

Sociology 924: Political Processes – Spring 2007

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Office hours: Tue 13:30 – 15:30 p.m..

Themes and purpose of the course

Calls for a process-oriented analysis of politics have become more frequent over the past two decades. Yet, very often these programmatic calls provide no specific blueprint for the study of processes. “Political processes” remain elusive objects of investigation. The purpose of this seminar is to explore conceptual and methodological claims from a process-oriented viewpoint. Our empirical focus will be on political phenomena as ubiquitous as leadership, the organization of interests, the emergence of identity and large-scale violence.

Requirements

1. Class participation.

The class format is lectures and in-class discussions. All students are expected to attend weekly class meetings and to participate actively in discussion throughout the semester. Readings within each subsection should be read in the order listed in the syllabus. Books and the course packet are on reserve in College library (H. C White).

2. Classroom presentations and presentation memos.

During the semester, you are required to give two classroom presentations and to write one memo for each one of your presentations. These memos must summarize the main points of your presentations and should be e-mailed to all participants on the preceding Tuesday no later than 5:00 p.m. For this purpose, you will use the Class List: soc924-1-s07@lists.wisc.edu . You are requested to distribute your memos two days in advance of the session so that the other participants have the opportunity to engage your comments and to reflect on the readings further.

Each presentation will be on one or more required readings assigned for the session. The two presentations must be on different sections of the course. For instance, if your first presentation discusses a reading from Part III (Identities in Formation), your second presentation will need to be on a reading from Part IV (Violence). In the first session, I will distribute a sign-up sheet for these presentations.

The presenter should assume that everyone has carefully read the material. The main purpose of the presentation is *not* to offer a detailed summary of the reading(s), but to engage the reading(s) and to launch the discussion by evaluating the main issues and arguments under examination. Therefore, the “summary part” of your presentation should remain brief. Presentations should not exceed *ten minutes*. In your memos you will synthesize the main points of your presentation. These presentation memos should be no longer than *five double-spaced pages*.

3. Five memorandums (comments or questions) on the reading(s).

In addition to your two presentation memos, you will need to prepare comments about the readings for five of the sessions. These comments must be brief (no more than 200 words). You will e-mail them to the class using Class List: : soc924-1-s07@lists.wisc.edu on Wednesdays no later than noon. Please number your memos.

4. Term paper.

You will be expected to write a term paper on any topic connected to the broad theme of the course (“Political Processes”). This can be a research proposal, a grant proposal or a paper addressing a clearly defined substantive problem. The length should be in the 15-20 page range.

A prospectus for this paper is due in class for Thursday, **March 1**. The term paper is due *no later than **May 10***. I will not accept late papers.

To help you organize your thoughts and make the best use of the seminar format from a research viewpoint, the last two sessions will be devoted to your papers: you will briefly present an outline of your paper and the class will react on the basis of this outline. The point of this exercise is to provide you with collective feedback and suggestions.

Grades

The grade will be based on the following break-down:

quality of participation in class discussion = 20 points

classroom presentations on two required readings = 20 points

five memorandums (comments or questions) on the readings = 20 points (each memo is worth up to 4 points)

term paper = 40 points

Reading materials

The readings in each section are grouped under two categories: required and recommended. All participants should be prepared at class time to comment and critique the required readings. Additional readings are recommended for delving deeper into a topic and preparing for preliminary examinations.

The required readings have been ordered at the **Rainbow Book Store Co-operative** (458 West Gilman, one block off of State Street).

Berman, Sheri. 1998. *The Social Democratic Moment: ideas and politics in the making of interwar Europe*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa. Regime transitions in Comparative Perspective*. New York : Cambridge University Press.

Browning, Christopher R. 1998 [1991]. *Ordinary Men, Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper.

Clemens, Elisabeth S. 1997. *The People's Lobby: Organizational Innovation and the Rise of Interest Group Politics in the United States, 1890-1925*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. *Paths toward Democracy. The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Franzosi, Roberto. 1995. *The Puzzle of Strikes. Class and State Strategies in Postwar Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Golden, Miriam A. 1997. *Heroic Defeats. The Politics of Job Loss*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gould, Roger V. 1995. *Insurgent Identities. Class, Community, and Protest in Paris from 1848 to the Commune*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kitschelt, Herbert. 1994. *The Transformation of European Social Democracy*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Laitin, David. 1998. *Identities in Formation. The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Petersen, Roger D. 2001. *Resistance and Rebellion. Lessons from Eastern Europe*. Cambridge, New York : Cambridge University Press.

