This course explores some of the principal theoretical approaches used in the study of politics in different countries. As a companion to the course on Approaches to Development, it focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on theories applicable to advanced industrial states. It begins with a discussion of important paradigms in political analysis, highlighting principle debates about the focus and nature of political science and ideological disagreements over the actual and desirable nature of the state. It then covers selected theoretical tools used to analyze specific elements of comparative politics, notably interest groups and corporatism, institutionalism, feminism, political culture and ideology, revolutionary change, democratization, development and dependency. It concludes by asking whether we are moving beyond an era of state-centred politics, and beyond the division between the sub-fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations. Throughout, an effort will be made to compare and analyze how competing paradigms in the field treat each topic.

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS:**

Seminars will feature student debates and discussion. The final grade will be determined by participation (20%), 2 presentations (20% each), and research essay (15-20) pages (40%). Essay topics should be agreed to with the instructor by October 24th at the latest. Essays will be due on December 12th.

As this is a small seminar, students are expected to participate actively in discussions and to attend all classes. Students will be expected to volunteer for 2 assignments as presenters to make up 40% of the final grade. One to two presenters (depending on numbers enrolled) will be needed for each week. A list of debate topics will be circulated in the near future. Students should present a paper on ONE of the two themes we will cover, one in each half of the class. While students are initially invited to select topics of their preference, a balance across topics will be essential. Student presentations should take the form of a debate argument on the principal themes of the assigned articles. Presenters’ statements should not exceed 10-15 minutes in length.

Presenters should submit a written version of their presentation each week, in the form of a formal essay of no more than +/- 10 pages. A copy of these papers should be made available two working days before the seminar to the instructor and the class, to serve as the basis for seminar discussion. This should be sent as email attachments and will be posted on the course page. When there are two presentations, presenters should coordinate their participation before preparing their papers, to ensure that the assigned readings are covered and the debate topic is thoroughly explored. A list of proposed debate themes or propositions is attached.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

There is one required textbook for this course: J. Dryzek and P. Dunleavy, *Theories of the Democratic State* (2009). It is available from the Dalhousie Bookstore. Several chapters are taken from E. Cudworth, T. Hall and J. McGovern *The Modern State: Theories and Ideologies* (2007) which can be purchased optionally from Amazon.ca or other retailers. Most articles and chapters will be made available on the OWL online learning system. Some chapters and articles will be available from the course mailbox in the POLI department office. A list of topics and readings (required and recommended) follows.

**PART 1: FUNDAMENTAL APPROACHES**

**Paradigms and Precursors in Comparative Politics**

*Required:*

Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 1.

"The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium" *World Politics*, Vol. 48, (October, 1995), 1-49,
especially section by Evans, Hoeber-Rudolph.

Howard J. Wiarda "Is comparative politics dead? Rethinking the field in the post-Cold War era" Third World Quarterly; Dec 1998; 19, 5.


Timothy Lim “Thinking theoretically in Comparative Politics” in T. Lim. Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues 2nd. Ed. (Boulder: Lynne Reinner, 2010).

*Book on order

Recommended:

Barbara Geddes “Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics” (Forthcoming, University of Michigan Press.)
JA 86 G35 2003- Killam Library Reserves

Howard J Wiarda "The death of the great international systems debate?" Reconceptualizing comparative politics World Affairs; Spring 1999; 161, 4;

Ronald Chilcote, Theories of Comparative Politics Chapters 1-4.
JF 51 C44- Killam Library Reserves

Howard Wiarda New Directions in Comparative Politics Chapters 1-2

T. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions especially introduction and conclusion.

Louis Cantori and Andrew H. Ziegler, Comparative Politics in the Post-Behavioural Era, p. 5-22, (Neumann), 54-70 (Lijphart).

Functionalism and Systems Theory
Cantori and Zeigler, p. 97-112 (Easton); p. 77-91 (Almond and Powell).

Allan Larson, Comparative Political Analysis Chapters 3, 4.

Chilcote, p. 121-49.


PART 2: SOCIETAL APPROACHES

Pluralism and Neopluralism

Required:
Dryzek and Dunleavy, chs. 2,6,7.
Cudworth, Hall and McGovern ch. 2, 5


*Recommended:*


Murray Knutilla, *State Theories* (Toronto, Garamond, 1987), Ch. 4.


Chilcote, p. 347-57.


**Neo-Marxist Theories**

*Required:*
Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 4.

Cudworth, Hall and McGovern ch. 4.


*Recommended:*
L Panitch, “Thoroughly Modern Marx.” *Foreign Policy* 172 (May/June 2009), 140-145.


Boris Frankel, "On the State of the State: Marxist Theories of the State After Lenin", *Theory and Society* Vol. 7 (1979)

PART 3: STATIST APPROACHES

Elite Theory and The New Right

Required:
Dryzek and Dunleavy, chs. 3, 5, 12.

Cudworth, Hall and McGovern ch. 3, 8, 10

Recommended:


Knutilla, State Theories, Chptr 3.


