This is the first half of a two quarter sequence. In this term, we will emphasize general approaches to comparative-historical methods, while the second term will emphasize data collection and the actual doing of comparative-historical empirical research. For each topic, after the first week, topics are divided into “analysis” and “examples.” The professor will be responsible for the classes on “analysis” and the students will be responsible for the classes on “examples.” For these classes on “examples” the student(s) leading the class will make a short presentation that raises methodological issues related to the topic and makes a case for a methodological “point” about the examples. That is, I want the student(s) to take a stand on a debatable methodological issue concerning the examples. Then the student(s) will lead class discussion concerning the issues raised. The number of students presenting in each class will depend on enrollment. All students will participate in at least one presentation.

For each “example” class students will post on the class web page discussion section a short (one single spaced page maximum) “reaction paper” making one coherent point connecting the analytical reading to the examples. The students leading discussion about the examples will try to incorporate these issues into the class lecture or discussion.

There is one grade for the two quarter sequence. (The first term grade is IP, “In Progress”). The final grade is based on reaction papers (25%), class presentations (25%), and one term paper each quarter (25% each, making 50% for the two-quarter grade). The first paper will pose a research project on a specific topic in comparative-historical sociology and address methodological issues in addressing it. The paper for the second term will to execute at least the first phases of answering the question posed in the first paper (since some papers will be working toward a masters paper or dissertation, the student is not expected to complete a major project in the class, but he/she should work out with the professor in advance what is to be completed). Fuller descriptions of the paper assignment will be distributed.

Books ordered at the book store:
Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

All other readings will be posted in PDF files on the class website.
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Oct 21-28  No class


Lieberson, “Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases.” in Ragin and Becker, What is a Case?


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