

Politics and Government 420
Senior Research Seminar in Comparative Politics

2013 Theme: The State and Democracy
Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 pm., Wyatt 206



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Office: Wyatt Hall, 220 **Office Hours:** T, 8:00-11, & Th. 8:00-11 & 3:30-4:30 p.m.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE: This is the senior capstone experience for PG majors concentrating in comparative politics. The seminar has two main goals. *First*, it exposes you to some of the most exciting and controversial issues currently facing students of comparative politics. This year's theme will be "The State and Democracy." We will seek to explore the relationship between state capacity and democratic politics, determine the conditions for democratization and de-democratization, and examine the future of democracy in the world's most and least prosperous settings. *Second*, the seminar will encourage you to improve your argumentation and research skills and to create a piece of comparative politics writing that you are proud of, and that could enhance your portfolio as you consider graduate study and/or enter the job market.

II. FORMAT OF THE COURSE: PG 420 will be conducted entirely as a seminar. The quality of the seminar will largely depend on the contributions of seminar participants. Class sessions will consist of a) discussion of readings, b) discussion and criticism of student written work, and c) student presentations of designated readings and current events topics.

III. PREREQUISITES: I **do** expect that all students in PG 420 will have senior status, will have taken PG 102 (Introduction to Comparative Politics), PG 250 (Methods, Analysis, and Argument in Political Literature), and at least two 300-level Comparative Politics Courses. Students who have not completed these courses may struggle to understand course materials and may have difficulty completing the research component of the class. I **do not** expect expertise in any specific geographic area of comparative politics.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION: Warning: As the senior capstone seminar in your major, you should expect this course to be far more challenging and time-consuming than any other course you have taken at Puget Sound. Expect to read

200-300 pages every week during the first half of the seminar, in addition to the reading and writing you will do for your research paper.

- A. **Participation, Seminar Leadership, and Instructor Discretion** (30% of your final grade): Unless you are very ill I expect you to come to class on time and prepared. Excessive absences will be a cause for failing the course. I expect that all of you will participate regularly and without prompting. In addition, teams of students will be asked to lead a current events discussion, and to summarize individual readings and lead discussion during the semester.

- B. **Seminar Briefs** (20% of your final grade): All students will complete seven seminar briefs in response to questions that I will post on Moodle a week before the brief is due. Briefs must be posted on Moodle by 7 p.m. on Monday night before our Tuesday class for which the assignment is due. Only those exercises turned in on time electronically will be given credit: there is no partial credit for late assignments. These exercises will be graded on a 10 point scale, based on the sophistication, accuracy, and completeness of their content, and on how well they are crafted.

- C. **Research Paper** (50% of your final grade): Students will write a 18-40 page, double-spaced, comparative politics research paper. In addition, there will be five Research Paper Assignments due during the semester during which you will present pieces of your research to the seminar. Research Paper Assignments will be posted to Moodle at least a week before they are due. Students must post completed assignments to Moodle by noon of the Monday before the class for which they are due, and a hard copy must be brought to class. For every research paper assignment that is not posted on time, or that I determine is incomplete or not your best effort, you will lose 5 points off the final paper score.

I will use letter grades for all graded work this semester. I use no curves in my grading. The meaning of my letter grades is as follows:

LETTER GRADE	EXPLANATION
A (93-100)	Reserved for the most exceptional and outstanding work. A very rare grade.
A- (90-92)	Excellent work of an unusually strong quality.
B+ (88-89)	Excellent performance.
B (83-87)	Very good work
B- (80-82)	Good work
C+ (78-79)	Slightly better than average work. Commendable
C (73-77)	Average work
C- (70-72)	Worse than average
D+ (68-69)	Poor work
D (63-67)	Very poor work
D- (60-62)	Very close to failing
F (59-0)	Failing

V. TEXTS AND READINGS. The reading load for the seminar is very heavy, and you should expect to read about two hundred pages of assigned reading per week during the first half of the seminar. The following books are required and have been ordered at the bookstore. You are free to find used copies and/or order the books on-line:

Francis Fukuyama, *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to The French Revolution*. NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, Reprint Edition, 2012. ISBN-10: 0374533229. This recently published major piece of scholarship is written by a leading student of comparative politics who will visit campus during our seminar.

Sven Steinmo, *The Evolution of Modern States: Sweden, Japan, and the United States*. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780521145466. A fascinating look at how three prosperous democracies have coped with the challenges of globalization.

