

POLS 569: Comparative Political Behavior

Spring 2008

M 5:00-7:30, 3512 Faner Hall

Prof. Frederick Solt

Office: 3166 Faner Hall

Office Hours: M 1:30-5:00 pm & W 1:30-4:00 pm

E-mail: fsolt@siu.edu

Overview

Comparative political behavior is not so much a topic within comparative politics as it is an approach to studying comparative politics: it seeks to answer questions about how and why politics are different in different countries by focusing on what ordinary individuals living in those countries think and do. On the one hand, this means that studies in comparative political behavior in many ways reflect the diversity of the field as a whole. They examine states, regimes, governments, or civil society; rely on theories about institutions, culture, rational choice, or socioeconomic structure; and consider evidence from one or a few carefully selected cases, from the countries of a particular region, or are broadly cross-national and cross-regional. On the other hand, this also means that work in comparative political behavior is united by its use of quantitative analyses, typically of data drawn from national surveys. The twin goals of this seminar, therefore, are to introduce you to some of the variety of work done in comparative political behavior and to hone your ability to conduct research using this approach.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

Class Participation	25%
Review Papers	40% (4 × 10%)
Research Project	
Proposal Presentation	5%
Paper Presentation	10%
Final Paper	20%

For four of the weeks we cover substantive material, you will write short review papers (three to four pages each) that provide a critique—*not* a summary—of the works. Your research project may be done in conjunction with another course, but it must be original, single-authored research and it must apply material from this class. It should be modeled on a research article like those we are reading.

Readings

There are no required books for this class; all of the readings are available online at the links below or, if starred, from the course page on [Blackboard](#). You should print out the readings and bring them to class with you on the days they are assigned.

Class Schedule

Introduction

Week 1

Topic: Introduction to the Course

Unit I: Political Engagement

Week 2

Topic: *The Civic Culture*

Readings:

*Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1: “An Approach to Political Culture,” Chapter 8: “Competence, Participation, and Political Allegiance,” and Chapter 12: “Profiles of Nations and Groups.”

Pateman, Carole. 1971. “Political Culture, Political Structure and Political Change,” *British Journal of Political Science* 1(3): 291-305.

Week 3

Topic: Political Participation in Rich Democracies

Readings:

Jackman, Robert W., and Ross A. Miller. 1995. “Voter Turnout in the Industrial Democracies During the 1980s.” *Comparative Political Studies* 27(4):467-492.

Heath, Oliver. 2007. “Explaining Turnout Decline in Britain, 1964-2005: Party Identification and the Political Context.” *Political Behavior* 29(4):493-516.

Radcliff, Benjamin, and Patricia Davis. 2000. "Labor Organization and Electoral Participation in Industrial Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 44(1):132-141.

Solt, Frederick. 2008. "Economic Inequality and Democratic Political Engagement." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(1):48-60.

Week 4

Topic: Political Participation Under Authoritarianism

Readings:

Gilson, Jerome M. 1968. "Soviet Elections as a Measure of Dissent: The Missing One Percent." *American Political Science Review* 62(3): 814-826.

Karklins, Rasma. 1986. "Soviet Elections Revisited: Voter Abstention in Noncompetitive Voting." *American Political Science Review* 80(2): 449-470.

*Schmitter, Philippe C. 1980. "The Impact and Meaning of 'Non-Competitive, Non-Free, and Insignificant' Elections in Authoritarian Portugal, 1933-74," in Guy Hermet, Richard Rose, and Alain Rouqui, eds., *Elections Without Choice*. New York: Wiley. Pp. 145-168.

Shi, Tianjian. 1999. "Voting and Nonvoting in China: Voting Behavior in Plebiscitary and Limited-Choice Elections." *Journal of Politics* 61(4): 1115-1139.

Zhong, Yang. 2004. "Political Culture and Participation in the Chinese Countryside: Some Empirical Evidence." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 37(3): 445-453.

Week 5

Topic: Political Participation in New Democracies

Readings:

Power, Timothy J., and J. Timmons Roberts. 1995. "Compulsory Voting, Invalid Ballots, and Abstention in Brazil." *Political Research Quarterly* 48(4):795-826.

Bratton, Michael. 1999. "Political Participation in a New Democracy: Institutional Considerations From Zambia." *Comparative Political Studies* 32(5): 549-599.

Barnes, William A. 1998. "Incomplete Democracy in Central America: Polarization and Voter Turnout in Nicaragua and El Salvador." *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 40(3): 63-101.

