

Department of Political Science McGill University
Winter 2025
Political Science 639
Themes in Comparative Politics (Democracy and Development)
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Course Description:

The purpose of this graduate seminar is to explore the complex relationship between capitalist development and democracy in both advanced capitalist societies and developing regions (Latin America, Asia, and Africa). This course emphasizes analyzing how macro-structural phenomena that underpin “development” and “democracy” have been examined in comparative politics, particularly through comparative historical analysis. The seminar will cover a distinct set of literatures addressing a series of crucial macro-

to the reading list for the following week, allowing you to make an informed choice regarding the extra reading in case you are writing a reaction paper for our subsequent meeting.

4. Three short reaction papers (2,000 words each) covering one of the optional readings for a given week.

The aim of these reaction papers is not to merely summarize the argument of the chosen text, but to craft a concise analytical piece that engages your selected reading with the primary readings for each week. These papers should offer a critical examination of the material, taking into account

Week 2: State Formation

Tilly, Charles. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, Ad 990-1992*: Wiley-Blackwell, 1993. (chapters 1, 3, and 5 in particular).

Scott, James. *Seeing like a State*. Princeton University Press (1-84). 1998.

Grzymała-Busse, Anna M. "Sacred foundations: The religious and medieval roots of the European state." 2023

Andreas, Peter. *Smuggler nation: How illicit trade made America*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Levi, Margaret. *Of Rule and Revenue*. California University Press. 1988.

Spruyt, Hendrik. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Ziblatt, Daniel. *Structuring the State. The Formation of Italy and Germany and the Puzzle of Federalism*. Princeton University Press, 2008.

Week 3: State formation in the periphery I

Schenoni, Luis L. *Bringing war back in: Victory, defeat, and the state in nineteenth-century Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2024.*

Mazzuca, Sebastián. *Latecomer State Formation: Political Geography and Capacity Failure in Latin America*, Yale University Press. 2021.*

Paglayan, Agustina. *Raised to Obey: The Rise and Spread of Mass Education*. Princeton University Press, 2024.*

Mazzuca, Sebastián L., and Gerardo L. Munck. *A middle-*

Saylor, Ryan. *State Building in Boom Times: Commodities and coalitions in Latin America and Africa*. Oxford University Press, 2014.*

López-Alves, Fernando. *State Formation and Democracy in Latin America. 1810-1900*. Duke University Press, 2000.*

Week 4: State formation in the periphery (2)

Slater, Dan, and Joseph Wong. *From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of*

Gryzmalla-Busse, Anna. *Nations under God*. Princeton University Press. 2016.

Week 6: Revolutions and Civil War

Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979. *

Schwartz, Rachel A. *Undermining the State from Within*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Week 8: Democracy and Inequality

Ansell, Ben W., and David J. Samuels. *Inequality and democratization: an elite-competition approach*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Acemoglu, Daaron and James Robinson. *Economic Origins of Dictatorships and Democracies*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

O'Donnell, Guillermo. "Toward an Alternative Conceptualization of South American Politics." In *Promise of Development. Theories of Change in Latin America*, edited by Peter Klarén and Thomas J. Bossert. Boulder and London: Westview Press, 1986. Pp 239-275

Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. *Development, Democracy, and Welfare States: Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe*: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Davis, Diane. *Discipline and Development*. Cambridge University Press. 2004.*

Dunning, Thad. *Crude Democracy. Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.*

Schneider, Ben Ross. *Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Bates, Robert. *The Development Dilemma*. Princeton University Press. 2017.

Week 11: The political economy of market reforms in the periphery

Silva, Eduardo, and Federico Rossi, eds. *Reshaping the political arena in Latin America: From resisting neoliberalism to the second incorporation*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018.

Etchemendy, Sebastián. *Models of economic liberalization: Business, workers, and compensation in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal*. Cambridge University Press, 2011.*

Singh, Perna. *How solidarity works for welfare: Subnationalism and social development in India*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.*

Fairfield, Tasha. *Private wealth and public revenue*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.*

Pribble, Jennifer. *Welfare and party politics in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.*

Campello, Daniela. *The politics of Market Discipline in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. 2015.*

Murillo, Victoria. *Unions, Partisan Coalitions and Market Reforms in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.*

Silva, Eduardo. *Challenging Neoliberalism in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Garay, Candelaria. *Social Policy Expansion in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. 2016.*

Baker, Andy. *The Market and the Masses in Latin America Policy Reform and Consumption in Liberalizing Economies*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. *

Díaz-Cayeros et al. *The Political Logic of Poverty Relief*. Cambridge University Press. 2016.

Niedzwiecki, Sara. *Uneven social policies: The politics of subnational variation in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.*

Week 12: Mafias, Democracy, and Development

Trejo, Guillermo y Sandra Ley. *Votes, Drugs, and Violence: The Political Logic of Criminal Wars in Mexico*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Feldmann, Andreas and Juan Pablo Luna. *Criminal Politics and Botched Development*. Cambridge Elements in the Politics of Development. 2023

Durán Martínez, Angélica. *The Politics of Drug Violence*. Oxford University Press. 2018. *

Holland, Alisha C. *Forbearance as redistribution*. Cambridge University Press. 2017. *

Lessing, Benjamin. *Making Peace in Drug Wars*. Cambridge University Press. 2018. *

Arias, Desmond. *Criminal enterprises and Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Cambridge University Press. 2016.

Auyero, Javier. *Routine politics and violence in Argentina: The gray zone of state power*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Auyero, Javier. *Patients of the state: the politics of waiting in Argentina*. Duke University Press, 2012.

Auyero, Javier and Katherine Sobering. *The Ambivalent State: Police-Criminal Cp* M

