What is not named largely remains unnoticed.

Giovanni Sartori

Course Objectives

This course analyzes the political and cognitive dimensions of the knowledge construction process in comparative politics. More specifically, it examines the dominant conceptual vocabulary of comparative politics and its capacity to represent/misrepresent the historical specificities of the societies of the Global South. This year's course will primarily focus on the comparative study of state formation in Africa and Latin America.

Course Evaluation:

Participation: 20%
Book Reviews: 30% (10% each book).
Essay: 50%

Books recommended for purchase:


Assignments:

Book reviews:

Participants in this course will critically review the three required books in the course. The first book review (States, Nations and Nationalism) is due on February 11. The second review (States of Violence) is due on March 11. The third and final review (The State in Africa) is due on April 1. The instructor will give detailed instructions regarding this assignment in class.

Essay:

The essay is due on April 11. The instructor will give detailed instructions regarding this assignment in class.

Participation:

Students in this course will be expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place every week. Moreover, they will be required to post a short critical assessment of the assigned readings on the Comparative Politics Bulletin Board that has been created for this purpose. Critical assessments must be posted no later than 12:00 noon on the Friday of each week. One student will formally introduce the assigned readings each week having read the other students’ critical comments on the bulletin board. To visit the Comparative Politics Bulletin Board on the web, go to:

http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/uwocomparativepolitics

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf
Course Outline

I: Introduction

January 7: Comparative Politics of the Global South: Do we Compare or do we Translate?

II. Comparative Politics: Political and Cognitive Dimensions

January 14: The Politics of Method


January 21: The Politics of Language


January 28: Cognitive Dimensions of Comparative Politics


III. The European State

February 4: State Formation in Europe (I)


February 11: State Formation in Europe (II)


III. The State in Latin America

February 25: State Formation in Latin America (I)


Howard Wiarda, “Historical Determinants of the Latin American State: The Tradition of Bureaucratic-Patrimonialism, Corporatism, Centralism, and

March 4: State Formation in Latin America (II)


March 11: State Formation in Latin America (III)


III. The State in Africa

March 18: State Formation in Africa (I).


Bayart, 2009, 41-118

March 25: State Formation in Africa (II)


Bayart, 2009, 119-206

April 1: State Formation in Africa (III)

Bayart, 2009, 207-272


April 8: Conclusions


