

POLI200B: Democracy
Winter 2013
Thursday 12-2.50pm

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O.H.: Friday 9-11am

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O.H.: Thursday 3-5pm

Course summary and objectives

This seminar is designed to introduce students to one of the most debated and researched topics in political science: democracy. Its appeal cross-cuts all subfields, and the primary goal of this seminar is to draw from Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics and International Relation to equip students with the theoretical and empirical foundations for understanding, discussing and analyzing democracy. The seminar is divided into three parts. The first week introduces the concept of democracy with an overview of its definitions and varieties. The second part (weeks 2-7) looks at democracy as a dependent variable, and surveys the literature for various determinants of democracy. The third part (weeks 8-10) places democracy as an independent variable instead, and surveys the literature for various outcomes associated with democratic regimes and democratization.

Requirements

[A] 30% of your grade: All students (auditors and non-auditors) are expected to come to class fully prepared to participate actively in the discussion. This entails completing all required readings for the week, and thinking through them critically.

[B] 40% of your grade: All students are expected to write 4 response papers throughout the quarter. Two should be written during weeks 2-5. Two should be written during weeks 6-10. Response papers should be 2-3 single-spaced pages in length. An A-level response paper is a paper that brings all readings together thematically and responds to them critically. In other words, we are not seeking reading summaries, but instead an organization of the main puzzles, questions, and themes covered in the week's readings and an analysis of the readings' contributions (what have we learned?) and limitations (what remains to be done?). An A+ paper will, on top of that, propose a new research design for addressing one of these limitations. Turn in your response paper electronically to both instructors by 6pm the day before class.

[C] 30% of your grade: The final exam consists of a five-hour take-home final that will mimic the comprehensive exam. Details to follow.

PART I: DEFINING DEMOCRACY

Week 1 (January 10): Definitions, varieties, operationalizations

- Boix, Miller and Rosato. 2012. “A complete data set of political regimes, 1800-2007.” CPS
- Cox. 2006. “The organization of democratic legislatures.”
- Manin, Przeworski and Stokes. 1999. “Elections and Representation.” In *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Przeworski, Stokes and Manin, Eds. CUP
- Przeworski et al. 2000. *Democracy and Development*: Chapter 1

PART II: DEMOCRACY AS A DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Week 2 (January 17): Social and cultural origins

- Fish and Brooks. 2004. “Does diversity hurt democracy?” *Journal of Democracy* 15(1).
- Gerring, Zarecki and Hoffman. 2012. “The diverse causal effects of diversity on democracy.” Working paper.
- Jammal, A. 2009. *Barriers to Democracy: The Other Side of Social capital in Palestine and the Arab World*: Chapters 1-5.
- Kokkonen, Esaiasson and Gilljam. 2010. “Ethnic diversity and democratic citizenship: evidence from a social laboratory.” *Scandinavian Political Studies* 33(4).

Week 3 (January 24): Modernization

- Barro, Robert. “Determinants of Democracy.” *Journal of Political Economy* 107(S6): 158-183.
- Berman, Sheri. 1997. “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic.” *World Politics* 49(3): 401-429.
- Huntington, S. 1966. Political Modernization: America vs. Europe. *World Politics* 18(3): 378-414
- Lipset, S. 1993. “The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address.” *American Sociological Review* 53(1): 69-105.
- Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development*: Introduction and Chapter 2
- Wood, Gordon S. 2012. “Was the Big Revolution in 1775?” *The New York Review of Books* 59(20): December 20.

Week 4 (February 7): Political Transitions: Game Change

- Bates, Robert and Da-Hsiang Donald Lien. 1985. "A Note on Taxation, Development and Representative Government" *Politics and Society* 14:1, 53-70.
- Egorov, Georgy et al. 2009. "Why Resource-poor Dictators Allow Free Media: A Theory and Evidence from Panel Data." *APSR* 103(4): 645-668.
- Gourevitch, Peter. 1979. "The Reemergence of Peripheral Nationalisms: Some Comparative Speculations on the Spatial Distribution of Political Leadership and Economic Growth." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 21(3): 303-322.
- North, Douglas and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutional Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 49(4): 803-832.
- Root, Hilton L. "Tying the King's Hands: Credible Commitments and Royal Fiscal Policy during the Old Regime" *Rationality and Society* 1(2): 240-258
- Stasavage, David. "Credible Commitment in Early Modern Europe: North and Weingast Revisited." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 18(1): 155-186.
- Wantchekon, L. 2004. "The Paradox of Warlord Democracy." *APSR* 98(1).