Riker, William H. 1982. *The Art of Political Manipulation*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2002. *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life. Hindus and Muslims in India*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

In addition, I have prepared a course packet of photocopied reading material required for the course. This course packet is available at the Social Center Copy Center (6120 Social Science Building).

The readings in this course packet are on electronic reserve.

Both the required and the recommended readings are available on reserve at the College Library.

Week 1: Introduction

I. Leadership as process

Week 2

Aminzade, Ron, Jack A. Goldstone, and Elizabeth Perry. 2001. "Leadership Dynamics and Dynamics of Contention," pp. 126-154 in *Silence and Voice in the Study of Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **[Coursepack]**

Weber, Max. 2002 [1919]. "The Profession and Vocation of Politics," pp. 309-361 in *Weber: Political Writings*. Edited by Peter Lassman and Ronald Speirs. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **[Coursepack]**

Michels, Robert. 2002[1962]. *Political Parties. A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of modern Democracy*. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers. **Part VI. [Coursepack]**

Recommended:

Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*. New York: Harper & Brothers. **Chapters XXII.**

Stepan-Norris, Judith and Maurice Zeitlin. 1995. "Union Democracy, Radical Leadership, and the Hegemony of Capital," *American Sociological Review*, 60(6): 829-85.

Voss, Kim and Rachel Sherman. 2000. "Breaking the Iron Law of Oligarchy: Union Revitalization in the American Labor Movement," *American Journal of Sociology*, 106(2): 303-349.

Week 3

Miller, Gary J. 1994[1992]. *Managerial Dilemmas. The Political Economy of Hierarchy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Introduction, Chapter 11, epilogue. [Coursepack]**

Calvert, Randall L. 1992. "Leadership and its Basis in Problems of Social Coordination," *International Political Science Review* 13(1): 7-24. **Coursepack]**

Padgett; John and Christopher K. Ansell. 1993. "Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434." *American Journal of Sociology*. 98(6): 1259-1319. **Coursepack]**

Recommended:

Meindl, James R. and Sanford B. Ehrlich. 1987. "The Romance of Leadership and the Evaluation of Organizational Performance," *The Academy of Management Journal*, 30(1): 91-109.

Bianco, William T. and Robert H. Bates. 1990. "Cooperation by Design: Leadership, Structure, and Collective Dilemmas," *American Political Science Review*, 84(1): 133-147.

Week 4

Reicher, Steve, John Drury, Nick Hopkins and Clifford Stott. 2001. "A model of Crowd Prototypes and Crowd Leadership," pp. 178-195 in *Leadership and Social Movements*, edited by Colin Baker, Alan Johnson and Michael Lavalette. Manchester: Manchester University Press. **[Coursepack]**

Riker, William H. 1982. *The Art of Political Manipulation*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Recommended:

Stouffer, Samuel A. et al. 1949. "Attitudes toward Leadership and Social Control," pp. 362-429 in *The American Soldier*. Volume I. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Riker, William H. 1996. *The Strategy of Rhetoric. Campaigning for the American Constitution*. Edited by Randall L. Calvert, John Mueller, and Rick K. Wilson. New Haven: Yale University Press

Mackie, Gerry. 2003. *Democracy defended*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

II. The Organization of interests

Week 5

Popp Berman, Elizabeth. 2006. "Before the professional project: Success and failure at creating an organizational representative for English doctors," *Theory and Society*, 35: 157-191. **[Coursepack]**

Clemens, Elisabeth S. 1997. *The People's Lobby: Organizational Innovation and the Rise of Interest Group Politics in the United States, 1890-1925*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. **Prologue, Chapters I, II, VII, VIII and Coda.**

Recommended:

Cox, Gary W. 1987. *The Efficient Secret. the cabinet and the development of political parties in Victorian England*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Rothstein, Bo. 1992. "Labor Market Institutions and Working-Class Strength," pp. 35-56 in *Structuring Politics. Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*, edited by Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Skocpol, Theda. 1992. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers. The political origins of social policy in the United States*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Week 6

Berman, Sheri. 1998. *The Social Democratic Moment: ideas and politics in the making of interwar Europe*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. **Chapters 1-5, 8.**

Kitschelt, Herbert. 1994. *The Transformation of European Social Democracy*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 1-5.**

Recommended:

Przeworski, Adam and John Sprague. 1986. *Paper Stones. A History of Electoral Socialism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bartolini, Stefano and Peter Mair. 1990. *Identity, Competition, and Electoral Availability: the stabilization of European electorates 1885-1985*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Luebbert, Gregory. 1991. *Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy. Social Classes and the Political Origins of Regimes in Interwar Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 7

Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa. Regime transitions in Comparative Perspective*. New York : Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 1-3, 5-6.**

Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. *Paths toward Democracy. The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 1, 4-5.**

Recommended readings:

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2001. "An Insurgent Path to Democracy. Popular Mobilization, Economic Interests, and Regime Transition in South Africa and El Salvador." *Comparative Political Studies*, 34(8): 862-888.

