

Political Science 191: Politics and History

Monday 2-4pm
791 Barrows

Professor Jason Wittenberg
732 Barrows Hall
Office Hours: Monday 10:30-12
Email: witty@berkeley.edu

Course Description

According to William Faulkner, the past is never dead, it is not even past. Nearly everyone agrees that history somehow matters for understanding political life, but there are many disagreements concerning how much, how we would know, and the mechanisms of history's influence. What role do historical legacies, path dependence, and past critical junctures play in contemporary politics? What are the best methods for illuminating the influence of the past? We explore these and related questions through close examination of an eclectic array of scholarly materials.

Course Requirements

As a seminar, this course will be quite different from the lecture classes you have been in. You will have much more contact with the professor because there will be many fewer students in the course and there is no GSI. In return, more will be expected of you than in a typical large lecture. Though I will frequently take the lead in the discussion, as a rule I will not be delivering lectures every week from notes or slides. Thus, the course's success depends to a much greater extent on active student participation. This means not just doing the reading, but engaging with the material and being prepared to discuss it during class. Ideally everyone will participate in the discussion, but if not I will intervene and, if necessary, call on people that have not spoken. There are no exams in this class, but there are a number of short writing assignments, and you will be expected to do a class presentation and complete a substantial research paper. Please be sure to

consult with me as soon as possible (but no later than Sept 17) to discuss a paper topic.

Your grade for this course will depend on a number of factors (with the percentage grade weight at the end of each point):

1. The quality of your contribution to class discussion **(20%)**
2. A few 2-3 page response papers (double-spaced, 12pt Times Roman font, 1-inch margins), to be uploaded to bSpace no later than the Sunday before class at 5pm. The goal of these papers is to provide thoughtful comment on the readings. This might be a criticism of the argument or evidence from one reading, an attempt at comparing and contrasting different readings with one another, or stating reasons why you agree or disagree with a particular author. **(10%, graded Pass/Fail)**
3. A 4-5 page critical essay on an unpublished book manuscript (to be discussed Oct 1), due Sep 30 by 5pm. I will say more about this during class. **(5%)**
4. A 1-2 page paper proposal, due by Oct 7 by 5pm. This proposal should clearly state the question or puzzle or issue the paper will explore, and discuss how you propose to address it. (Poorly-written proposals will have to be rewritten and resubmitted.) **(5%, graded Pass/Fail)**
5. A presentation on your paper topic, on Oct 26, followed by a short question period. The length of the presentation and Q&A will be determined by enrollment. Your grade will depend on both the intellectual quality of your presentation (you need not use PowerPoint or other high tech tools) and your answers to any questions that are posed to you. **(5%, graded Pass/Fail)**
6. A draft research paper at least 10 pages long, due *in triplicate* on Nov 19 in class. This will be given to two of your classmates for comment. Your final draft should address these comments to the extent possible. **(10%, graded Pass/Fail)**
7. Your 2-3 page suggestions for improvement on two of your classmates' draft papers, due in class on Nov 26. You will have received two of your classmates' paper drafts on Nov 19. You should come to class on Nov 26 with the written suggestions and be prepared to discuss them with the authors of the papers. **(5%, graded Pass/Fail)**

8. You final paper, due by 4pm on December 10 in hardcopy in my mailbox in 210 Barrows. These papers should be 18-22 pages long (double-spaced, 12pt Times Roman font, 1-inch margins), excluding any tables or graphics. There will be draconian penalties for late papers. You will lose an entire grade for each day the paper is late. If the paper is not there at 4pm it will count as an entire day late, even if you turn it in at 4:01pm. Please plan accordingly if you have to arrange access to a printer. I do not accept emailed papers. **(40%)**

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating I reserve the right to fail you in the course. For information on what constitutes misconduct please see: <http://campuslife.berkeley.edu/conduct>

Course Reader: The reader for this course is available at University Copy, 2425 Channing Way (549-2335). Readings available on bSpace are marked as such.

Note on Readings: I am always discovering new and better readings. Therefore I reserve the right to add or subtract readings as the course progresses.

Course Outline

Aug 27: Introduction

Sept 3: Labor Day Holiday (No class)

Sept 10: An Example of Why History Matters

- Robert D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. (Princeton University Press, 1993).

(Response paper due by Sept 9 at 5pm.)

