

PLS 491 (Seminar in Comparative Politics) Fall 2002

M. Gobeyn (BR 434/677-2497)

Comparative Political Development

This seminar is an in-depth examination of the relationships among processes of economic change, political institutions, and structures of political power in advanced industrial democracies. During the course of the term we will analyze a wide range of research on the dynamics of political and economic change in both contemporary Europe and North America.

Structure and Evaluation

During the course of the term you will be asked to compose a total of five evaluative essays based on the assigned readings. Combined, these papers (approx. 5-6 double-spaced pages in length) will be worth 65 percent of your final grade. The remaining 35 percent will be based on seminar participation (discussion and periodic presentations/overviews of assigned readings).

ATTENDANCE AT ALL CLASS SESSIONS IS MANDATORY.

Books

Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*

Dahl, *Polyarchy*

Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*

Hicks, *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism*

Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

WEEK ONE (8/28)

Course introduction

WEEK TWO (9/4)

Comparative political analysis: a theoretical overview as preface to our course theme

WEEK THREE (9/11)

Readings: Lijphart (to be assigned)

WEEK FOUR (9/18)

Readings: Lijphart (to be assigned)

WEEK FIVE (9/25)

Readings: Lijphart (to be assigned)
Evaluative essay #1 assigned

WEEK 6 (10/2)

Readings: Dahl (to be assigned)

WEEK 7 (10/9)

Readings: Dahl (to be assigned)
Evaluative essay #2 assigned

WEEK 8 (10/16)

Readings: Schumpeter (to be assigned)

WEEK 9 (10/23)

Readings: Schumpeter (to be assigned)

WEEK 10 (10/30)

Readings: Schumpeter (to be assigned)
Evaluative essay #3 assigned

WEEK 11 (11/6)

Readings: Hicks (to be assigned)

WEEK 12 (11/13)

Readings: Hicks (to be assigned)
Evaluative essay # 4 assigned

WEEK 13 (11/20)

Readings: Friedman (to be assigned)

WEEK 14 (12/4)

Readings: Friedman (to be assigned)
Evaluative essay #5 assigned
Due date for paper: 12/11

The institutions of capitalism

Readings: Lijphart (as assigned daily)
Schumpeter (as assigned daily)

Week Two—capitalism, socialism, and democracy/the institutions of socialist democracy
Institutional transformation and the “zero-growth” economy

Readings: Schumpeter (as assigned daily)
Ophuls (as assigned daily)