

**PSC 355/555 Democratic Political Processes**

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Fall 2010

Tuesday 12:30-15:15. Harkness 329

Objective. This course is designed primarily as a graduate seminar in comparative politics. Its object is to introduce the participants to the comparative study of democratic political processes. The course meets preparation requirements for this substantive subfield of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination in comparative politics. No background in comparative politics is assumed. It is appropriate as an introduction for students new to the field or as an "outside" course.

Approach. The comparative democratic political processes subfield focuses on choosing political leaders and making political decisions in the context of competitive elections and relative freedom of political action. We begin by discussing the meaning and measure of contemporary democracy and the

Grades and Responsibilities of Seminar Participants. Seminar participants are responsible for two presentations and associated written summaries/annotated bibliographies. There will also be a midterm examination. Grades will be based on the seminar presentations and the associated written summaries (15% each), the midterm (15%), cla

- Chandra, Kanchan. Why Ethnic Parties Succeed. 2004.
- Cheibub, Jose Antonio. Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy. 2006.
- Converse, Philip and Roy Pierce. Political Representation in France. 1986.
- Dalton, Russell, et al. Electoral Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. 1984.
- Doering, Herbert. ed. Parliaments & Majority Rule in WE, 1995.
- Della Porta, Donatella.

- Vanberg, Georg. Politics of Constitutional Review. 2005.
- Verba, Sidney, Norman Nie & Jae-on Kim, Participation and Equality, 1978.
- Webb, Paul, et al. Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies. 2002.
- Wilkinson, Steven. Votes and Violence. 2004.

Journal references: AJPS=American Journal of Political Science;

**PSC 355/555 -**

Date    Discussion Theme  
Sept. 7    Course organization  
            Democratic Concepts

**Syllabus**

Collective Reading  
\*=-Required  
Syllabus  
\* Dahl, Democracy & Critics 1989  
Esp. Ch. 4-12, 15

**Fall 2010**  
**(Data Set Presentation**  
**Possibilities)**

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Varshney, "...Ethnic Conflict," CP 1997  
Anderson, Imagined Communities 1991  
Chandra, "Cumulative" APSA-CP 2001  
Kitschelt, Post-Communist Party  
Systems, Ch. 3.

Oct. 5

Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, 1999.  
Carey & Shugart, Exec Decree Authority, Ch 1,10  
Vanberg, Politics of Constitutional

Social Democracy

**Papers are due on December 13 (last day of classes in the college.)**

**Substitution topic – for one of above:**

Coercive Processes

Kalyvas, Logic of Violence in Civil War. 2006.

Cederman, et al. "Why Ethnic Groups Rebel" Jan 2010

Wilkinson, Votes & Violence, 2004.

Fearon & Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency..." *A* 2003.

Poe, Tate, Keith "Human Rights" *I* 1999

Birner, Ethnicity & Electoral Politics 2007, esp. ch.7.

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