

PhD Seminar in Comparative Politics (SIS 802)
American University, School of International Service – FALL 2014

Mondays, 5:30 – 8 in SIS 348
Office hours in SIS 343
Wednesday, 1 – 4 & by appt
Course assistant: Yoonbin Ha (yoonbin.ha@gmail.com)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar introduces PhD students to core themes, debates, and concepts of comparative politics. The readings explore different theoretical traditions and interrogate the extent to which they can be considered complementary or sometimes in conflict. Lectures will familiarize students with the intellectual histories of these traditions and discuss the relationship among methodological innovations, theory, and discovery.

Comparative politics is traditionally understood as one of the subfields of political science. As such it differs from international relations by focusing on comparisons within or between countries, regions, or systems. Yet shared interests in similar units of analysis (such as non-state actors) or dependent variables (such as democratization) have bridged many of these distinctions. Political science has also increasingly mirrored the interdisciplinary approach to international affairs at the heart of SIS by incorporating research techniques and ideas from fields such as psychology, biology, mathematics, and especially economics. This seminar will expose students to some of these emerging trends alongside some of the classic research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn how to identify and critique different theoretical traditions, and acquire the skills needed to justify and specify a research topic, and situate it within the scholarly literature. Although it is not a methodology class, the seminar will expose students to a range of methodologies and the conditions influencing their selection. It will also enable students practice research design, including case selection, concept development (and to a limited extent, operationalization), and the creative art of fleshing out the implications of empirical findings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Books:

The AU bookstore has ordered the following books, and they are all on short-term reserve in the library too:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2010. *Democracy and the Limits of Self-Government*. Cambridge University Press.
- Samuels, David J. and Matthew Shugart. 2010. *Presidents, Parties, and Prime Ministers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Learning Outcomes:

- Explore and critique different theoretical traditions and empirical orientations in comparative politics
- Acquire skills to identify topics worthy of original research and situate them within existing scholarly literature
- Gain familiarity with common tools of comparative analysis
- Evaluate concepts and effectively develop alternative definitions and plausible operationalizations
- Practice research design, including case selection
- Prepare for PhD comprehensives

- Teorell, Jan. 2010. *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Welzel, Christian. 2013. *Freedom Rising: Human Empowerment and the Quest for Emancipation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

E-reserves: these readings are indicated by an ***asterisk** on the syllabus. Some required materials have a hyperlink on the syllabus. If you encounter any problems accessing the e-readings, please notify the course RA and then search for the item using the appropriate database accessed through the AU library. Please note that the required readings are listed according to a recommended sequence, not alphabetically.

Assignments:

- Each student will sign up to write two short analytical essays (about 6-8 pages each) and then lead a short class discussion that explains and critiques the readings for that week. Additional instructions for this assignment are posted on Blackboard. (15% each)
- Research design – formulate a creative research question related to institutionalism and outline a strategy for testing it in a 6-8 page paper. Referring to the literature, describe your predictions and provide a sensible rationale for them. Identify the implications of your findings, should you find empirical support for your thesis. Please note that you are free to formulate a topic that seeks to question the utility of institutionalism. You do not have to actually carry out any tests. Due on **October 22** at 5 pm (15%)
- Democratization literature review – How has our understanding of democratization evolved since the early days of modernization theory? In a paper 8-10 pages long, compare and contrast at least two different causal drivers of democracy, based on required and recommended course readings of your choosing. Explain and organize the relevant concepts. What do you see as uncharted territory on this topic, if any? Due on **November 5** at 5 pm in my office (20%)
- Class participation – this includes three very short “writing workshop” modules on the course blog. These assignments are designed to improve your writing and to give you some practice with providing constructive, collegial criticism. (10%)
- You will have no more than one week to complete the take home final exam. (25%)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Unless otherwise noted, assignments should be submitted in hardcopy form; double-sided printing is appreciated. Late papers will be penalized. All papers must follow a formatting style such as Chicago, APSA or MLA. Please see my website for additional information: <http://carllevan.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Style-guide-for-papers-Spring-2011.pdf>.

A passing grade will not be awarded without completion of all course requirements. If you anticipate missing an assignment deadline due to a medical or other emergency, please notify me before the due date. My grading scale is as follows: 100 to 94 is an A, 93 to 90 is an A-, 89 to 87 is a B+, 86 to 84 is a B, 83 to 80 is a B-, *etc.* A passing grade cannot be awarded without completion of all course requirements.

AU’s Academic Integrity Code will be strictly enforced. For information consult the Provost’s website. *Do not browse, email, text, etc. during class!*

1) ENCOUNTERING AND EXPLAINING POLITICS AS SCIENCE (August 25)

Teorell, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Coppedge, Chapter 1

Weber, Max.