Paige, Jeffery M. 1997. *Coffee and Power. Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Central America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Week 8

Franzosi, Roberto. 1995. *The Puzzle of Strikes. Class and State Strategies in Postwar Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 4, 6-7, 9.**

Golden, Miriam A. 1997. *Heroic Defeats. The Politics of Job Loss*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended

Swenson, Peter. 1989. *Fair Shares: Unions, Pay, and Politics in Sweden and West Germany*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Rubin, Beth. 1986. "Class Struggle American Style: Unions, Strikes and Wages." *American Sociological Review*, 51: 618-633.

Kimeldorf, Howard. 1988. *Reds or Rackets? The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront*. Berkeley : University of California Press.

III. Identities in Formation

Week 9

Bearman, Peter. 1993. *Relations into Rhetorics. Local Elite Social Structure in Norfolk, England, 1540-1640*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. **[Coursepack]**

Gould, Roger V. 1995. *Insurgent Identities. Class, Community, and Protest in Paris from 1848 to the Commune*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Recommended:

Dixon, Marc and Vincent Roscigno. 2003. "Status, Networks, and Social movement Participation: The Case of Striking Workers." *American Journal of Sociology* 108: 1292-1327.

Week 10

Laitin, David. 1998. *Identities in Formation. The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. **Parts I & II.**

Laitin, David. 1998. *Identities in Formation. The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. **Parts III & IV**

Malkki, Liisa. 1992. "National Geographic: The Rooting of Peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity among Scholars and Refugees," *Cultural Anthropology*, 7(1) 24-44. **[Coursepack]**

Recommended:

Aminzade, Ronald. 2000. "The Politics of Race and Nation: Citizenship and Africanization in Tanganyika," *Political Power and Social Theory*, 14: 53-90.

Somers, Margaret. 1992. "Narrativity, Narrative Identity, and Social Action: Rethinking English Working-Class Formation," *Social Science History*, 16(4): 591-630.

VI. Violence

Week 11

Uvin, Peter. 1999. "Ethnicity and Power in Burundi and Rwanda: Different Paths to Mass Violence," *Comparative Politics*, 31(3): 253-271. **[Coursepack]**

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2002. *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life. Hindus and Muslims in India*. New Haven: Yale University Press. **Chapters 1-2, 4-6, 9-11.**

Recommended:

Beissinger, Mark. 1998. "Nationalist Violence and the State: Political Authority and Contentious Repertoires in the Former USSR," *Comparative Politics*, 30(4): 401-422.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation," *The American Political Science Review*, 90(4): 715-735.

Olzak, Susan, Suzanne Shanahan and Elizabeth H. McEneaney. 1996. "Poverty, Segregation, and Race Riots: 1960 to 1993," *American Sociological Review*, 61(4): 590-613.

Week 12

Bourgois, Philippe. 2001. "The Power of Violence in War and Peace: Post-Cold War Lessons from El Salvador." *Ethnography* 2: 5-34. **[Coursepack]**

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Introduction, chapter 1, chapters 6-7.**

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 8-9**.

Recommended:

Gutierrez, Francisco. 2004. "Criminal Rebels? A Discussion of Civil War and Criminality from the Colombian Experience," *Politics & Society*, 6; vol. 32: pp. 257 - 285.

Coronil, Fernando and Julie Skurski. 1991. "Dismembering and Remembering the Nation: The Semantics of Political Violence in Venezuela," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 33(2): 288-337.

Week 13

Petersen, Roger D. 2001. *Resistance and Rebellion. Lessons from Eastern Europe*. Cambridge, New York : Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 1-4, 7**.

Browning, Christopher R. 1998 [1991]. *Ordinary Men, Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper.

Recommended

Arendt, Hannah. 1994[1963]. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: a report on the banality of evil*. Revised and enlarged edition. New York, Penguin Books.

Browning, Christopher R. 1992. "Beyond 'Intentionalism' and 'functionalism': The Decision for the Final Solution Reconsidered," pp. 86-124 in *The Path to Genocide: Essays on Launching the Final Solution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 14

Term paper presentations.

Week 15

Term paper presentations.