The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Field Seminar in Comparative Public Policy

Course Number:
PSC 6603-220

Course Description:
As two of the major subdisciplines within the field of political science, comparative politics and public policy are unique yet fascinating areas of research. As such, their combination lends well to the seminar format of scholarly discussion between professor and graduate students. Comparative politics is primarily concerned with the analysis of both political institutions (e.g., parties, legislatures, militaries, etc.) and processes (e.g., revolutions, modernization, democratization, etc.) in a generalized context. Public policy, in a way can be thought of as part of that second category of processes, though it has emerged nonetheless as its own field of study. Public policy is concerned with theory and practice of governmental processes that produce policy outputs that affect citizens. Unlike the subdiscipline of international relations, the principal analytic focus of comparative politics has traditionally been on phenomena which occur within countries rather than on phenomena which transcend national boundaries.

This course is designed to introduce students to three general questions. First, what is comparative political analysis and how is it undertaken? Second, what are the major areas of inquiry that have persistently dominated the field? Third, how do countries differ in their policy processes, most notably in agenda-setting?

To start, we will look at the most fundamental question facing comparativists: How do we compare? The fact that such a seemingly simple question continues to spark vigorous debate is a good indication of the complexity involved in trying to account for such a diverse array of phenomena in a generalizable fashion. We will then move on to explore some of the predominant themes within the comparative politics and public policy literatures. Specifically, we will be looking at conceptual/theoretical treatments of: the state, nationalism/identity, modernization and postmodernization, authoritarianism, political institutions, constitutional design, transitions to democracy, political parties, public policy processes and theories, and policy agendas.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: February 19 - 24, 2013
Location: Aviano, AB Italy. Please contact Site Director for classroom location.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 21, 2013

Site Director:
Kelia Lewis. Phone 39-0434030-5977; DSN 6322-5977. E-mail: apaviano@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Glen S. Krutz, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Carl Albert Center
630 Parrington Oval, Room 101
Norman, OK 73019-4031
Telephone Number: 405-325-5407
Fax Number: 405-325-6419
E-mail Address: gkrutz@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.). (Text prices are available online.)


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: there will be another large “area” of readings available under the “Content” link at the course website, covering Comparative Public Policy (to be posted by January 15th). These additional chapters are equivalent in length to an additional book. Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major conceptual, methodological, and theoretical concerns which mark the disciplines of comparative politics and public policy. As such, we will not be focusing primarily on detailed analysis of specific political systems, but rather on an overarching framework for understanding the nature of institutions and policy processes in a variety of different national contexts.

Course Outline:

This is a graduate seminar course, which means that while there will be periodic short lectures from the professor, the bulk of the course will entail class discussion. It is therefore imperative that students both carefully read all of the assigned material before the class meets and come prepared to engage in a thoughtful and relevant discussion of those materials. I do not have any expectations of prior knowledge in these fields and fully expect that you will have lots of questions. I do, however, expect that you will give yourself sufficient time to read and perhaps more importantly, think about what you’ve read before coming to class. Much of the material we will be reading will undoubtedly be unfamiliar to you. This makes it all the more important for you to set aside sufficient time to digest the material so that we can have productive discussions. Given the central importance of the discussion component of the class, one quarter of your final grade will be based on participation. Bear in mind that, in this regard, more is not always better. The quality of your participation, by which I mean comments or questions that reflect a thoughtful consideration of the material, will weigh much more heavily than the quantity of your participation.

Class Schedule: Themes & Reading Assignments

- Tuesday:
  - How & Why Do We Compare?
    - Brown, Bernard “Introduction: On Comparing Nations” (pp. 1-18)
    - Macridis, Roy “The Search for Focus”
• Bates, Robert “Area Studies and the Discipline”
• Blyth, Mark “Interests and Ideas”

• Wednesday:
  o Modernization & Post-Modernization
    ▪ Brown, Bernard “Political Change and the State” (pp. 47-53)
    ▪ Beer, Samuel “The Dynamics of Modernization”
    ▪ Inglehart, Ronald “Modernization and Post-Modernization”
  o State & Identity
    ▪ Weber, Max “What Is a State?”
    ▪ Skocpol, Theda “Bringing the State Back In”
    ▪ Greenfield, Liah “Varieties of Nationalism”
    ▪ Horowitz, Donald “A Right to Secede?”

• Thursday:
  o Authoritarianism
    ▪ Brown, Bernard “Patterns of Legitimacy” (pp. 171-174)
    ▪ Aristotle “On Democracy and Tyranny”
    ▪ Shevstova, Lilia “The Limits of Bureaucratic Authoritarianism”
    ▪ Nathan, Andrew “Authoritarian Resilience”
  o Democratization
    ▪ O’Donnell, Guillermo “Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies”
    ▪ Carothers, Thomas “The End of the Transition Paradigm”
    ▪ Diamond, Larry “Universal Democracy?”