“Politics as a Vocation,” <http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/Weber/polvoc.html>

“Science as a Profession,” http://www.sociosite.net/topics/texts/weber_science_as_a_profession.php

→ Monday September 1 is the Labor Day Holiday

I would strongly encourage you to attend the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in DC over the weekend, Wednesday through Saturday.

2) DEVELOPMENT, DICTATORSHIP AND DEPENDENCY (September 8)

Teorell, Chapter 3, “The Power of Prosperity,”

*Olson, Mancur. 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development,” *American Political Science Review* 87:567-77.

* Frank, Andre Gunder. 1969. “The Development of Underdevelopment.” *Monthly Review* 18, 4.

* Cardoso, Fernando Henrique. 1972. “Dependency and Development in Latin America,” *New Left Review* 74 (July/August).

In-class discussion of writing module #1

Recommended:

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy.” *American Political Science Review* 53 (1):69-105.

Rodrik, Dani. 2007. *One Economics, Many recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tang, Min, and Dwayne Woods. 2014. “Conditional effect of economic development on democracy—the relevance of the state.” *Democratization* 21 (3):411-433.

Tilly, Charles. 1984. *Big Structures, Large processes, Huge Comparisons*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Wallerstein, Immanuel Maurice. 1974. *The Modern World-System*. New York: Academic Press.

Weiner, Myron, and Samuel Huntington, eds. 1987. *Understanding Political Development*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

3) CONCEPTS AND MEASUREMENT (September 15)

Coppedge, Chapter 2, “Defining and Measuring Democracy”

Bernstein, Jared, and Dean Baker. “What is ‘Seinfeld’ Worth?” *New York Times*, July 31, 2013. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/opinion/what-is-seinfeld-worth.html?_r=0

Beecher, Lionel and Joseph Young, “Is Ranking Failed or Failing States a Futile Business?” *Washington Post*, July 14, 2014. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/07/14/is-ranking-failed-or-fragile-states-a-futile-business/>

* Menand, Louis. 2001. Chapter 6, “Brazil.” *The Metaphysical Club*. New York: Farrar, Straus, pp. 117-148.

* Hendrix, Cullen. 2010. “Measuring State Capacity: Theoretical and Empirical Implications for the Study of Civil Conflict.” *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (3):273-85.

- * Hogstrom, John. 2013. "Does the Choice of Democracy Measure Matter?" *Government and Opposition* 48:202-21.
- * Wilson, Matthew C. 2014. "A Discreet Critique of Regime Type Data," *Comparative Political Studies* 47 (5):689-714.
- * Miguel, Ted. "Poverty and Witch Killing," *Review of Economic Studies* 72, 4 (October 2005): 1153-72.

Recommended:

- Collier, David. 1995. "Trajectory of a Concept: 'Corporatism' in the Study of Latin American Politics." In *Latin America in Comparative Perspective: New Approaches to Methods and Analysis*, ed. P. H. Smith. Boulder, San Francisco and Oxford: Westview Press.
- Fukuyama, Francis. 2013. "What Is Governance?" *Governance* 26(3): 347-68.
- Gibson, James L. 1992. "Alternative Measures of Political Tolerance," *American Journal of Political Science* 36 (2).
- Kevane, Michael. 2008. "Official Representations of the Nation: Comparing the Postage Stamps of Sudan and Burkina Faso," *African Studies Quarterly* 10(1).
- Lancaster, Thomas D. 2014. "'Political Monitoring' as an Analytical Concept: A Lasting Legacy?" *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 44 (2):249-274.
- Morlino, Leonardo. 2009. "Are There Hybrid Regimes? Or are they just an Optical Illusion?" *European Political Science Review* 1 (2):273-96.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What is a Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-58.
- Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *The American Political Science Review* 64 (4):1033-53.
- Schneider, Aaron. 2003. "Decentralization: Conceptualization and Measurement." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 38 (3): 32-56.
- Voigt, Stefan, and Lorenz Blume. 2011. "Federalism and Decentralization -- A Critical Survey of Frequently Used Indicators," *Constitutional Political Economy* 22:238-64.

4) THEORIES AND CAUSALITY (September 22)

Coppedge, Chapter 3, "Criteria for Evaluating Theories"

- * Chandra, Kanchan. 2009. "Making Causal Claims about the Effects of Ethnicity." In *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, eds. Mark Lichbach and Alan Zukerman. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.
- * Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101 (4):709-25.
- * Pierson, Paul. 2003. Chapter 5, "Big, Slow-Moving, and...Invisible." In *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, ed. J. Mahoney and D. Rueschemeyer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

In-class discussion of writing module #2

Recommended:

- George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. 2004. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press.

- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Lyall, Jason. 2010. "Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechen War." *American Political Science Review* 104 (1):1-20.
- Symposium, "Perestroika in Political Science: Past, Present, and Future," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 43, 4 (October 2010), 725 – 754.

