Readings and discussion cover both classic works by authors such as Tocqueville, Weber, Moore, Huntington, Dahl, and Olson, as well as enduring themes in comparative politics such as classes and social groups, culture, social capital, authoritarianism, state building, nationalism, democratization, and collective action. Classic works are paired with illustrative recent publications that draw inspiration from, elaborate on, or contradict, the foundational work. The last weeks of the course concentrate on some core contemporary debates in comparative politics and comparative political economy including regimes, democratization, distributional politics, and ‘varieties of capitalism.’

Weekly discussions and short lectures are designed to facilitate comparisons across authors and approaches and to help situate each body of work in recent theoretical discussions in the field of comparative politics.

Course requirements: active participation in seminar discussions (30 percent); three 4-page, double-spaced analytical reviews of the weekly reading (30 percent); and a final exam (40 percent). The weekly reviews and discussion questions are due Tuesday afternoon before the seminar and should be posted by 5pm to Stellar.

Readings will be available on Stellar except for the required books. Students should arrange to buy, rent, or borrow copies of the following books:


**Week 1 (8 February). Introduction and Organization**

**Week 2 (15 February). Civil Society and Social Capital**

Zunz and Kahan. *The Tocqueville Reader*. Introduction (pp. 1-37); chapter 3, volume I of *Democracy in America* (pp. 64-116); chapter 6, volume II of *Democracy in America* (pp. 161-212); chapter 11, volume I of *The Old Regime and the Revolution* (277-93).


**Further reading:**


Week 3 (22 February). **States and Bureaucracies**


Further reading:


Week 4 (1 March). **Classes and Democracy**


Further reading


**Week 5 (8 March). State Formation and State Building**


**Further reading:**


Daniel Ziblatt, *Structuring the State: The Formation of Italy and Germany and the Puzzle of Federalism* (Princeton University Press, 2006)

Week 6 (15 March). **Modernization and Political Order**


**Further reading**


Week 7 (22 March). **Collective Action, Interest Groups, and Coalitions**


Further reading


29 March. Spring break

Week 8 (5 April). **Nationalism, Identity, and Culture**


Further reading


Week 9 (12 April). **Political Regimes and Regime Change**


**Further reading**


Week 10 (19 April). **Democracy and Democratization**


Further reading


Slater, Dan, and Erica Simmons. "Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Political Studies* 43.7 (2010): 886-917.


26 April. No class

Week 11 (3 May). **Parties, Elections, and Clientelism**


Further reading


Week 12 (10 May). Comparative Capitalism


Further reading


Week 13 (17 May).  **Welfare States and Distributional Politics**


**Further reading**


