by making verbal contributions to discussions and by listening to your classmates. If you do not attend class regularly, you will not be able to participate in discussions.
3. Students are asked to post a question or comment related to the readings once per week on the course web page. Half of the class will be required to post a question or comment on the readings by noon on Monday, and the other half will be required to post a question by noon on Wednesday. I will use these questions and comments in preparing lesson plans. This assignment will begin on week two.
4. Be respectful of others. I expect each student to pay careful attention to the views of your classmates.
5. Papers should be made up entirely of your original work. Copying or paraphrasing a source without acknowledging that source is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Allowing another student to copy your work is also cheating and likewise will not be tolerated.

Course Materials: The following books are required, and are available at the Seattle University Bookstore. Feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Robert H. Bates, *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*

Jeffrey Kopstein and Mark Lichbach, *Comparative Politics: Interests, Identities, and Institutions in a Changing Global Order*

James Scott, *Seeing Like A State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*

There is also a course reader which is required. It will be available at Copy Mart on Madison on Wednesday, January 5.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

Mid-semester thought paper (**due February 1**): 25%

Draft thesis statement & bibliography for research paper (**due February 15**): 5%

Final research paper (**due March 10**): 40%

Participation: 30%

Regarding your participation grade, one-third of that grade (10% of the total grade for the course) will be determined by the weekly questions and comments. If you do the readings and post questions or comments that demonstrate that you're doing the reading every week, you will get a 4.0 for this portion of your grade.

Late assignments will be penalized one half grade per date late (A → A- → B+ → B, etc.).

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignments, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a written statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. The statute of limitations for grading complaints is five working days after the return of the assignment.

Office Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about course materials or to chat about issues broadly related to the course or politics in general. Also, if you have any comments about or problems with the course itself I encourage you to share them in my office hours.

If you would like to get in touch with me to ask a question or schedule an appointment, I encourage you to e-mail me. I check my e-mail very frequently.

Schedule:

January 4: Introduction

January 6: What is Comparative Politics?

Kopstein and Lichbach, pp. 1-30

Unit 1: Theories of Comparative Politics

January 11: Marxism

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (any edition)

Research paper topics distributed in class

January 13: Weber's response to Marx

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Part 1 (pp 1-50)

January 18: More Weberianism

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Part 2 (pp. 51-125)

January 20: Rational Choice Theory
Robert Bates, *Prosperity and Violence*, pp 17-49

January 25: Rational Choice Theory, Marxism, and Weberianism
Robert Bates, *Prosperity and Violence*, pp 50-115
5-6 page thought paper assignment distributed in class

Unit 2: The Building and Maintenance of Legitimate Authority

January 27: State Formation and Legitimate Authority in France and Japan
Arista Maria Cirtautas, “France,” pp. 70-99 (in Kopstein and Lichbach)
Robert W. Bollock, “Japan,” pp. 144-175 (in Kopstein and Lichbach)

February 1: State Formation and Legitimate Authority in Russia and Brazil
Stephen Hanson, “Russia,” pp. 188-223 (in Kopstein and Lichbach)
Jose Murilo de Carvalho, “Political Elites and State Building: The Case of 19th
Century Brazil,” pp. 378-399 (reader)
5-6 page thought paper due at the beginning of class

February 3: Failures of Legitimate Authority?
James Scott, *Seeing Like A State*, pp. 1-83

February 8: Failures in Brazil and Russia
James Scott, *Seeing Like A State*, pp. 103-146, 181-223

Unit 3: Economic Development

February 10: Why are Some States Rich and Others Poor?
Mancur Olson, “Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk: Why Some Nations Are Rich,
and Others Poor” pp. 3-23 (reader)

February 15: Brazilian Development
Peter Evans, *Dependent Development*, pp 14-55 (reader)
Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, pp 3-34 (reader)
Draft thesis and bibliography for research paper due at the beginning of class

February 17: The Developmental State and Japan
Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, pp 35-82 (reader)
Guest Lecturer: Daisuke Matsuno, Bureaucrat with the Ministry for Economy,
Trade and Industry (formerly known as MITI)

February 23: The World Bank on Japanese Development
The World Bank, *The East Asian Miracle: Economic Growth and Public Policy*
pp. 259-326 (reader)

Unit 4: Revolutions and Social Protest

February 25: Weber, Ideology, and the Russian Revolution
Steve Hanson, *Time and Revolution*, 1-21, 69-128 (reader)

March 1: A Marxist Reading of Revolutionary Activity in France and Japan
Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, pp. 47-67, 99-128 (reader)

March 3: The *Movimento Negro* in Brazil
Michael George Hanchard, *Orpheus and Power*, pp. 99-141 (reader)

March 8: The Buraku Liberation League in Japan
Frank Upham, *Law and Social Change in Postwar Japan*, pp. 78-123 (reader)

March 10: “But what will you *do* with it?” Comparative Politics and the Real World.
10 page research paper due at the beginning of class