5) THE STATE AND STATE BUILDING (September 29)

Coppedge, Chapter 5, "Case Studies and Comparative History"

- * Tilly, Charles. Chapter 1, in *Formation of National States in Western Europe* (1975)
- * Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14, 4 (Spring): 117-39.
- * Vu, Tuong. 2010. "Studying the State through State Formation," *World Politics* 62, 1 (January): 148-75.
- * Schwarz, Rolf, and Miguel de Corral. 2011. "States Do Not Just Fail and Collapse: Rethinking States in the Middle East," *Democracy and Security* 7, 3 (2011): 209-226.

Recommended:

- Boone, Catherine. 2003. *Political Topographies of the African State: Territorial Authority and Institutional Choice*. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Downing, Brian. 1992. *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Egnell, Robert, and Peter Haldén. Eds. 2013. *New Agendas in Statebuilding: Hybridity, Contingency and History*. London: Routledge.
- Ertman, Thomas. 1997. *Birth of the Leviathan Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Leeson, Peter. 2007. "Better off Stateless: Somalia Before and After Government Collapse," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 35 (2007): 689-710.
- Patrick, Stewart. 2011. "The Brutal Truth: Failed States Are Mainly a Threat to Their Own Inhabitants. We Should Help Them Anyway." *Foreign Policy* (July/August).
- Spruyt, Hendrik. 1996. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton Studies in International History and Politics. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

6) DEMOCRATIC THEORY (October 6)

Przeworski, *Democracy and the Limits of Self-Government*. Chapters 1 – 4, and 7-8.

Recommended:

- Alonso, Sonia, John Keane, Wolfgang Merkel, and Maria Fotou. 2011. *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Dryzek, John S., ed. 2000. *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond: Liberals, Critics, Contestations*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Held, David. 1996. *Models of Democracy*. Second ed. Massachusetts: Polity Press.
- Mackie, Gerry. 2003. *Democracy Defended*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Maravall, Jose Maria, and Adam Przeworski, eds. 2003. *Democracy and the Rule of Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Przeworski, Adam, Susan Carol Stokes, and Bernard Manin, eds. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

7) VARIETIES OF INSTITUTIONALISM (October 13)

- * Schmidt, Vivien A. 2010. "Taking Ideas and Discourse Seriously: Explaining Change through Discursive Institutionalism as the Fourth 'New Institutionalism'." *European Political Science Review* 2 (1):1-25.
- *Mahoney, James. 2000. "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29 (2000): 507- 548.
- *Acemoglu, Daron, and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: the Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Chapter 3, "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty," pages 70-95. New York: Random House.
- Sachs, Jeffrey D. 2012. "Government, Geography, and Growth," *Foreign Affairs*.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138016/jeffrey-d-sachs/government-geography-and-growth>
- *Pepinsky, Thomas. "The Institutional Turn in Comparative Authoritarianism," *British Journal of Political Science* 44, no. 03 (2014): 631-53.

In-class discussion of writing module #3

Recommended:

- Acemoglu and Robinson. 2012. "Response to Jeffrey Sachs."
<http://whynationsfail.com/blog/2012/11/21/response-to-jeffrey-sachs.html>
- Alston, Lee J, Thraínn Eggertsson, and Douglass Cecil North, eds. 1996. *Empirical Studies in Institutional Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cooter, Robert. *The Strategic Constitution*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 2000.
- LeVan, A. Carl. 2014. "Analytic Authoritarianism and Nigeria," *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 52 (2):1-20.
- Mahoney, James, and Kathleen Ann Thelen. *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Mahoney, James, and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. Cambridge, UK, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- March, James G., and Johan P. Olsen. 1996. "Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions." *Governance* 9 (3):247-64.
- North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.

8) EXECUTIVE SELECTION AND PARTY SYSTEMS (October 20)

Samuels and Shugart, chapters 1 – 4, and 8 – 9.

Recommended Readings:

- Cheibub, Jose Antonio. 2007. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Linz, Juan J., and Arturo Valenzuela, eds. 1994. *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: Comparative Perspectives*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University.

Strøm, Kaare, Wolfgang C. Müller, Torbjörn Bergman, and European Consortium for Political Research. 2008. *Cabinets and coalition Bargaining: the Democratic life Cycle in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

9) STRUCTURE + AGENCY IN DEMOCRATIZATION (October 27)

→ Skype call with Michael Coppedge

Teorell, Chapter 6, “Exogenous Shocks and Authoritarian Regime Types”

Coppedge, Chapter 4, “Checklists, Frameworks, and Boolean Analysis,” and Chapter 6, “Formal models and theories

* Linz, Juan J., and Alfred Stepan. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapter 3, “Modern Non-Democratic Regimes”

* O’Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Introductory chapter. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.

