

## **Political Science 695: Politics and History**

Tuesday 2:25-4:55pm

347 Education

Professor Jason Wittenberg

221 North Hall

Office Hours: Wed 10am-12pm, and by appointment.

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### **Course Description**

According to William Faulkner, the past is never dead, it is not even past. This seminar will investigate how an examination of earlier events can inform our understanding of contemporary politics. Nearly everyone agrees that history somehow matters, but there are many debates concerning just how much 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 other questions through close examination an eclectic array of materials from history, sociology, and political science.

### **Course Requirements**

As a seminar, this course depends for its success on active student participation. Therefore you are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete any assignments, and participate in class discussions. The grade for this course will depend class participation (25%), short reaction papers due each week (25%), and a major research paper (50%). Your research paper is due on the last day of class, December 14. You must attend class and turn in all papers to get a passing grade in the course. If you need to miss a class, please inform me in advance. I do not grade on a curve, so you are not competing with your classmates for A's. Everyone who does A-level work will receive an A.

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. For information on what constitutes misconduct please see:

<http://www.wisc.edu/students/amsum.htm>

### **Course Readings**

The course readings are available on Electronic Reserve at:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/College/circreserve/ereserves/dept.htm>

Be aware that there is more than one course lumped under PS695, so be sure you print the correct readings!

**Note on Readings:** I am always discovering new and better readings. Therefore I reserve the right to assign different materials than the ones listed here.

## Course Outline

### September 7: Introduction

### September 14: How We Know the Past

- \$ David Lowenthal, *The Past is a Foreign Country*. (Cambridge University Press, 1985), Chapter 5.
- \$ Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. (University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 1-54.

### September 21: Pathways to Modern Politics

- \$ Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966), pp. 618-683.
- \$ Gregory M. Luebbert, *Liberalism, Fascism, and Social Democracy*. (Oxford University Press, 1991), selections.

### September 28: Introduction to Comparative Historical Analysis

- \$ James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 3-38.
- \$ Kathleen Thelen, "Historical Institutionalism and Comparative Politics," *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 1999, pp. 369-404.

### October 5: Timing and Sequence

- \$ Paul Pierson, "Not Just What, but *When*: Timing and Sequence in Political Processes," *Studies in American Political Development* 14, Spring 2000, pp. 72-92. Plus responses by Jervis, Thelen, Bridges; and Pierson's reply.

### October 12: Historical Legacies: An Introduction

- \$ 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.
- \$ Paola Cesarini, "Legacies of Injustice in Italy and Argentina," in Hite and Cesarini.
- \$ Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, *Shaping the Political Arena*. (University of Notre Dame Press, 2002), pp. 27-39.

**October 19: Communist Legacies in Eastern Europe-3 page paper outlines due**

- \$ Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*. (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 265-302.
- \$ Ken Jowitt, *New World Disorder*. (University of California Press, 1992), pp. 284-305.
- \$ Barbara Geddes, "A Comparative Perspective on the Leninist Legacy in Eastern Europe," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 2, July 1995, pp. 239-274.
- \$ Ivan Volgyes, "The Legacies of Communism: An Introductory Essay," in Zoltan Barany and Ivan Volgyes, eds., *The Legacies of Communism in Eastern Europe*. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995), pp. 1-19.

**October 26: Class Presentations. NOTE: DATE AND TIME WILL BE RESCHEDULED**

**November 2: Pre-Communist Legacies in Eastern Europe**

- \$ Andrew C. Janos, "Continuity and Change in Eastern Europe: Strategies of Post-Communist Politics," *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 8, No. 1, Winter 1994, pp. 1-31.
- \$ Herbert Kitschelt et al., *Post-Communist Party Systems*. (Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 19-42.
- \$ Jason Wittenberg, *Sustaining Political Loyalties*. (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming), Chapter 2.

**November 9: Assessing the Impact of Historical Legacies in Eastern Europe-8 page paper fragment due**

- \$ Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, eds., *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe*. (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Chapters 1 and 2.

- \$ Beverly Crawford and Arend Lijphart, "Explaining Political and Economic Change in Post-Communist Eastern Europe," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 2, July 1995, pp. 171-199.

**November 16: A Critical Look at Historical Legacies (and History)**

- \$ Jason Wittenberg, "Historical Legacies and Post-Communism." Unpublished paper.
- \$ Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. (University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 82-97.

**November 23: Film, title TBA**

**November 30: The Paradox of Persistence**

- \$ Katherine Hawley, *How Things Persist*. (Clarendon Press, 2001), pp. 1-36.
- \$ Michael B. Burke, "Cohabitation, Stuff and Intermittent Existence," *Mind*, New Series, Vol. 89, No. 355, July 1980, pp. 391-405.
- \$ Haskell Fain, *Between Philosophy and History*. (Princeton University Press, 1970), pp. 68-80.

**December 7: Individual Meetings with Students**

**December 14: Semester Wrap-Up-papers due**