Charles Tilly, *Democracy*. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780521701532. This recent book is probably the best single piece of scholarship on the meaning and causes of democracy.

Fareed Zakaria, *Illiberal Democracy*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004 ISBN: 0393324877. This controversial work argues that modern democracy has threatened liberty.

VI. ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES:

- ◆ No work will be accepted late, and no incompletes will be given, unless there are serious, documented medical emergencies.
- ◆ Students with unexcused absences or late arrivals may be withdrawn from the course without prior warning.
- ◆ We'll take a break during every class session, so please use that time for bathroom breaks.
- ◆ Anybody caught plagiarizing or engaging in other forms of academic dishonesty will fail the course and be reported to the Dean. It is your responsibility to educate yourself about what constitutes plagiarism.
- ◆ As a Senior Seminar, I plan to treat the syllabus more flexibly than with other courses. I reserve the right to cancel, add, or change any aspect of this course. I will notify you beforehand of such changes.
- ◆ If your cell phone rings during class, prepare to die.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENT AND READINGS

Key to Course Assignments:

☞=posted on PG 420 Moodle site

◆**Bolded readings:** Assignments for all students

Unbolded readings: Assignments for designated students

Date	Class Activity	Reading Due for Class
January 22	<p>Introduction and overview of the course.</p> <p>I'll provide an overview of all seminar requirements and expectations. We'll discuss the different types of comparative research papers so you can begin to decide what type of paper you want to write.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read the Syllabus carefully. ◆ Skim the following articles and get a sense of how they represent different types of research: (☞) ◆ Sebnem Gumusco, "Class, Status, and Party: The Changing Face of Political Islam in Turkey and Egypt." ◆ Katya Kalandadze and Mitchel Orenstein, "Electoral Protests and Democratization Beyond the Color Revolutions." ◆ Kirk Hawkins, "Is Chávez a Populist? Measuring Populist Discourse in Comparative Perspective." ◆ Mark Peceny and Michael Durnan, "The FARC's Best Friend: U.S. Antidrug Policies and the Deepening of Colombia's Civil War in the 1990s." ◆ Amber Seligson, "Review: The Right in Latin America: Strategies, Successes, and Failures." ◆ Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil."
January 29	<p>Thinking About the State and Democracy</p> <p>We'll discuss the Fukuyama and Tilly readings and hear short summaries of recently published scholarly articles from the <i>Journal of Democracy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Francis Fukuyama, <i>The Origins of Political Order</i>, Preface, and Part One, p. ix-94 ◆ Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime."☞ ◆ Seminar Brief #1 must be posted by 7 p.m. on Monday, January 28. ◆ Lead Group 1 will prepare discussion questions, lead discussion, and present the following articles: (☞) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Donald Emmerson, "Minding the Gap Between Democracy and Governance." ◆ Francis Fukuyama, "The Patterns of History."

February 5	<p>Workshop on Paper Topics</p> <p>We're wading into the research papers!</p> <p><i>First third:</i> I've asked the PG library liaison, Andrea Kueter, to give a short presentation on what the very best seniors (and professors) often don't know about library resources—we'll learn about what new and exciting tools are at your disposal.</p> <p><i>Second third:</i> We'll share initial ideas for paper topics.</p> <p><i>Final third:</i> We'll also have our first current event presentation and discussion (Lead Group 5).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood, "The Comparative Approach, An Introduction," pp. 2-20, and "Theories, Hypotheses, and Evidence," pp. 24-43. 📄 ◆ Research Paper Assignment #1 must be posted by noon on Monday, February 4.
February 12	<p>Democracy: What and How?</p> <p><i>First half:</i> We'll discuss Tilly's treatise on democracy, and our lead group will present some related articles.</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> We'll have our second current events discussion (Lead Group 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Charles Tilly, <i>Democracy</i>, entire. ◆ Seminar Brief #2 must be posted by 7 p.m. on Monday, February 11. ◆ Lead Group 2 will prepare discussion questions, lead discussion, and present the following articles: 📄 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mark Tesler, Amaney Jamal, and Michael Robbins, "New Findings on Arabs and Democracy. ◆ Alfred Stepan, "Tunisia's Transition and the Twin Tolerations."
February 19	<p>Illiberal Democracy in the Democratic Era.</p> <p><i>First half:</i> We'll discuss Zakaria's controversial work. Our lead group will present some related articles.</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> Current events presentation and discussion (Lead Group 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fareed Zakaria, <i>The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad</i>, entire. ◆ Seminar Brief #3 must be posted by 7 p.m. on Monday, February 18. ◆ Lead Group 3 will prepare discussion questions, lead discussion, and present the following articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes, "An Autopsy of Managed Democracy" ◆ Minxin Pei, "Is CCP Rule Fragile or Resilient?"

