

PSC 355/555 Democratic Political Processes

Professor Bing Powell

Spring 2007

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 for students not concentrating in comparative politics.

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 of contemporary democracy, the nature of democratic transitions and the effect of social and economic context. We then look at the comparative study of individual citizens' attitudes and behavior (political culture, participation), and the shaping of party systems by rules and context. The second half of the course focuses on party competition and policymaking processes.

Many seminar sessions will be divided into two main parts. In one of these, we shall discuss the **starred** collective readings shown in Column 3 of the syllabus. Our discussion is designed to accomplish both substantive and methodological objectives. On one hand, we want to understand how to explain the particular substantive theme, addressing the concepts, theories and evidence presented. The readings are designed to introduce a variety of substantive topics, not to be definitive on any of them. (The unstarred readings are recommended for those interested in following up some additional aspects of these topics.) On the other hand, we want to understand strengths and limitations of various approaches to comparative analysis--cross-sectional or longitudinal comparisons, sample of countries or units, quantitative versus qualitative measurement of variables, specification issues, and so forth--and use criticism of the specific works for this general purpose.

In the other part of the session, we shall have a presentation(s) by a seminar member. These presentations are of two types, exemplifying two of the major approaches to the study of democratic processes in comparative politics. **Each seminar participant is responsible for one presentation of each type**

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%), and a research paper on some aspect or problem of democratic processes (55%). The paper topic must be approved in advance. Papers are due on the last day of classes, April 27. A take-home final exam may be substituted for the research paper, in which case the midterm is worth 30% and the final is worth 40%.

Additional or Alternative Topics. In a small seminar it is easy to alter the topics for later weeks in response to class interest or to avoid overlap with work previously taken. If you find that your favorite theme or work is missing from the following syllabus, don't hesitate to raise the possibility of making a change to incorporate it. (Note that at the end I have one suggestion for a new topic that is of interest to me.). If you find we're reading something you've done to death in another seminar, we can switch. Moreover, while the starred items are the ones that seemed to me more interesting, it's easy to switch to some of the recommended items if the class would rather discuss these.

Availability of Materials. The following books are available for purchase in the bookstore. (However,

Della Porta, Donatella.

Journal references: AJPS

<u>Week</u>	<u>Discussion Theme</u>	<u>Collective Reading</u> *=-Required	<u>(Data Set Presentation Possibilities)</u>	<u>*Przeworski</u>
Jan 18	Course organization	Syllabus	-----	
Jan 25	Democracy: Definition(s) Concepts and Measures	*Dahl, <u>Democracy & Its Critics</u> 1989, esp.ch. 4-12,15 *Collier & Levitsky, "Dem" <i>WP</i> (49.3)1997 *Przeworski, et al. <u>Democracy</u> and Development	(*Freedom House: Rights, Liberties, Press) (*Polity IV)	

Feb 15 Political Culture:
Cleavages and Voter
Alignments

* Lipset & Rokkan, Party Systems &
Voter Alignments 1967, 1-64
*Laitin, Hegemony & Culture, 1986
esp. Ch. 1, 4, 6, 8 & appendix
*Rogowski,

(*Alesina:
fractionalization
measures)

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Syllabus Continues

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March 8 Citizens, Groups, Action Values) (civil society)

* Tarrow, Power in Movement, 1998 (*World (*Minorities at Risk)

*Howard, Weakness of Civil Society in EE 2003, Ch. 4

*Verba, Nie, Kim 1978 Ch. 5-7

*Putnam, "Concl." In Dem in Flux 2002

*Keck & Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders 1998, Ch. 1,3

Della Porta, Social Movements 1995.

Gurr, Minorities at Risk 1993

March 15 SPRING BREAK

NO CLASS

March 22 Interest Group Lange & Policymaking Systems

*Lehmbruch, "Concertation" (*Golden-Wallerstein- data on unions)

in Goldthorpe 1984

*Wallerstein & Western, "Unions" *Ann Rev* 2000

*Molina & Rhodes "Corporatism" *Ann Rev* 2002

*Hellman, "Winners...." *WP* 1998

Siaroff "Corporatism" *EJPR* 1999

March 29 Party Competition & Party Systems expert studies)

*Downs, Economic Theory, Ch. 7-8. (*Manifesto Data;

*Groffman, "Downs." *Ann Rev* 2004.

*Sartori, Parties & Party Systems, 1976, Ch. 6.

* Meguid, "Competition...." *APSR* Aug 2005

*Schofield & Sened, Multiparty Dem. 2006, Ch. 1,2,9.

Webb in Webb, Farrell & Holiday 2002.

Cox, "Centripetal" *AJPS* 1990

Adams, et al, Unified Theory 2005.

Powell & Vanberg BJPS 2000

Budge et al, Mapping Policy Pref, 2001

April 5 Executive-Legislative Relations (Presidential) and other decision rules

*Dahl, Ch. 10-11 (*Frye, Presidential powers)

*Shugart & Carey, Pres & Ass 1991 Ch. 1-3, 7, 8, 13

*Morgenstern & Nacif,

Leg. Politics in LA, 2001, Ch. 1, 14,15

*Tsebelis, "Decision-Making, Veto Points" *BJPS* 1995.

Tsebelis & Aleman, "Presidential..." *WP* forthcoming.

Tsebelis, Veto Players, 2002.

Linz "Perils of Pres" *JoD* 1990

Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, 1999.

Carey & Shugart, Exec Decree Authority, Ch 1,10

Vanberg, Politics of Constitutional Review, 2005.

April 12 Government Formation
and Stability
(Parliamentary)

*Laver and Schofield,

Multiparty Government

esp. Ch. 2,4,5

*Martin & Stevenson, "Gov Form," (Martin data

set)

AJPS, 2001

*Laver "Government Termination," *Ann Rev* 2003

*Warwick/Laver-Shepsle. "Gov Survival" *BJPS* Apr1999.

Mueller & Strom, Coalition Gobs

April 19 Coercive Processes

- *Birner, Ethnicity & Electoral Politics 2007, esp. ch.7.
- *Wilkinson, Votes & Violence, 2004.
- * Fearon & Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency..." *APSR* 2003.
- * Poe, Tate, Keith "Human Right" *ISQ* 1999 (Human Rights)
- * "Elections w/o Dem," *JoD*, Ap 2002
- * Huntington, Third Wave, 1991, Ch. 5.
- "Quality of Democracy," *JoD*, Oct 2004
- Linz "Perils of Pres" *JoD* 1990
- Cheibub, Presidentialism.... 2006 , Ch. TBA.
- Londregan & Poole, "Poverty, Coup Trap..." *WP*, Jan 1990.
- McGowan, "African Mil. Coups,"