Sept 17: Time for Politics

- Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. (University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 11-36.
- Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time*. (Princeton University Press, 2004), pp. 1-10.
- Paul Pierson, “Big, Slow-Moving, and ... Invisible: Macrosocial Processes in the Study of Comparative Politics,” in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 177-207.
- Ronald Aminzade, “Historical Sociology in Time,” *Sociological Methods & Research*, Vol. 20, No. 4, May 1992, pp. 456-480.

Sept 24: Introduction to Historical Legacies

- Paola Cesarini and Katherine Hite, “Introducing the Concept of Authoritarian Legacies,” in Katherine Hite and Paola Cesarini, eds., *Authoritarian Legacies and Democracy in Latin America and Southern Europe*. (University of Notre Dame Press, 2004), pp. 1-24.
- Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, *Shaping the Political Arena*. (University of Notre Dame Press, 2002), pp. 27-39.
- Herbert Kitschelt et al., *Post-Communist Party Systems*. (Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 19-42.
- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*. (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 265-302.

(Response paper due by Sept 23 at 5pm.)

Oct 1: Communist Legacies

- Mark Beissinger and Stephen Kotkin, eds., *The Historical Legacies of Communism*. Book manuscript. (Course reader)

(4-5 page critical essay on manuscript due by Sept 30 at 5pm.)

Oct 8: Pre-Communist Legacies

- Jason Wittenberg, *Crucibles of Political Loyalty: Church Institutions and Electoral Continuity in Hungary*. (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

(1-2 page paper proposal due by Oct 7 at 5pm.)

Oct 15: Historical Legacies: A Critical Reappraisal

- Reread Beissinger and Kotkin's introductory chapter in *The Historical Legacies of Communism*.
- Jody LaPorte and Danielle Lussier, "What is the Leninist Legacy? Assessing Twenty Years of Scholarship," *Slavic Review*, Vol. 70, No. 3, Fall 2011, pp. 637-654. (Available on JSTOR.)
- Jason Wittenberg, "What is a Historical Legacy?" Unpublished manuscript available at: <http://witty.berkeley.edu/Legacies.pdf>

(Response paper due by Oct 14 at 5pm.)

Oct 22: Varieties of Continuity (and Discontinuity)

- Alexander Gerschenkron, "On the Concept of Continuity in History," in Alexander Gerschenkron, *Continuity in History and Other Essays*. (Cambridge University Press, 1958), pp. 11-39.
- Orlando Patterson, "Culture and continuity: causal structures in socio-cultural persistence," in Roger Friedland and John Mohr, eds., *Matters of Culture*. (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 71-109.
- Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. (University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 37-54; 82-100.

(Response paper due by Oct 21 at 5pm.)

Oct 29: Class Presentations on Paper Topics

Nov 5: Paradoxes of Persistence Revisited

- Michael B. Burke, “Cohabitation, Stuff and Intermittent Existence,” *Mind*, New Series, Vol. 89, No. 355, July 1980, pp. 391-405.
- Michael Chandler, “Surviving Time: The Persistence of Identity in This Culture and That,” *Culture and Psychology*, Vol. 6, 2000, No. 2, pp. 209-231.
- Haskell Fain, *Between Philosophy and History*. (Princeton University Press, 1970), pp. 68-80.
- Katherine Hawley, *How Things Persist*. (Clarendon Press, 2001), pp. 1-36.
- Derek Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*. (Clarendon Press, 1984), pp. 199-209.

(Response paper due by Nov 4 at 5pm.)

Nov 12: Academic Holiday (No class)

Nov 19: Methodological Considerations (10 page paper drafts due; please bring three copies)

- Ellis Goldberg, “Thinking about how Democracy Works,” *Politics & Society*, 1996, Vol. 24, No. 7, pp. 7-18.
- Konstantin Kashin and Daniel Ziblatt, “A Missing Historical Variable? The Long Run Effects of Nineteenth Century Landholding Patterns on Contemporary Voting in Central Europe, 1895-2009.” Unpublished manuscript, version June 2011.
- Jason Wittenberg, “How Similar Are They? Rethinking Electoral Congruence,” *Quality & Quantity*, forthcoming. Available at <http://witty.berkeley.edu/articles.html>.
- Nico Voigtländer and Hans-Joachim Voth, “Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, forthcoming 2012.

Nov 26: Concluding Thoughts and Comments on Student Papers

December 3: Reading Period

December 10: Paper due by 4pm in mailbox in 210 Barrows