February 26	<p>Challenges to the Democratic Welfare State: Democracy, Equality, and Globalization</p> <p><i>First half:</i> We'll discuss Steinmo's recently published book. Our lead group will discuss some related articles.</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> Current Events Presentation and discussion (Lead Group 3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sven Steinmo, <i>The Evolution of Modern States</i>. All students read pp. xv-29, and pages 206-233. In addition: ◆ Steinmo, Swedish case will be read by: _____ ◆ Steinmo, Japanese case will be read by: _____ ◆ Steinmo, U.S. case will be read by: _____ ◆ Seminar Brief #4 must be posted by 8 p.m. on Monday, February 25. ◆ Lead Group 4 will lead the discussion and present the following articles (✓Ⓢ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Timothy Meisburger, "Getting Majoritarianism Right. ◆ Andrew Reynolds and John Carey, "Getting Elections Wrong."
March 5	<p>Workshop on conducting research and preparing annotated bibliographies.</p> <p><i>First half:</i> Andrea Kueter will again speak to the class. She'll give a short talk about preparing bibliographies in the digital age.</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> We'll divide into groups and work on our research papers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research Paper Assignment #2 must be posted by noon, Monday, March 4
March 12	<p>The Origins of Political Order: The Emergence of the State</p> <p><i>First half:</i> Discuss Fukuyama</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> Lead Group 5 will discuss to recent scholarly journal articles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Francis Fukuyama, <i>The Origins of Political Order</i>, Part Two, Chapters 6—16, pp. 97-241. ◆ Seminar Brief #5 must be posted by 7 p.m. on Monday, March 11. ◆ Lead Group 5 will lead the discussion and present the following articles: (✓Ⓢ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stéphane Lacroix, "Is Saudi Arabia Immune?" ◆ Sean Yom and F. Gregory Gause III, "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On."
March 19	Spring Break—no class	
March 26	The Origins of Political Order:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fukuyama, <i>The Origins of Political Order</i>, Part Three, chapters 17-21, pp. 245-317, and

	<p>The Emergence of the Rule of Law.</p> <p><i>First half:</i> We'll Discuss Fukuyama</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> Current Events Presentation and discussion (Lead Group 2)</p>	<p>Part Four, chapters 22 and 28, pp. 321-335 422-434. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead group 1 will read Chapter 23. ◆ Lead group 5 will read Chapter 24 ◆ Lead group 2 will read Chapter 25 ◆ Lead group 3 will read Chapter 26 ◆ Lead group 4 will read Chapter 27 <p>◆ Seminar Brief #6 posted by 7 p.m. on Monday, March 25</p>
April 2	<p>Francis Fukuyama on Campus</p> <p>Details will be forthcoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Francis Fukuyama, <i>The Origins of Political Order</i>, Part 5, Chapters 29 and 30, pp. 437-483 ◆ Seminar Brief #7 due by 7 p.m. on April 1 (no joke).
April 9	<p>Workshop on Introductions, Puzzles, Hypotheses, and Arguments.</p> <p><i>First half:</i> we'll work in small groups on your papers.</p> <p><i>Second half:</i> our final current events presentation (Lead Group 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research Paper Assignment #3 must be posted by noon on Monday, April 8.
April 16	<p>Workshop on presenting evidence and writing.</p> <p>Small groups will offer suggestions for improvement for half the seminar.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research Paper Assignment #4 posted by noon on Monday, April 15.
April 23	<p>No class today. I will meet individually with students during class time.</p>	

April 30	<p>Paper Draft Workshop.</p> <p>First half: All seminar participants will briefly summarize their papers.</p> <p>Second half: We'll break in to small groups and troubleshoot your papers as you prepare them for submission next week.</p>	<p>◆ Research Paper Assignment #5 must be posted on Moodle by noon, Sunday, April 28 (one day earlier than normal, so students have a chance to look at your work).</p>
May 7	<p>Celebration: details to follow.</p>	<p>◆ Paper Due (a hard copy must be posted to Moodle): <u>no extensions allowed</u> Late papers will be severely penalized.</p>
Sat May 18	<p>PG Graduation Reception in Boardroom for your families and friends (details to follow)</p>	