• Friday:
  o Political Parties
    ▪ Brown, Bernard “Political Dynamics, Decisions and Efficacy” (pp. 293-309)
    ▪ Michels, Robert “The Iron Law of Oligarchy”
    ▪ Gunther, Richard & Larry Diamond “Species of Political Parties”
    ▪ Ignazi, Piero “The Rise of New Political Parties”
  o Political Institutions
    ▪ March, James & Johan Olsen “Institutional Perspectives”
    ▪ Lijphart, Arend “Constitutional Design for Divided Societies”

• Saturday:
  o Comparative Public Policy
    ▪ Smith, Zachary, chs. 1-11 (at D2L)

• Sunday:
  o Comparative Agenda-Setting
    ▪ Baumgartner, Green-Pedersen, and Jones, entire book

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates

Pre-Course Assignment (Due first class):
One of the more vigorous debates to emerge within the field of comparative politics in recent years pits self-labeled ‘social scientists’ against ‘area specialists.’ The chapters in our textbook by Robert Bates (“Area Studies and the Discipline”) and Mark Blyth (“Interests and Ideas”) outline some of the contours of that debate. On one side, there are those like Bates who argue for a generalized theoretical approach (more specifically, a rational choice or formal modeling methodology) in which cultural context takes a back seat to ‘rigorous’ cross-national explanation rooted in what he calls the, “rejection of the presumption that political regularities are area-bound.” Rational choice theory assumes that all individuals, regardless of their particular conditions, operate in the political sphere according to the same basic logic as they do in the economic sphere: they seek to maximize their benefits and minimize their costs. Thus, a peasant in Guatemala uses essentially the same calculus when deciding who to vote for as a banker in England. The ‘rational’ element in this regard is the simple calculation of how can I get more for less?

Critics such as Johnson, however, argue that no meaningful understanding, and thus no theory-building, can be achieved in the absence of contextual sensitivity. He notes that most of the rational choice
literature on non-U.S. politics is produced by, “people with no more knowledge of the area than they acquired from flying over it during daylight.” The argument made by those who advocate specialization in a particular area (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, etc.) generally goes beyond a simple assertion that ‘culture makes a difference.’ Rather, it suggests that given the enormous complexity of the phenomena we seek to explain, we should to try to minimize the amount of ‘noise’ in our models. In other words, if we compare countries which share a great deal in common (like Bolivia and Peru) we can, in effect, ignore some potentially explanatory variables (e.g., ethnicity, colonial background, etc.) and focus instead on a smaller set of potential explanations (e.g., party systems, economic development, etc.). If, the argument goes, we instead seek to explain political phenomena in countries with vastly different historical, cultural, religious or other backgrounds, we can never be sure what is actually responsible for whatever variation we see.

Based on your readings, do you feel the “social science” or “area studies” approach is more likely to advance the discipline? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each as you see them? Your answer should be typed, double-spaced and not exceed six total pages. There is, of course, no ‘right’ answer. I’ll be looking at the strength of your argument. If you use additional resources, please be careful to use proper citation (any standard method is acceptable). If you have questions about the assignment, please feel free to contact me via email.

Final Exam:

Will involve answering two broad essay questions (to be distributed at last class session). Due to the instructor via email attachment by Sunday, March 3, 2013. All sources must be properly and fully cited using any standard academic style. Please use the following format to both title your file and as the subject line the email you send submitting your final exam: AVIANO-LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Course Paper</td>
<td>First Day of Class</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Throughout course sessions</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Take Home)</td>
<td>One Week after Last Class</td>
<td>50%</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

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INSTRUCTOR VITA
Glen S. Krutz, Ph.D.

Education
- 1999 Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- 1993 M.P.A., University of Nevada, Reno
- 1990 B.A., University of Nevada, Reno

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2003
- Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma, since 2009
- Associate Director, Carl Albert Congressional Research Center, since 2005
- Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma, 2005-2009
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma, 2002-2005
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, Arizona State University, 1999-2002
- Director, ASU-in-Washington Program, Arizona State University, 2000-2002

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- PSC 5193 Comparative Administration
- PSC 5123 The Making of American Foreign Policy

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Agenda-setting in public policy
- Legislative institutions
- Inter-branch relations
- Institutional change

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Patrick Fett Award for Best Paper on the Scientific Study of Congress and the Presidency, 2007, Midwest
- Political Science Association.
- Teacher of the Year Award, Department of Political Science, Arizona State University, 2002.
- Dirksen Congressional Center Research Award, 1999.
- Who’s Who in America, various years.

Major Professional Affiliations
- American Political Science Association (sections: Public Policy; Legislative Studies; Presidency Research)
- American Society for Public Administration (sections: The Association on Budgeting and Financial Management; Section on Environmental and Natural Resources Administration)
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association