Recommended:

Ahmadov, Anar K. 2013. “Oil, Democracy, and Context: A Meta-Analysis.” *Comparative Political Studies*. Bunce, Valerie, and Sharon Wolchik. *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Colomer, Josep. 1994. “Transitions by Agreement: Modeling the Spanish Way.” *American Political Science Review* 85 (4):1283-302.

Deutsch, Karl W. 1961. “Social Mobilization and Political Development.” *American Political Science Review* 55 (3):493-514.

Diamond, Larry Jay. 1997. *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R Kaufman, eds. 1995. *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Lindberg, Staffan I., ed. *Democratization by Elections: A New Mode of Transition*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.

Stoner, Kathryn and Michael McFaul, eds. 2013. *Transitions to Democracy: A Comparative Approach*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

10) DEMOCRATIC DIFFUSION, DEMOCRACY PROMOTION (November 3)

Teorell, Chapter 4: “The Impetus from Abroad”

* Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

* Finkel, Steven, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, and Mitchell Seligson. 2007. “The Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building, 1990 – 2003,” *World Politics* 59 (April): 404–39.

* Weyland, Kurt. 2012. “The Arab Spring: Why the Surprising Similarities with the Revolutionary Wave of 1848?” *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (4): 917-34.

* Schwedler, Jillian. 2013. “Spatial Dynamics of the Arab Uprisings.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 46 (02):230-4.

Recommended:

- Agné, Hans. 2010. "Why Democracy must be global: Self-founding and Democratic Intervention." *International Theory* 2 (03):381-409.
- Brown, Nathan J. 2011. *The Dynamics of Democratization: Dictatorship, Development, and Diffusion*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Gleditsch, Kristian and Michael Ward. 2006. "Diffusion and the International Context of Democratization," *International Organization* 60, 4 (October): 911-933.

11) VALUES AS CONCEPTS AND VARIABLES (November 10)

- Teorell, Jan. Chapter 2: "The Shadow of the Past: Social Determinants"
- Coppedge. Chapter 8: "Political Culture and Survey Research"
- Welzel, Introduction through chapter 4.

Recommended:

- Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The Civic Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Anderson, Margaret Lavinia. 2000. *Practicing Democracy: Elections and Political Culture in Imperial Germany*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.
- Elster, Jon. 2009. *Alexis de Tocqueville: the First Social Scientist*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Gellar, Sheldon. *Democracy in Senegal: Tocquevillian Analytics in Africa*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Maleki, Ammar, and Frank Hendriks. 2014. "The Relation between Cultural Values and Models of Democracy: A Cross-National Study," *Democratization* (2014): 1-30.
- Moehler, Devra C. 2008. *Distrusting Democrats: Outcomes of Participatory Constitution Making*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Ozzano, Luca, and Francesco Cavatorta. 2013. "Conclusion: Reassessing the Relation between Religion, Political Actors, and Democratization." *Democratization* 20 (5):959-68
- Swedlow, Brendon. 2011. "Symposium: A Cultural Theory of Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44 (4):703-10.
- Woodberry, Robert D. 2012. "The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy," *American Political Science Review* 106 (2):244-74.

12) COLLECTIVE ACTION (November 17)

- * Ostrom, Elinor. 2007. "Collective Action Theory." In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, ed. C. Boix and S. C. Stokes. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Teorell, Jan. Chapter 5, "The Force from Below: Popular Mobilization"
- Welzel, Chapter 7, "Collective Action"
- * Pierskalla, Jan H., and Florian Hollenbach. 2013. "Technology and Collective Action: the Effect of Cell Phone Coverage on Political Violence in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 107 (2):207-24.
- Tan, Jingzhi, and Brian Hare. 2013. "Bonobos Share with Strangers." *PLoS One* 8(1): e51922. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0051922#s5>

Recommended:

- Axelrod, Robert. 1972. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books, Inc.

- Bunce, Valerie. 2003. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-communist Experience," *World Politics* 55 (January 2003): 167-92.
- Dougherty, Keith L. 2001. *Collective Action under the Articles of Confederation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Korkotsides, Anastasios. 2013. *Against Utility-Based Economics: On a Life-Based Approach*. London: Routledge.
- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press.
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: the Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Popkin, Samuel L. 1979. *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Scott, James C. 1976. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

13) POLITICAL CULTURE AND DEMOCRATIZATION (November 24)

Welzel, Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

14) FROM IMPERIAL IDEAS TO VALID GENERALIZATIONS (December 1)

Welzel, Chapter 11 and conclusion.

- * Berlin, Isaiah. 1978. "The Decline of Utopian Ideas in the West." In *The Crooked Timber of Humanity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 20-48.

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE ON DECEMBER 8

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a declared pandemic (influenza or other communicable disease), American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence due to illness. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of a declared pandemic or other emergency, students should refer to the AU Web site (www.prepared.american.edu) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/ college-specific information.