

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

Fall 2011  
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8:00 in SIS 120  
Course RA: Amarachi (au8338a@student.american.edu)  
<http://carllewan.com>

Dr. Carl LeVan  
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SIS room 343  
Office hrs: Tues 1-4 and by appt

**Course description:**

This course provides a survey of major theoretical approaches to comparative politics and international relations, fields which have traditionally been treated separately. Our class readings and discussions aim to build bridges between them, cultivating an interdisciplinary approach to international studies broadly conceived. We critically examine core topics such as the relationship between democracy and development, the evolving nature of the state, political culture and social mobilization, and ethnicity. Due to the recent uprisings in North Africa and beyond, this semester we have an especially strong focus on democratization, including one session discussing Egypt within the context of this literature.

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. Modernization theory and other explorations of economic development focus on links among domestic politics, historical structures, and international interactions. Third, we address 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. The final exam will concentrate mostly on this last unit.

**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:**

- 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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. From here on “**L&Z**.”
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Reuschemeyer, Stephens and Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Habyarimana, James, Humphreys, Posner, and Weinstein. 2009. *Coethnicity: Diversity and the Dilemmas of Collective Action*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or another major newspaper
- Required readings posted on Blackboard are denoted with an \*asterisk below.

### Recommended:

- Viotti, Paul and Mark Kauppi. 2010. *International Relations Theory*. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. In order to facilitate ongoing conversations, topics for the essays will be posted as discussion groups on Blackboard. Outside research is permitted but you will primarily be evaluated based on your command of the course material. Each paper should be no more than five pages long, plus bibliography. Come to class prepared to discuss your essay. You are encouraged to bring short handouts or outlines but if you do so, please let me know.

- Structural analysis – due on September 21.
- Agency, autonomy and state power – due on October 12.
- Society, identity and political culture – due date **to be determined**, pending guest speakers.
- An in-class final exam on December 13.

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. This makes it more difficult for me to provide you with comments, but it will reduce the compatibility problems presented by Macs and open source software. Late papers will be penalized. All papers must follow a standard formatting style such as Chicago, APSA or MLA. Please see my website for additional information: [www.carllewan.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Style-guide-for-papers-Spring-2011.pdf](http://www.carllewan.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Style-guide-for-papers-Spring-2011.pdf).

AU’s Academic Integrity Code will be strictly enforced. For information see: [www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm](http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm).

Papers are graded on the following scale: 100 to 93 is an A, 92 to 90 is an A-; 89 to 87 is a B+, 86 to 83 is a B, 82 to 80 is a B-, etc. A passing grade cannot be awarded without completion of all course requirements. If you anticipate missing an assignment deadline due to a 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 30)

- \* Bennett, Andrew and G. John Ikenberry. 2006. "The *Review's* Evolving Relevance for U.S. Foreign Policy, 1906 – 2006." *American Political Science Review* 100 (Nov.): 651–658.
- Lichbach and Zukerman, Chapter 1: "Paradigms and Pragmatism" in L & Z.
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1986. Chapter 2: "Laws and Theories," in *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

### (2) Social Theory and Social Science (September 6)

- Lichbach, Mark. Chapter 2: "Thinking and Working in the Midst of Things," in L & Z.
- \* Durkheim, Emile. 2000. Chapter 2: "The Division of Labor in Society," in *From Modernization to Globalization*. ed. J. Roberts and Amy Hite. Blackwell Publishing.
- Weber, Max. 1918. "Politics as a Vocation" **and** "Science as a Vocation," both online at: <http://www.sociosite.net/topics/weber.php#ORIGINAL>

#### Recommended:

- Zuckerman, Alan. Chapter 3: "Advancing Explanation in Comparative Politics," in L&Z.
- Morrison, Ken. 2006. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) London: Sage.
- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

## PART 2: STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS IN POLITICS

### (3) Modernization Theory and Macrohistory (September 13)

- \* Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53 (1):69-105.
- \* Lerner, Daniel. 1955. "The Grocer and the Chief," *Harper's Magazine* (September): 47-56.
- Katznelson, Ira. Chapter 4: "Strong Theory, Complex History," in L & Z.
- Rueschemeyer, Stephens, and Stephens. Chapters 1 and 2.

#### Recommended:

- Marx, Karl. "Manifesto of the Communist Party," available free on Google Books.
- 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.
- Fan, Maureen. 2009 "An Ancient Culture, Bulldozed Away," *Washington Post*, 24 March 2009.

