

PSC 355/555 Democratic Political Processes

Professor Bing Powell
Fall 2018

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Wednesday 14:15-16:45 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 nature of democratic transitions. We then turn to political parties, as key institutions linking citizens and policymakers, and policymaking institutions. The last part of the course focuses on the comparative study of individual citizens' attitudes and behavior (political culture, participation, interest groups.)

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 vs. qualitative measurement of variables, specification issues, causal inferences.

In the other part of the session, we shall have presentations by seminar members. These

uses quantitative analysis. The student should obtain the data, reproduce (if possible) the core finding, and then conduct an additional analysis that tests the robustness of the results, possibly based on an alternative theory.

Another presentation could **focus on a specific country** and application of the general theme of the week to the politics of that country and vice versa. We would hope for a presentation that would focus on a theoretical issue and demonstrate the importance of context, or trace some particular institution or process in a case-study approach.

Another presentation could be of a research idea using **regression discontinuity** techniques. The proposal should outline the theory to be tested, the data to be used, expected results, and the

PSC 355/555**Syllabus****Fall 2018**

Date Discussion Theme

Collective Reading

(Data Set Presentation Possibilities)

* = Required

August 29 APSA Meetings. No class this day. Please Read Syllabus to be prepared for a full seminar next week. Also be prepared to choose your first presentation date, which must be before the midterm.

Sept. 5 Democratic Concepts

* Aristotle. Politics. Books IV and VI

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.3.three.html>

* Dahl, Democracy & Critics 1989

Ch. 6-8, 15.

* Achen & Bartels. 2016 Democracy for Realists. Ch. 1-3, 5, 10, 11.

Sept. 12 Democracy: Measure and Consequence

* Przeworski, et al. Democracy

and Development, 2000, Ch.1-2-3. **(CIRI Human Rights)**

* Graham, et al. "Safeguarding Dem." APSR 2017.

* Haschke, "Democracy and the Human Right to the

Physical Integrity of the Person" 2014 Ch. 4, 7.

Schedler, "Menu," *JoD*, Ap 2002

Sept. 19 Democratization & Development

* Lipset, *APSR* 1959.**(Polity IV Project: Regimes.)**

Oct. 3 Coercive Processes

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

*Helmke *Institutions on the Edge*. 2016.

* Erdem, et al. "Backlash Protest." *JCR* 2017.

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

Wilkinson, *Votes & Violence*, 2004, Ch. 1.

Oct. 10 Shaping Party Systems:
Election Rules

*Riker, "Two-Party System & Duverger's Law" *APSR* 1982

*Cox, *Making Votes Count* 1997, Esp. Ch 1-4,7-8,10-12,15

(A two-part discussion.)

*Boix "Setting the Rules" *APSR*, 1999.

Moser & Scheiner, *Electoral Systems*, 2012.

Chapters 1, 3, 7, 8.

*Stokes, Susan C. "Perverse accountability: A formal model of machine politics with evidence from Argentina." *American Political Science Review* 99.3 (2005): 315.

*Kitschelt & Kselman, *CPS* 46. 2013

Nichter, Simeon. "Vote buying or turnout buying? Machine politics and the secret ballot." *APSR* 1 (2008): 19-31.

Treisman, Daniel. "The causes of corruption: a cross-national study." *Journal of public economics* 76.3 (2000): 399-457.

Nov. 21 THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASS

Nov.28 Comparing

(**CSES Election Studies**)

Citizen Behavior
(Partisanship,
Economic voting,
Cleavages
Participation)

* Duch & Stevenson, *The Economic Voter* 2008, Ch. 1-4,7,9

* Achen & Bartels, *Democracy for Realists* 2014. esp ch 4,7-9,10

* Huber, John D., and Pavithra Suryanarayan. "Ethnic Inequality and the Ethnification of Political Parties." *World Politics* 68.01 (2016): 149-188.

Quinn, "Voter Choice..." *AJPS* 1999 43:4

Converse & Pierce, *Repres in France*, 1986, Ch. 3,4,7

Samuels, "Presidentialism & Eco Voting" *APSR*, Aug 2004.

Verba, Nie, Kim *Participation & Equality*. 1978, Ch. 3-4

Dec 5 Political Culture and

*Norris & Inglehart *CS* 2002 (