

WWS 300. DEMOCRACY

Spring 2008

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Course Description

This course introduces students to current empirical and theoretical work done in politics on the following topics: the formation of the state, dictatorships, democratic transitions and democratic consolidation, electoral representation and political accountability, the relationship between democracy and redistribution, and the role of constitutional structures in the aggregation of preferences and in policy-making.

Here is a sample of the questions we will examine in the course: Why are there states? Under what conditions do countries become democratic? When does corruption take place? What is the role of civil society in democratic performance? Do electoral laws matter for representation? When do parties adopt different ideological platforms?

A unifying principle of the course is the assumption that it is possible to develop general theories to explain political phenomena over time and across countries. With this goal in mind, the course relies on analytical (formal-oriented) tools and draws upon cross-national empirical evidence.

The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 10:50 a.m., and each student will also be assigned to a precept. Most of the class meetings will be lectures, but there will also be frequent class discussions.

Required materials will include a few books to be purchased (available at Labyrinth Bookstore), a Pequod package (also to be purchased), and material on e-reserve through the Stokes Library.

There will be an in-class final examination. Each student will also be expected to submit two four page response papers, one in lieu of the mid-term examination, the other later in the term. Grading will be based 45% on the final exam, 40% on the two short papers, and 15% on class participation.

Week 1. Anarchy and State Formation.

Douglass North. 1981. *Structure and Change in Economic History*. New York: Norton. Chapter 7.

Mancur Olson. 2000. *Power and Prosperity*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 1.

William H. McNeil. 1982. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Pages 1-23, 63-102.

Week 2. Dictatorships.

Ryszard Kapuściński. 1983. *The Emperor*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. First part. (B)

Gordon Tullock. 1987. *Autocracy*. Boston: Kluwer. Chapters: 2,7.

Timur Kuran. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989 (in Liberalization and Democratization in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe)", *World Politics* 44(October): 7-48.

Weeks 3 and 4. Democratization Theory.

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts," *World Politics* 49

Carles Boix and Susan Stokes. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics* 55 (July): 517-49.

Carles Boix. 2006. "The Roots of Democracy," *Policy Review*. Pages 1-32. (Or, for those interested in a more mathematical treatment, Carles Boix. 2003. *Democracy and Redistribution*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-3).

Margaret Levy. 1997. *Consent, Dissent, and Patriotism*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 4 to 6. (B)

Weeks 5 and 6. Democratic Accountability and Democratic Performance.

Robert D. Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (B)

Adam Przeworski, Susan C. Stokes and Bernard Manin, eds. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Week 7. Aggregating Preferences in Representative Democracies.

Melvin J. Hinich and Michael C. Munger. 1997. *Analytical Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

Week 8. Electoral Rules and Parties.

Rein Taagepera, R. and Shugart, M. S. 1989. *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 3

Gary Cox. 1997. *Making Votes Count*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4.

John Huber and G. Bingham Powell. 1994. "Congruence Between Citizens and Policymakers in Two Visions of Liberal Democracy." *World Politics* 46(April): 291-326.

Week 9. Constitutions.

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay. 2005, ed. J.R. Pole *The Federalist*. Indianapolis. Hackett Publishing Company. Papers # 9,10,15,35,47,51,70,78.

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Volume 1 part 1, chapters 5-6 ("The Need to Study What Happens in the States Before...", "Judicial Power in the United States and Its Effect..."); vol 1., part 1, last 3 sections of ch. 8 "The Federal Constitution" ("What distinguishes..." "Advantages of the Federal System" "Why the Federal System is Not Within the Reach of All Nations"); vol. 1 part 2 ch, 6 sec 2-4 "The Real Advantages Derived..." (read "Public Spirit," "The Idea of Rights," and "Respect for Law"); ch. 8 "What Tempers the Tyranny of the Majority...".

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Volume 2, part 2, ch 1-3 "Why Democratic Nations Show a More Ardent and Enduring Love for Equality Than for Liberty", "Of Individualism", "How Individualism is More Pronounced at the End...", "How the Americans Combat the Effects of Individualism..."; vol. 2, part 3, ch 1-4 "How Mores Become More Gentle...", "How Democracy Leads to Ease and Simplicity", "Why Americans are So Hard to Offend in their Own Country And So Easily Offended in Ours", "Consequences..."; vol 2, part 3, chapters 13-14 "How Equality Naturally Divides the Americans into a Multitude of Small Private Circles", "Some Reflections of American Manners"

Weeks 10 and 11. Minimal Democracy or Social Democracy?

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*. Indianapolis: Hackett. Chapters 1-19. (B)

J.J. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. Entire. (B)

J.J. Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. Parts I and II. (B)

Week 12. Democracy in a Globalized World.

Martha Nussbaum (ed.), *For Love of Country*. 1996. *For Love of Country? Essays from Nussbaum, Barber, Bok, Falk, Himmelfarb, McConell, Putnam, Sen, Taylor, and Nussbaum's reply* (Pages 3-17, 30-44, 53-60, 72-84, 91-97, 111-121, 131-144). (B)

Albert O. Hirschman. 1981. "Exit, Voice, and the State," *Essays in Trespassing. Economics to Politics and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 11.

Adam Przeworski and Covadonga Meseguer. "Globalization and Democracy." In Pranab Bardhan, Samuel Bowles and Michael Wallerstein, eds. Princeton University and Russell Sage Foundation. Chapters 7.