

THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (SIS 672-002)
American University, School of International Service

Fall 2010
Mondays, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Location: SIS 102
<http://carllewan.com>

Dr. Carl LeVan
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SIS room 343
Office hrs: Mon. 1-4; Thurs. 2-5

Course description:

This course provides a survey of major theoretical approaches to comparative politics and international relations. These fields have traditionally been treated separately. However our class readings attempt to bridge the gap between them, cultivating an interdisciplinary approach to international studies broadly conceived. Throughout the semester students critically examine core topics such as the relationship between democracy and development, the evolving nature of the state, political culture and social mobilization, and contemporary illiberal regimes.

The course is divided into five broad units. The introductory unit begins with a brief intellectual history of political science and an overview of social theory, which provides the intellectual foundations for many of the comparative analyses that follow. Second, the course focuses on structural theories including modernization and dependency theories. These explanations for economic development and change are relevant to the analysis of “domestic” systems as well as international interactions. Third, we address broad theories that emphasize the state and human agency. This includes an overview of the realist tradition in international relations, which focuses on the strategic interactions among states, and various critiques of realism. Fourth, we consider how cultures and identities influence the domestic and international political scene. We take up the concept of civil society and explore different explanations for the emergence of social movements. Critical research here covers constructivism as an emerging IR theory, as well as new understandings of ethnicity. Fifth, the course compares domestic and international causes of democratization before concluding with a study of countries that have resisted democratization.

Learning Outcomes

- Become familiar with core themes in comparative politics, international relations, and the interdisciplinary realm of international studies
- Demonstrate understanding of theories and concepts from the course by (1) applying them to contemporary political questions and (2) defending an argument through effective use of relevant literatures
- Learn how to identify and interpret emerging issues in international politics

Required texts:

- O’Neil, Patrick and Ronald Rogowski, eds. 2010. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. 3rd ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton. From here on “**O&R.**”
- Keohane, Robert. 1986. *Neorealism and its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Lichbach, Mark and Alan Zukerman, eds. 2009. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. From here on “**L&Z.**”
- Brownlee, Jason. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Required readings posted on Blackboard are denoted with an *asterisk below.

Recommended:

- Viotti, Paul and Mark Kauppi. 2010. *International Relations Theory*. 4th ed. New York: Longman.

Course Requirements:

The requirements include three short analytical papers and a final exam. Instructions for the analytical papers are posted at <http://carllewan.com/teaching/student-resources/>. You will also find a number of other helpful tips, suggestions, and links to resources there. Pick one of the questions posted in the assignment section on Blackboard. You should come to class prepared to discuss your essay, and you are encouraged to bring short handouts or outlines. (If you do bring materials, do let me know.) Outside research is permitted but you will primarily be evaluated based on your command of the course material. Each paper should be about five pages long, plus bibliography.

- Structural analysis will be due on September 21.
- Agency, autonomy and state power will be due on October 12.
- Society, identity and political culture will be due on November 9.
- An in-class final exam on Monday, December 6.

Please turn in your paper online via Blackboard by going to the “assignments” section and then attaching the file. If you are *not* using MS Word, then please attach the document as a PDF file. You can find instructions here <http://www.american.edu/provost/ctrl/bb-transition.cfm>

Late papers will be penalized. All papers must follow a standard formatting style such as Chicago, APSA or MLA. If you use in-text (Author year, page) citations, you must include a bibliography. If you have questions about format, consult the library’s Style Guide: <http://subjectguides.library.american.edu/citation>. Use one-inch margins, 12-point type, and double-spacing. Papers will not be accepted by email without prior permission. AU’s Academic Integrity Code will be strictly enforced. For information see: www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm.

A passing grade cannot be awarded without completion of all course requirements. If you anticipate missing an assignment deadline due to medical or other emergency, please notify the instructor before the due date. Your course grade will be based on the following calculation: Each analytical paper (20%), final exam (30%), and participation (10%). A note on participation: *Do not browse, email, text, etc. during class!!!*

INTRODUCTION

(1) Course Overview (August 23)

Lichbach and Zukerman, Chapter 1: “Paradigms and Pragmatism” in L & Z.