Kostadinova, Tatiana, and Timothy J. Power. 2007. "Does Democratization Depress Participation? Voter Turnout in the Latin American and Eastern European Transitional Democracies." *Political Research Quarterly* 60(3):363-377.

Week 6

Topic: Advanced Methods: Multilevel Modeling

Readings:

Steenbergen, Marco R., and Bradford S. Jones. 2002. "Modeling Multilevel Data Structures." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(1):218-237.

Unit II: Vote Choice

Week 7

Topic: Class Voting

Readings:

Inglehart, Ronald, and Scott C. Flanagan. 1987. "Value Change in Industrial Societies." *American Political Science Review* 81(4):1289-1319.

Weakliem, David L. 1991. "The Two Lefts? Occupation and Party Choice in France, Italy, and the Netherlands." *American Journal of Sociology* 96(6):1327-1361.

Gerteis, Joseph, and Mike Savage. 1998. "The Salience of Class in Britain and America: A Comparative Analysis." *British Journal of Sociology* 49(2):252-274.

Evans, Geoffrey, and Stephen Whitefield. 2006. "Explaining the Emergence and Persistence of Class Voting for Presidential Candidates in Post-Soviet Russia, 1993-2001." *Political Research Quarterly* 59(1):23-34.

Brooks, Clem, Paul Nieuwebeerta, and Jeff Manza. 2006. "Cleavage-Based Voting Behavior in Cross-National Perspective: Evidence from Six Postwar Democracies." *Social Science Research* 35(1):88-128.

Weeks 8 and 9

Spring Break

Week 10

Topic: The Rise of the Extreme Right

Readings:

Anderson, Christopher J. 1996. "Economics, Politics, and Foreigners: Populist Party Support in Denmark and Norway." *Electoral Studies* 15(4):497-511.

Golder, Matt. 2003. "Explaining Variation in the Success of Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 36(4):432-466.

Van Der Brug, Wouter, Meindert Fennema, and Jean Tillie. 2005. "Why Some Anti-Immigrant Parties Fail and Others Succeed: A Two-Step Model of Aggregate Electoral Support." *Comparative Political Studies* 38(5):537-573.

Ivarsflaten, Elisabeth. 2008. "What Unites Right-Wing Populists in Western Europe? Re-Examining Grievance Mobilization Models in Seven Successful Cases." *Comparative Political Studies* 41(1):3-23.

Week 11

Topic: Paper Proposal Presentations

Unit III: Democratic Attitudes

Week 12

Topic: Attitudes Toward Government

Readings:

Inglehart, Ronald. 2003. "How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy: And How Can We Measure It?" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 36(1):51-57.

Banducci, Susan A., Todd Donovan, and Jeffrey A. Karp. 1999. "Proportional Representation and Attitudes About Politics: Results From New Zealand." *Electoral Studies* 18(4):533-555.

Anderson, Christopher J., and Christine A. Guillory. 1997. "Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems." *American Political Science Review* 91(1):66-81.

Whitefield, Stephen, and Geoffrey Evans. 1999. "Political Culture Versus Rational Choice: Explaining Responses to Transition in the Czech Republic and Slovakia." *British Journal of Political Science* 29(1):129-154.

Mattes, Robert and Michael Bratton. 2007. "Learning About Democracy in Africa: Awareness, Performance, and Experience" *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1):192-217.

MacCulloch, Robert. 2004. "The Impact of Income on the Taste for Revolt." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(4):830-848.

Week 13

Topic: Attitudes Toward Opponents

Readings:

Duch, Raymond M., and James L. Gibson. 1992. "Putting Up With' Fascists in Western Europe: A Comparative, Cross-Level Analysis of Political Tolerance." *Western Political Quarterly* 45(1):237-273.

Wang, T.Y., and G. Andy Chang. 2006. "External Threats and Political Tolerance in Taiwan." *Political Research Quarterly* 59(3):377-388.

Hutchison, Marc L., and Douglas M. Gibling. 2007. "Political Tolerance and Territorial Threat: A Cross-National Study." *Journal of Politics* 69(1):128-142.

Gibson, James L. 2002. "Becoming Tolerant? Short-Term Changes in Russian Political Culture." *British Journal of Political Science* 32(2):309-333.

Peffley, Mark, and Robert Rohrschneider. 2003. "Democratization and Political Tolerance in Seventeen Countries: A Multi-Level Model of Democratic Learning." *Political Research Quarterly* 56(3):243-257.

Week 14

No Class

Weeks 15 and 16

Topic: Paper Presentations