### (4) Democratization and Capitalism (September 20)

- Rueschemeyer, Stephens, and Stephens. Skip chapter 6.

## 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," *International Security* 14, 4 (Spring 1990): 117-39.

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

\* 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. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pham, Peter. 2011. "Somalia: When a State Isn't a State." *Fletcher Forum on World Affairs* 35, 2 (2011): 135-151.

**(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)**

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

\* Clark, John. "Realism, Neo-Realism and Africa's International Relations in the Post Cold-War Era," in Kevin Dunn and Timothy Shaw, eds., *Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory*, New York: Palgrave, 2001: 85-102.

\* 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:

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

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

**PART 4: SOCIETY, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE**

**(8) Liberalism and Constructivism (October 18)**

\* 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. "Politics and Peace," *International Security* 20 (1995): 123-146.

\* Schneider, Gerald and Nils Peter Gleditsch. 2010. "The Capitalist Peace: The Origins and Prospects of a Liberal Idea," *International Interactions* 36 (2010): 107-114.

\* 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.

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

**(9) Political Culture** (October 25)

Ross, Marc Howard. Chapter 6: "Culture in Comparative Political Analysis," in L & Z.

- \* Ronald Inglehart. 2000. "Culture and Democracy" in *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington, eds. New York: Basic Books, pages 80 – 97.
- \* DeTocqueville, Alexis. Introduction to *Democracy in America*.
- \* Marien, Sofie, and Marc Hooghe. 2011. "Does Political Trust Matter? An Empirical Investigation into the Relation between Political Trust and Support for Law Compliance," *European Journal of Political Research* 50, 2 (2011): 267-91.
- Wade, Nicholas. 2010. "Human Culture, an Evolutionary Force," *New York Times*, March 2, 2010.

Recommended:

- Varshney, Ashutosh. 2002. "Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India," (especially Chapter 9)
- Suganami, Hidemi. 2002. "On Wendt's Philosophy: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 28: 23-37.
- Welch, David. 2010. "Symposium on A Cultural Theory of International Relations," *International Theory* 2, 3.
- Fish, M. Steven. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism," *World Politics* 55 (October 2002): 4-37.

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

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

- \* Berman, Sheri. 2003. "Islamism, Revolution, and Civil Society," *Perspectives on Politics* 1, 2 (2003): 257-272.
- \* Goldstone, Jack. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011," *Foreign Affairs* May/June.
- \* Roy, Oliver "This is Not an Islamic Revolution," *New Statesman*, 15 February 2011.
- \* Johnson, Ian. 2011. "Our Secret Connections with the Muslim Brotherhood," *New York Review of Books*, 10 March 2011, pp. 15-16.
- Fadel, Leila. "Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Could be Unraveling," *Washington Post*, 7 July 2011.

Recommended:

- Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow. 2007. *Contentious Politics*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers.

**(11) Ethnicity** (November 8)

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

Habyarimana et al. *Coethnicity* (selections to be determined).

Recommended:

- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97 (1):75-90.
- 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.

**PART 5: DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP**

**(12) Domestic Dimensions of Democratization and Political Change** (November 15)

- \* Przeworski, Adam et al. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950 – 1990*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 142-74.
- \* Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics* 55 (July 2003): 517-549.

- \* Bunce, Valerie. 2003. "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Post-communist Experience," *World Politics* 55 (January 2003): 167-92.
- \* Brownlee, Jason. 2011. "Executive Elections in the Arab World: When and How Do They Matter?" *Comparative Political Studies* 44 (July 2011): 807-828.

**(13) Democratization, Foreign Policy, Global Politics** (November 29)

- \* 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.
- Levitsky and Way. Chapters 1 and 2, pages 1-83.

Recommended:

- Barkin, Samuel. 2010. *Realist Constructivism: Rethinking International Relations Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Newnham, Randall. 2009. "Coalition of the Bribe and Bullied? U.S. Economic Linkage and the Iraq War Coalition," *International Studies Perspectives* 9 (2008): 183-200.

**(14) Linkage and Leverage** (December 6)

Levitsky and Way. Chapters 3 – 7, pages 85 – 308.

Recommended:

- Solingen, Etel. Chapter 9: "The Global Context of Comparative Politics." in Lichbach and Zukerman.
- Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, "Level of Development and Democracy: Latin American Exceptionalism, 1945-1996," *Comparative Political Studies* 36:9 (Nov. 2003): 1031-1067.
- 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.

**IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM ON DEC 13 FROM 5:30 TO 08:00 PM**

**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](http://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.