POL 596D: Comparative Political Behavior
Thurs: 3:30-5:30
Fall 2008
Email: mishler@email.arizona.edu
Office: 314a --
Phone: 621-1093

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar examines the interaction and impact of institutions and culture on macro and micro-political behavior. The overall focus is on democratic institutions and regimes, although some readings and research may stray a bit from this focus. The first half of the course will be devoted to the critical reading of a variety of old and new research on the structure and functioning of democratic systems and on the nature and determinants of individual political behavior within such systems. The second half of the course will emphasize student presentations (and critiques) of their research on various aspects of this topic. The seminar will include practical instruction on concept formation and measurement and on comparative research methods including multi-level modeling.

REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic Essay</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5 pm on Wed of week topic is discussed in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5 pm Oct 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READINGS Required Readings are listed for each week, below, and should be completed before the class in which they are discussed. Most of the required articles are available on-line via JSTOR and other electronic journals and are labeled as such. Reading labeled as WEB are available on the course homepage under readings at www.u.arizona.edu/~mishler/courses.htm.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAYS: Each student shall write a critical bibliographic essay on one of the topics OTHER THAN Topics 1-3 -- preferably the topic most closely related to your research paper. The essay should focus on the literature for one of the seminar topics and should summarize, synthesize, and critically, but sympathetically, evaluate the literature for the week. A bibliographic essay is NOT a book report or even a series of book reports stuck together. Rather, the essay should focus on the literature as a whole and addresses such questions as: What are the principal questions addressed in the literature? What are the principal approaches, theoretical and methodological, which are used in the literature in an attempt to address these questions? What are the principal conclusions reached in the literature? What are the main points of agreement and the principal areas of disagreement in the literature? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the literature?
The "literature" for your topic should include all of the required readings on the syllabus PLUS any literature published on the topic since 2000 in the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics* and the *British Journal of Political Science*. A list of the relevant articles from those journals should be appended to your paper.

Papers should be 5-8 pages in length. They must be typed, double spaced, with 1" margins and a font no smaller than that used on this syllabus. A hard copy of the paper should be put in my mailbox in Social Science 315 by 5 pm on the Wednesday before the class in which the literature is discussed. An electronic copy should be circulated at the same time to all of your classmates.

**Research Paper:** A principal requirement of this course is production of a theory driven, data based (i.e. quantitative) research paper focusing on some aspect of comparative political behavior. Papers combining micro and macro theory/data and employing some form of multi-level analysis are encouraged but not required. Paper topic should be cleared in advance with the professor. Students are permitted to collaborate on a paper, although not more than two students can work together and co-authors will be asked to submit separate, confidential memos to me detailing the contributions that both co-authors made to the joint paper. The final paper should be typed, double spaced, between 20 and 40 pages in length inclusive of tables, footnotes and citations with 1" margins (top, bottom, left and right) and a font no smaller than this syllabus (Times Roman 12). The paper should be stapled in the upper left corner (no paper-clips or binders). Students may submit a draft of their paper for comment and rewrite the paper prior to its final submission. Drafts may be submitted at any time and will be returned with comments within one week of submission.

**Course Outline**

**August 28**  APSA Meetings – No Class (Begin Reading Topic 1)
September 4  Topic I: Cultural Theories and Their Critics

**Required:**


Seligson, “The Renaissance of Political Culture or the Renaissance of the Ecological Fallacy,” *Comparative Politics* (2002) [JSTOR](#)
September 11  

**Topic II: Institutional Theory Old and New**


September 18  

**EPOP Meeting – No Class (Class to be Rescheduled)**
September 25  Topic III: Multi-Level Conceptions and Models of Behavior

**Required:**

Adam Przeworski and H. Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*, pp 1-74 [WEB](#)

Charles Ragin. *The Comparative Method*, pp 1-68. [WEB](#)


October 2

Topic IV: Vote Choice

Required:


October 9  Topic V: Participation and Turnout

Required:


Powell, G. Bingham. “American Voter Turnout in Comparative Perspective”. APSR 80 (March 1986): 17-37. JSTOR

Jackman, Robert W. “Political Institutions and Voter Turnout in the Industrial Democracies”. APSR 81 (June 1987): 405-423. JSTOR


Jennings, “Political Participation in the Chinese Countryside,” American Political Science Review (1997) JSTOR


October 16  Topic VI:  Protest and Rebellion

Required:


Koopman, "Explaining the Rise of Racist and Extreme Right Violence in Western Europe—Grievances or Opportunities?" European Journal of Political Research (1996) JSTOR


Norris, Wagrave and Van Aelst, ”Who Demonstrates?” Comparative Politics (2005) JSTOR


October 23


Required: TBA
October 30       Topic VIII: Political Trust and Support

Required:


Mishler, William and Richard Rose. 2006. “What are the Political Consequences of Trust? A Test of Cultural and Institutional Theories in Russia”. Comparative Political Studies JSTOR


November 6  Topic IX: Political Corruption

Required:


November 13 Topic X: Micro-Elite Behavior -- Party, Preference and Roll Calls

**Required:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Presentations Group I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Presentations Group II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>