

Northwestern University
Political Science 452
Democratization
Spring Quarter 2012

Time: Mondays 5-8 pm
Place: Ripton Room
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5

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In this seminar we will analyze some of the more important theoretical debates about democracy and political development. We will examine interrelationships between democracy and economic development, the tensions between political order and democracy, and debates about the relative importance of political leadership, social structures, and political institutions.

This course is intended to make you grapple with, critique, and expand upon the readings and issues that are assigned. It will be a stab at what you will be doing the rest of your careers as scholars. This is done best as collective effort. Thus, class discussion (and preparation for class discussion) will be a central aspect of the course.

Weekly requirements: Timely reading of weekly assignments and active participation in seminar discussion. Students will also turn in a commentary on the weekly readings to be submitted at the beginning of each class. The commentaries are intended to help you unify the readings and raise questions for class discussion. They can consist of 2 or more questions on the readings, or a more general set of comments. The commentaries should reflect a critical analysis of the readings. As the semester progresses, they should reflect an 'accumulated wisdom,' that is, issues raised in earlier weeks should be brought in to challenge or analyze the current week's readings. Each student will turn in 5 commentaries in the quarter (including the week(s) for which oral presentations are made). They should be no more than one and a half to two pages double-spaced. The instructor will evaluate these on a scale of "excellent, good, fair, poor."

Student presentations: Five-minute oral presentations on selected readings to initiate class discussion (the number of presentations for each student will depend on class size). Note: the presentations are not to be a summary of the readings (everyone will have read the assigned pieces), but a set of comments or questions to get discussion rolling. This norm will be enforced ruthlessly by the instructor.

Final Assignment: You can choose between two options. A final take home exam where you will write two 5-6 page answers to questions provided by the instructor on the final day of class, or a paper (of 15-20 pages) relevant to the issues covered in the course. The paper can be an

analytical paper based on the readings or topics addressed in the course (which would give you the opportunity to develop ideas that came up in your short papers or class discussion), or a research paper dealing with these issues but applying them to a particular context. Either assignment would be due on **Monday, June 4.**

Approximate grade distribution: class participation, weekly questions, and oral presentations: 50 percent. Final assignment: 50 percent.

Books ordered for purchase:

- Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press, 1971.
Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* Cambridge University Press, 1991.
D. Rueschemeyer, E. Stephens, J. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago University Press, 1992.
Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
Alfred Stepan, Juan Linz, and Yogendra Yadav, *Crafting State-Nations: India and Other Multinational Democracies*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

In addition, some of the other assigned readings will be posted on a “Blackboard Courseinfo” website designed for this class (and accessible only to students registered for the course). These readings will be available as downloadable documents. You can browse to the website via the main courseinfo site, <http://courses.northwestern.edu/>
The website will contain scanned works not available through NU electronic sites. Almost all journal articles assigned in this course are available for downloading through the electronic journal sites available via the NU electronic libraries (go to “Electronic Resources” on the library website and put in the name of the journal). If you do not see the reading posted in blackboard, go to the NU library website.

Schedule of Class Topics and Readings

Week 1, March 26: Introduction to the Course

Week 2, April 2: Dahl and Schumpeter: Two Dominant Conceptions of Democracy in Comparative Politics

Required readings:

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy*, entire book.

Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*: Chapter XXI "The Classical Doctrine of Democracy"(skim), Chapter XXII "Another Theory of Democracy," and Chapter XXIII "The Inference."

Week 3, April 9: "Transitions to Democracy": Processes and Actors

Dankwart Rustow, "Transitions to Democracy:" *Comparative Politics* 2 (April 1970).
Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Tentative Conclusions About Uncertain Democracies*, Johns Hopkins University Press. Selected Chapters.
Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market*, pp. 1-99.
Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, "A Theory of Political Transitions," *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 91, No. 4 (Sep., 2001), pp. 938-963.
Nancy Bermeo, "Myths of Moderation: Confrontation and Conflict during Democratic Transitions," *Comparative Politics* April 1997
Elisabeth Jean Wood, "An Insurgent Path to Democracy: Popular Mobilization, Economic Interests, and Regime Transition in El Salvador and South Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 34, October 2001.
Teri L. Caraway, "Inclusion and Democratization: Class, Gender, Race, and the Extension of Suffrage," forthcoming *Comparative Politics*.

Week 4, April 16: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Democratic Consolidations in Eastern Europe and Latin America

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Part I*, Chapter 6, Chapter 9, Chapter 12, Chapter 14, Chapter 15, Chapter 19, Chapter 21.

Week 5, April 23: Structure, Modernization, and Democracy

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy*: Read the theoretical chapters. Skim the case studies.
Dean C. Tipps, "Modernization Theory and the Comparative Study of Societies: A Critical Perspective," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 15, March 1973.
Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theory vs. Facts," in *World Politics*, January 1997.
Charles Boix and Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics*, Vol. 55, No. 4. (Jul., 2003), pp. 517-549

Recommended: Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. (If you have not read this before, I strongly suggest that you read it, especially Part III, and at an absolute minimum, Chapter 8, for this week's class).

Week 6, April 30: “Hybrid Regimes:” How Hybrid Are They?

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: The Origins and Evolution of Hybrid Regimes in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Week 7, May 7: Subnational Authoritarianism and Democratization

Edward L. Gibson, “Boundary Control: Federalism and Subnational Authoritarianism in Democratic Countries.” Forthcoming, Cambridge University Press.

Week 8, May 14: More on Democratization in Bad Places: Recent Perspectives

Andreas Schedler, “Authoritarianism’s Last Line of Defense,” *Journal of Democracy* 21, No. 1, January 2010.

Beatriz Magaloni, “The Game of Electoral Fraud and the Ousting of Authoritarian Rule,” *American Journal of Political Science* 54, 3 (July 2010).

Jason Brownlee, “Executive Elections in the Arab World: When and How do they Matter?” *Comparative Political Studies* 2011 44:807 (April 2011).

Henry Hale, “Formal Constitutions in Informal Politics: Institutions and Democratization in Post-Soviet Eurasia,” *World Politics* 63, no. 4 (October 2011).

Valerie Bunce and Sharon Wolchik, “Defeating Dictators: Electoral Change and Stability in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes,” *World Politics* 62, no. 1 (January 2010).

Week 9, May 21: Multinationalism and Problems of Democracy

Carol Skalnik Leff, “Democratization and Disintegration in Multinational States: The Breakup of the Communist Federations,” *World Politics* 51, No. 2 (January 1999).

Juan Linz, Alfred Stepan, and Yogendra Yadav, *Crafting State Nations: India and Other Multinational Democracies*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.