

Political Science 490; Sociology 439-0
Friday 9:00-12:00
Northwestern University

James Mahoney
316 Scott Hall
Office Hours: M/W 3:30-4:30

COMPARATIVE-HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

This course provides an introduction to issues of theory, approach, and evidence in the field of comparative-historical analysis. Although methodological topics will inevitably come up, the course is not primarily a class on comparative-historical methods.

The overall objective is to help students understand, appreciate, and critique excellent works of comparative-historical analysis. These skills in turn should help students who want to pursue research in this field to create their own excellent works of comparative-historical analysis.

The course workload falls into three categories: readings, weekly assignments, and seminar participation. The readings include both substantive studies (mostly books) and writings that discuss issues related to approach, theory application, and evidence (mostly articles). The overall organization of the syllabus is roughly to alternate between substantive studies and readings on method, approach, and theory.

There are five books for purchase, and they should be available at the Bookstore (except for the Schneider book, which I suggest you buy on-line). In addition, there is a course packet. I will make a one copy available to both political science and sociology students. The assigned articles not included in the course packet can be downloaded. The syllabus indicates which articles are in the packet, and which ones are to be downloaded.

Each week (starting on Jan. 16) students will be asked to turn in a short assignment. The assignments will generally require students to analyze a substantive reading in light of a key methodological issue or problem; they are intended to encourage students to think about the substantive readings in light of the issues raised in the explicitly analytical readings. These assignments will involve short essays and/or other exercises (e.g., creating charts and graphs). Because students may be especially busy during certain parts of the quarter, they need only complete 6 of the 9 short assignments during the semester.

Seminar participation and discussion are crucial to the success of this course. I ask students to come to class each week prepared to discuss at least one key issue from the readings. I also expect students to be prepared to react to and discuss the issues raised by others. I will try to provide a comfortable setting that encourages exploration, exchange, and student fellowship.

The final grade for the course will be based on the following calculation:

Weekly Assignments: 60 percent of final grade.
Seminar Participation: 40 percent of final grade.

1. Introduction to the Class (Jan. 9)

Skocpol, Theda, "Sociology's Historical Imagination," in Theda Skocpol, ed., *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984). [Packet]

Mahoney, James, and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Adams, Julia, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff, eds., "Introduction: Social Theory, Modernity, and the Three Waves of Historical Sociology," in Julia Adams, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff, *Remaking Modernity: Politics and Processes in Historical Sociology* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005). [Packet]

2. Exemplar #1: Skocpol on Social Revolutions (Jan. 16)

Skocpol, Theda, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979), introduction and part 1.

Mahoney, James, "Nominal, Ordinal, Narrative Appraisal in Macrocausal Analysis," *American Journal of Sociology* 104 (January 1999), pp. 1154-1196 (esp. pp. 1154-1169). [Download]

3. Culture, Structure, Agency (Jan. 23)

Sewell, William H., Jr., "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case," *Journal of Modern History* 57:1 (1985), pp. 57-85. [Download]

Skocpol, Theda, "Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Reconstruction of State Power: A Rejoinder to Sewell," *Journal of Modern History* 57:1 (1985), pp. 86-96. [Download]

Sewell, William H., Jr., "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation," *American Journal of Sociology* 98 (1992), pp. 1-29. [Download]

Hays, Sharon, "Structure and Agency and the Sticky Problem of Culture," *Sociological Theory* 12:1 (March 1994), pp. 57-72. [Download]

4. Exemplar #2: Marx on Race and Nation (Jan. 30)

Marx, Anthony W., *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of South Africa, the United States, and Brazil* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

5. Temporal Analysis (Feb. 6)

Pierson, Paul, "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review* 94 (2000), pp. 251-67. [Download]

James Mahoney, "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29:4 (August 2000), pp. 507-548. [Download]

Pierson, Paul. "Big, Slow-Moving, and . . . Invisible: Macrosocial Processes in the Study of Comparative Politics," 177-207 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Thelen, Kathleen, "How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative Historical Analysis," 208-40 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

6. Exemplar #3: Collier on Labor, Elites, and Democracy (Feb. 13)

Collier, Ruth Berins, *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

7. Using and Citing Sources (Feb. 20)

Goldthorpe, John, "The Uses of History in Sociology: Reflections on Some Recent Tendencies," *British Journal of Sociology* 42 (1991), pp. 211-230. [Download]

Lustick, Ian, "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias," *American Political Science Review* 90 (1996), pp. 605-618. [Download]

Milligan, John D., "The Treatment of an Historical Source," *History and Theory* 18: 2 (1979), pp. 177-196. [Download]

Mariampolski, Hyman, and Dana C. Hughes, "The Use of Personal Documents in Historical Sociology," *The American Sociologist* 13 (May 1978), pp. 104-113. [Packet]

Mahoney, James and Celso M. Villegas, "Historical Enquiry and Comparative Politics," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). [Packet]

8. State Development in England (Feb. 27)

Anderson, Perry, *Lineages of the Absolutist State* (London: Verso, 1974), Foreword, Chapters 1-2 and Chapter 5. [Packet]

Downing, Brian M., *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992), Chapters 1-3 and Chapter 7. [Packet]

Ertman, Thomas, *The Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), chaps. 1 and 4. [Packet]

10. Exemplar #4: Schneider on Business Politics in Latin America (March 6)

Schneider, Ben Ross, *Business Politics and the State in Twentieth-Century Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).