M.E. Olsen, Power in Societies, 1970, Chapters by Pareto, Mosca, Michels, Olsen. HM 136 O4- Killam Library Reserves


Corporatism and Neo-Institutionalism

Required:


Ellen M Immergut “The theoretical core of the new institutionalism” Politics & Society; Stoneham; 26, 1 (Mar 1998), p. 5-34

Recommended:

Douglas Chambers, "Corporatism and Comparative Politics" in Howard Wiarda (ed.) New Directions in Comparative Politics

Cantori and Zeigler, pages 134-156 (Chambers)


Hall, Peter A; Taylor, Rosemary C R; “Political science and the three new institutionalisms” Political Studies 44, 5 (Dec 1996), 936-957.

Theda Skocpol "Why I Am an Historical Institutionalist" Polity, 28, 1, (Autumn, 1995), pp. 103-106

E. Nordlinger, "Taking the State Seriously" in S. Huntington and M. Wiener (eds.) Understanding Political Development

PART 4 : GENDER, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Feminist Political Theory

Required:
Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 10.

Cudworth, Hall and McGovern ch. 9.


Recommended:
Catherine Mackinnon, “Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory” Signs: Journal Of Women in Culture and Society 7:3 (Spring 1982), 515- 544.


Rosemarie Tong, Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction Ch. 1, Conclusion and selectively.

Carole Pateman, "Feminism and Democracy" in Graeme Duncan (ed.) Democratic Theory and Practice, 204-17.


Marianne Hirsch and Evelyn Fox Keller, Conflicts in Feminism Introduction, Chapters 8, 9.

**Political Culture, Identity and Ideology**

*Required:*
Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 8.


*Recommended:*
Raymond Williams, "Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory", New Left Review, 82, 1973, 3-16

Ruth Lane, “Political culture: residual category or general theory?” Comparative Political Studies 25, 3 (Oct 1992), 362-387.

Chilcote, Chapter 6.

B. Jessop, Traditionalism, Conservatism and British Political; Culture Chapter 3, "Civility, hegemony and Stability"


**PART 5: POLITICAL DYNAMICS**

*Revolutionary Change*

*Required:*
Theda Skocpol States and social revolutions: a comparative analysis of France, Russia, and China

Or Theda Skocpol "State And Revolution: Old Regimes and Revolutionary Crises in France, Russia, and China" Theory & Society 7, 1-2(Jan/Mar1979), 7-95.


John Foran, “The Future of Revolutions at the Fin-de-Siècle” Third World Quarterly, 18, 5, (Dec., 1997), 791-820.

Recommended:


Jeff Goodwin and Theda Skocpol, "Explaining Revolutions in the Contemporary Third World" Politics and Society 17, 4 (Dec., 1989), 469-509.


William H. Friedland et. al., Revolutionary Theory (Totowa, NJ: Alllanheld, Osmun, c1982). (for Marxist analyses)

**Development, Dependency and Underdevelopment**

Required:


Recommended:


Cantori and Zeigler, p. 355-415 (Huntington and Migdal).

Gabriel Almond, ”The Development of Political Development” in Huntington and Weiner, p. 437-90.
Steven Topik, “Dependency revisited: Saving the baby from the bathwater” *Latin American Perspectives* 25, 6 (Nov 1998), 95-99


Edwin Rhyne, “Dependency theory: Requiescat in Pace?” *Sociological Inquiry* 60. 4 Fall 1990, 370-.


Magnus Blomstrom and Bjorn Hettne, *Development Theory in Transition* Chapters 1,2,3,4,8.

**PART 6 CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION**

**New Social Movements/Post Modernism**

*Required:*
Dryzek and Dunleavy, chs. 11, 13


*Recommended:*
Steven M Buechler, “New social movement theories” *Sociological Quarterly*, 36, 3 (Summer, 1995) p. 441-.


George Steinmetz, “Regulation theory, post-Marxism, and the new social movements” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 36, Jan 1994, 176-.


Steven M. Buechler, “Beyond resource mobilization? Emerging trends in social movement theory” *Sociological Quarterly* 34, 1993, 217-.

Epstein, Barbara; “Rethinking Social Movement Theory” *Socialist Review* 20, 1 (Jan 1990), 35
Democratization and Globalization

Required:
Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 9, 14.

Giovanni Capoccia and Daniel Ziblatt “The Historical Turn in Democratization Studies: A New Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond” Comparative Political Studies 43(8/9) 931–968


Recommended:

Dryzek and Dunleavy, ch. 15.


ESSAY TOPICS:

As graduate students you may to develop a topic of your choice, perhaps supportive of thesis research. It need not focus on the above themes, but can do so if you prefer, with additional research. The topic is subject to the following guidelines:

1) the principle theme must be the DOMESTIC politics of states other than Canada
2) there must be a THEORETICAL component: you must assess and test theories of domestic politics somehow in the essay
3) you may apply a RANGE OF THEORIES TO A SINGLE CASE to test their validity; or APPLY A SINGLE THEORY TO SEVERAL CASES to assess its general application; or consider various combinations of these approaches
4) Essays which focus primarily on theoretical themes can be considered if the theories are focused on domestic comparative politics
5) Transnational or inter-state approaches should only be employed to explain effects of global forces or on domestic politics. States do not exist in a vacuum, but there are plenty of opportunities in this department to explore IR themes in depth, and relatively few to examine domestic comparative politics
6) To be sure, do consult the professor, and prepare a topic statement or essay proposal by October 22nd.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A - Request for Accommodation.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honourarium of $75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.