Bates, Robert. 1997. “Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy?” in O & R.

* Englebert, Pierre. “To Save Africa, Reject Its Nations,” *New York Times*, June 11, 2010

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

(2) Social Theory and Social Science (August 30)

Lichbach, Mark. Chapter 2: "Thinking and Working in the Midst of Things," in L & Z.

Marx, Karl. "Manifesto of the Communist Party," in O & R.

Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation," in O & R.

* Durkheim, Emile. 2000. Chapter 2: "The Division of Labor in Society," in *From Modernization to Globalization*. ed. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.

Recommended:

Zuckerman, Alan. Chapter 3: "Advancing Explanation in Comparative Politics," in L&Z.

Morrison, Ken. 1995. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought*. London: Sage Publications.

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

→ **No class on Labor Day, Monday, September 6**

PART 2: STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS IN POLITICS

(3) Modernization Theory and Political Development (September 13)

Lipset, Seymour M. 1960. "Economic Development and Democracy," in O & R.

* Rostow, W.W. 1959. "The Stages of Economic Growth." *Economic History Review* 12:1-16.

* Lederer, Bill and Eugene Burdick. 1999. "A Note from the Authors" and Chapter 18: "The Ugly American and the Ugly Sarkhanese" and Chapter 19: "The Bent Backs of Chang 'Dong'" *The Ugly American*. (Reissue edition.) New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

* Lerner, Daniel. 1955. "The Grocer and the Chief," *Harper's Magazine* (September): 47-56.

Fan, Maureen. 2009 "An Ancient Culture, Bulldozed Away," *Washington Post*, 24 March 2009.

Available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032302935.html>

Recommended:

Deutsch, Karl. 1961. "Social Mobilization and Political Development." *APSR* 55, 3 (Sept. 1961): 493-514

Lerner, Daniel. 1958. Excerpts from *The Passing of Traditional Society*, in 2007. *From Modernization to Globalization*, eds. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.

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

(4) Power, Inequality, and Dependency (September 20)

Katznelson, Ira. Chapter 4: "Strong Theory, Complex History," in L & Z.

*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).

Pritchett, Lant. 1997. "Divergence, Big Time," in O & R.

PART 3: AGENCY, AUTONOMY, AND STATE POWER

(5) Agency and Autonomy (September 27)

Levi, Margaret. Chapter 5: "Reconsiderations of Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis," in L & Z.

Migdal, Joel. Chapter 7: "Researching the State," in L & Z.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa," in O & R.

- * Vu, Tuong. 2010. "Studying the State through State Formation," *World Politics* 62, 1 (January): 148-75.

Recommended:

Rodden, Jonathan. Chapter 13: "Back to the Future: Endogenous Institutions and Comparative Politics," in L & Z. North, Douglass. 1991. "Institutions," in O & R.

(6) Realism in International Relations (October 4)

Keohane, Robert. 1986. Chapter 1: "Realism, Neorealism and the Study of World Politics," in Keohane.

Ruggie, John. 1983. Chapter 6: "Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis," in Keohane.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. Chapter 3: "Reductionist and Systemic Theories," in Keohane.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. Chapter 5: "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power," in Keohane

(7) Beyond Realism in International Relations (October 11)

Keohane, Robert. Chapter 7: "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond," in Keohane.

Ashley, Richard. 1984. Chapter 9: "The Poverty of Neorealism," in Keohane.

* Leeson, Peter. 2007. "Better off Stateless: Somalia Before and After Government Collapse," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 35 (2007): 689-710.

* Jervis, Robert. 2009. "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective," *World Politics* 61(1): 188– 213.

Recommended:

Kessler, Glenn and Thomas Ricks. 2006. "The Reaslists' Repudiation of Policies for a War, Region," *Washington Post*, 7 December 2006: p. A1.

