

PSC 355/555 Democratic Political Processes

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Spring 2009

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 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

- Dalton, Russell, et al. Electoral Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. 1984.
- Doering, Herbert. ed. Parliaments & Majority Rule in WE, 1995.
- Della Porta, Donatella. Social Movements, Political Violence & the State. 1995.
- Downs, Anthony. Economic Theory of Democracy. 1957.
- Duch, Raymond and Randy Stevenson. The Economic Vote. 2008.
- Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler. Political Economy of Terrorism. 2005.
- Franklin, Mark. Voter Turnout and Dynamics of Electoral Competition. 2004.
- Goldthorpe, John. Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism. 1984.
- Gurr, Ted Robert, ed. Minorities at Risk. 1993.
- Hicken, Alan. Building Party Systems. Forthcoming.
- Howard, Marc. The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe. 2003.
- Huber, John. Rationalizing Parliament, 1996.
- Huber, John and Charles Shipan. Deliberate Discretion? Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy. 2002.
- Samuel P. Huntington. The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late 20th Century. 1991.
- Inglehart, Ronald. Culture Shift. 1990.
- Keck, Margaret. & Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders, 1998.
- Kitschelt, Herbert. Radical Right in Western Europe. 1995.
- Kitschelt, Herbert, et al. Post-Communist Party Systems. 1999.
- Kitschelt, Herbert. Transformation of Social Democracy

Wilkinson, Steven. Votes and Violence. 2004.

Journal references: AJPS=American Journal of Political Science; APSA-CP=American Political Science Association—Comparative Politics Section; APSR=American Political Science Review; AnnRev = Annual Review of Political Science; BJPS=British Journal of Political Science; CP=Comparative Politics; CPS=Comparative Political Studies; CS=Comparative Sociology; EJPR=European Journal of Political Research; ISQ=International Studies Quarterly, JoD= Journal of Democracy; JOP= Journal of Politics; JPE=Journal of Public Economics; PA=Parliamentary Affairs; POQ=Public Opinion Quarterly; QJE=Quarterly Journal of Economics; WP=World Politics.

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Feb 17 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, Commerce & Coalitions, Ch.1
- * Posner , Oct. 2004. (*Minorities at Risk)
- *Dahl, Ch. 14
- Birner, Ethnicity & Electoral Politics 2007, esp. ch.7.
- Wilkinson, Votes & Violence, 2004.
- Varshney, "...Ethnic Conflict," CP 1997
- Anderson, Imagined Communities 1991

(*Alesina:
fractionalization
measures)

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Syllabus Continues

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March 10 SPRING BREAK

NO CLASS

March 17 Citizens, Groups, Action
(civil society)

* Tarrow, Power in
Movement, 1998

(*World Values)
(*Minorities at Risk)

Leg. Politics in LA, 2001, Ch. 1, 14,15
 *Tsebelis, "Decision-Making, Veto Points" 1995.
 Tsebelis & Aleman, "Presidential..." forthcoming.
 Tsebelis, Veto Players, 2002.
 Linz "Perils of Pres" 1990
 Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, 1999.
 Carey & Shugart, Exec Decree Authority, Ch 1,10
 Vanberg, Politics of Constitutional Review, 2005.

April 14 Government Formation
 and Stability
 (Parliamentary)

*Laver and Schofield,
Multiparty Government
 esp. Ch. 2,4,5

set)

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

2001

*Laver "Government Termination," 2003

*Warwick/Laver-Shepsle.

April 19 Coercive Processes

- *Birner, Ethnicity & Electoral Politics 2007, esp. ch.7.
- *Wilkinson, Votes & Violence, 2004.
- * Fearon & Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency...” 2003.
- * Poe, Tate, Keith “Human Rights” 1999 (Human Rights)
- * “Elections w/o Dem,” , Ap 2002
- * Huntington, Third Wave, 1991, Ch. 5.
- “Quality of Democracy,” , Oct 2004
- Linz “Perils of Pres” 1990
- Cheibub, Presidentialism... 2006 , Ch. TBA.
- Londregan & Poole, “Poverty, Coup Trap...” , Jan 1990.
- McGowan, “African Mil. Coups,” , 2003.
- “Coups” in Acemoglu & Robinson, Economic Origins 2006, Ch.
- Enders & Sandler, Political Economy of Terrorism. 2005.
- Kalyvas, Logic of Violence in Civil War. 2006.