Week 5 (January 31): Changing Media

- Chwe, M. 2001. *Rational Ritual: Culture, Coordination, and Common Knowledge*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP: Chapters 1, 2, 4
- Cox, Gary. 1987. *The Efficient Secret: The Cabinet and the Development of Political Parties in Victorian England*. Cambridge, New York: CUP: Chapter 10
- Gentzkow, Matthew, Edward L. Glaeser and Claudia Goldin. 2004. "The Rise of the Fourth Estate: How Newspapers Became Informative and Why It Mattered."
- Hamilton, James T. 2007. "News that Sells: Media Competition and News Content." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 8(01): 7-42.
- Kiewiet, D. Roderick and Mathew McCubbins. 1991. *The Logic of Delegation: Congressional Parties and the Appropriations Process*. Chicago: Chicago UP: Chapter 2.
- Popkin, S. 2007. "Changing Media and Changing Political Organization: Delegation, Representation and News." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 8(01): 71-93.
- Schudson, Michael. 1978. *Discovering the News: A Social History of American Newspapers*. New York: Basic Books: Chapter 1.

Week 6 (February 14): Media

- Anderson, Chris. 2008. *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More*. New York: Hyperion. Excerpts
- Bandurski, David and Qian Gang. 2011. China's Emerging Public Sphere: The Impact of Media Commercialization, Professionalism and the Internet in an Age of Transition. *Changing Media, Changing China*. Ed. Susan L. Shirk. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press: 38-76.
- Besley, T. and A. Prat. 2006. "Handcuffs for the Grabbing Hand? Media Capture and Government Accountability." *AER* 96(3): 720-36.
- Guillermoprieto, Alma. 2004. "The Morning Quickie." *New York Review of Books*: August 12.
- Pitkin, Hanna Fenichel. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Berkeley: University of California Press: Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
- Shirk, Susan L. 2011. *Changing Media, Changing China*. *Changing Media, Changing China*. Ed. Susan L. Shirk. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press: 1-37.
- Wright, Lawrence. 2004. "The Kingdom of Silence: a Job at a Saudi Newspaper Offers a Rare Look Inside a Closed Society." *New Yorker*: January 5.

Week 7 (February 21): Inequality

- Acemoglu and Robinson. 2000. Why did the West Extend the Franchise? *QJE* 115(4)
- Acemoglu and Robinson. 2002. A theory of political transitions. *AER*
- Boix, Carles. 2003. Democracy and Redistribution: Chaps 1-2
- Jensen and Wantchekon. 2004. Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa. *CPS* 37(7)
- Ziblatt, D. 2006. How Did Europe Democratize? *World Politics* 58(2): 311-338

PART III: DEMOCRACY AS INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

Week 8 (February 28): Democracy and Accountability

- Humphreys, M. and J. Weinstein. 2012. "Policing Politicians: citizen empowerment and political accountability in Uganda." Working paper.
- Besley, T. and R. Burgess. 2002. "The Political Economy of Government Responsiveness: Theory and Evidence from India." *QJE* 117(4)
- Ferraz, C. and F. Finan. 2008. "Exposing corrupt politicians: the effects of Brazil's publicly released audits on electoral outcomes." *QJE* 123(2)
- Pande, R. "Can informed voters enforce better governance? Experiments in Low income Democracies" Working paper.

Week 9 (March 7): Democracy and Civil Conflict

- Mansfield and Snyder. 2005. Electing to fight: Chaps 1-5
- Fearon, James D. 2007. Iraq's Civil War. *Foreign Affairs*
- Valenzuela, A. Party Politics and the Crisis of Presidentialism in Chile: A Proposal for a Parliamentary Form of Government.
- Wimmer, Andreas. 2003. "Democracy and Ethno-Religious Conflict in Iraq." *Survival* 45(4).

Week 10 (March 14): Democracy and Development/Growth

- Barro, R. J. 1994. "Democracy and Growth." *NBER Working Paper No. 4909*.
- Baum, M. and David Lake. "The Political economy of growth: democracy and human capital." *AJPS* 47(2).
- Przeworski et al. 2000. Democracy and Development. Chapters 3-5
- Przeworski and Limongi. 1993. "Political regimes and economic growth." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*
- Rodrik and Warciarg. 2005. "Do democratic transitions produce bad economic outcomes?" *AER* 95(2)