Payne, Rodger A. 2007. "Neorealists as Critical Theorists: the Purpose of Foreign Policy Debate," *Perspectives on Politics* 5(3): 503–514.

PART 4: SOCIETY, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE

(8) Constructivism and Liberalism (October 18)

Kant, Immanuel. 1795. *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch*.

Available for free at: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm>

* Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986" *American Political Science Review* 87 (1993): 624-638.

* Farber, Henry and Joanne Gowa. 1995. "Polities and Peace," *International Security* 20 (1995): 123-146.

* Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: the Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 41: 391-425.

Recommended:

Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace," *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (Jan. 2007): 166 – 191.

Ward, Michael, Randolph Siverson, and Xun Cao. 2007. "Disputes, Democracies, and Dependencies: A Reexamination of the Kantian Peace," *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (July 2007): 583 – 601.

(9) Political Culture (October 25)

* Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "The Integrative Revolution," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* Basic Books: 255-79; 306-10.

Ross, Marc Howard. Chapter 6: "Culture in Comparative Political Analysis," in L & Z.
Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations," in O & R.
Ajami, Fouad. 1993. "The Summoning," in O & R.

Recommended:

Lake, David. 2003. "The New Sovereignty in International Relations.," *International Studies Review*, 5, 3 (Sept. 2003): 303-323. Available at: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dlake/articles.html>

Suganami, Hidemi. 2002. "On Wendt's Philosophy: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 28: 23-37.

Moses, Jonathon and Torbjrn Knutsen. 2007. Chapter 6, "A Constructivist Philosophy of Science," in *Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research*. New York: Palgrave.

(10) Civil Society and Social Movements (November 1)

McAdam, Doug et al. Chapter 10: "Comparative Perspectives on Contentious Politics," in L&Z.

De Tocqueville, Alexis. Introduction to *Democracy in America*, in O & R.

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Turning In, Tuning Out," in O & R.

Hobsbawm, Eric. "Nationalism," in O & R.

Berman, Sheri. "Islamism, Revolution, and Civil Society," in O & R.

Lovenheim, Peter. "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" *New York Times*, June 23, 2008. (To be posted on Blackboard's external links.)

(11) Ethnicity (November 8)

Chandra, Kanchan. Chapter 15: "Making Causal Claims about the Effects of Ethnicity," in L&Z.

Fearon, James and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," in O & R.

* Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (November): 529-545.

Wade, Nicholas. 2010. "Human Culture, an Evolutionary Force," *New York Times*, March 2, 2010. To be posted on Blackboard's external links.

PART 5: DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP

(12) International Dimensions of Democratization (November 15)

Schmitter, Philippe and Terry Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," in O & R.

* Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2006. "Linkage and Leverage: How do International Factors Change Domestic Balances of Power?" from *Electoral Authoritarianism: the Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. ed. Andreas Schedler. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner.

* Beetham, David. 2009. "The contradictions of democratization by force: the case of Iraq," *Democratization* 16, 3 (June): 443 - 454

*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.

(13) Domestic Dimensions of Democratization and Political Change (November 22)

Bunce, Valerie. 2003. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-communist Experience," in O & R.

Przeworski, Adam et al. 2000. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," in O & R.

Rotberg, Robert. 2002. "The New Nature of Nation State Failure," in O & R.

Brownlee, Jason. 2006. Start reading *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*.

Recommended:

Solingen, Etel. Chapter 9: "The Global Context of Comparative Politics." in Lichbach and Zukerman. See the special September 2010 issue of *Comparative Political Studies* on democratization.

Mansfield, Edward and Jack Snyder. 2005 "Prone to Violence: The Paradox of the Democratic Peace," *The National Interest* (Winter 05/06). Available online at: <http://www.nationalinterest.org>

Gleditsch, Kristian and Michael Ward. 2006. "Diffusion and the International Context of Democratization," *International Organization* 60(4)(October): 911-933.

(14) Authoritarianism (November 29)

Brownlee, Jason. 2006. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Finish reading introduction, chapters 1 – 5, and conclusion.

The final exam is on Monday December 3.

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.