

## DEMOCRATIZATION AND REGIME CHANGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Political Science, W3951  
Columbia University, Fall 2013

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Time: T 2:10-4:00  
Location: IAB 501

### COURSE OVERVIEW

Why some countries have democratic political systems and others do not is a central question in political science. This course introduces students to the literature on democracies, autocracies and transitions from one regime type to the other. The course is organized around six overarching questions: 1) What is democracy and why should we care about it? 2) Are there economic, cultural, or social prerequisites for stable democratic regimes? 3) How are autocratic regimes organized and legitimized? 4) How does the political violence alter the prospects for democracy? 5) How do formal institutions contribute to the regime stability? and 6) Are attempts by western countries to promote democracy in other parts of the world likely to be effective?

### REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The requirements are as follows:

- *Class participation and weekly submission of discussion questions – 35% of the final grade*  
You are expected to have done the required readings for the week before the class meets and to post two discussion questions to the blog in the class page on Courseworks by 9am on the Tuesday before class.
- *Research Memo 1: Identifying a Research Question – due October 17<sup>th</sup> by 9am – 15%*  
You will write a concise memo (800-1000 words) identifying a research question for your final paper and describing the question's theoretical and substantive importance.
- *Research Memo 2: Empirical Strategy – due October 31<sup>st</sup> by 9am – 15%*  
You will write a concise memo (800-1000 words) describing potential answers to your research question and discussing how you plan to use evidence to support your preferred answer. These memos will form the basis of a class discussion of research design on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- *Presentation of research project in class – December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10%*
- *Research paper – due December 12<sup>th</sup> by 9am – 25%*  
Your research paper must contain a theoretical argument related to one of the themes of the course and must test that argument empirically. Research papers should be between 15 and 20 pages long. In a few cases, students considering a senior thesis will be allowed to submit a detailed research proposal instead of a paper.

The penalty for late assignments will be one grade per hour after the deadline (e.g. A- to B+).

## LOGISTICS

There is no course reader for this class. All readings are available electronically through the class website on [Courseworks](#).

## READINGS

### Session 1 (9/3): Introduction

#### Session 2 (9/10): What is Democracy and What is it Good for?

[Dahl, Robert A. 1971. \*Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition\*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 1.](#)

[Przeworski, Adam. 1999. A Minimalist Conception of Democracy. In \*Democracy's Value\*, edited by I. Shapiro and C. Hacker-Cordon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 23-55.](#)

[Sen, Amartya. 2000. "The Importance of Democracy," Chapter 6 in \*Development as Freedom\*. New York: Anchor Books, pp. 146-159.](#)

[Lanskov, Miriam, and Elspeth Suthers. 2013. Outlawing the Opposition. \*Journal of Democracy\* 24 \(3\).](#)

#### Session 3 (9/17): Economic Prerequisites

[Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2006. \*Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy\*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1-2](#)

[Boix, Carles. 2006. The Roots of Democracy: Equality, Inequality, and the Choice of Political Institutions. \*Policy Review\* 135 \(February & March\).](#)

[Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1997. Modernization: Theories and Facts. \*World Politics\* 49\(1\)](#)

[Haber, Stephen, and Victor Menaldo. 2011. Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse. \*American Political Science Review\* 105 \(01\):1-26.](#)

#### Session 4 (9/24): Social and Cultural Prerequisites

[Berman, Sherri. 1997. Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic. \*World Politics\* 49 \(3\):401-29.](#)

[Fish, Steven. 2002. Islam and Authoritarianism. \*World Politics\* 55 \(1\):4-37.](#)

[Putnam, Robert D. 1993. \*Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy\*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapters 1 & 4](#)

[Weiner, Myron. 1989. The India Paradox: Violent Social Conflict and Democratic Politics. In \*The Indian Paradox: Essays on Indian Politics\*, edited by A. Varshney. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.](#)

**Session 5 (10/1): Regimes and Political Violence**

Snyder, Jack. 2000. *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York WW Norton & Company Inc., Chapters 1-2.

Wood, Elizabeth Jean. 2001. An Insurgent Path to Democracy: Popular Mobilization, Economic Interests and Regime Transition in South Africa and El Salvador. *Comparative Political Studies* 34 (8):862-888.

Roessler, Philip. 2011. The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa. *World Politics* 63 (02):300-346.

Downes, Alexander B., and Jonathan Monten. 2013. Forced to Be Free?: Why Foreign-Imposed Regime Change Rarely Leads to Democratization. *International Security* 37 (4):90-131.

**Session 6 (10/8): Class Canceled**

**Session 7 (10/15): Authoritarian Government & Discussion of Research Memo 1**

Herb, Michael. 1999. *All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution, and Democracy in the Middle Eastern Monarchies*. Albany: State University of New York Press, Chapters 1-2

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 3.

Menaldo, Victor. 2012. The Middle East and North Africa's Resilient Monarchs. *The Journal of Politics* 74 (03):707-722.

Slater, Dan. 2003. Iron Cage in an Iron Fist: Authoritarian Institutions and the Personalization of Power in Malaysia. *Comparative Politics* 36 (1):81-101.

**Session 8 (10/22): Representation in Autocratic Regimes**

Lust-Okar, Ellen. 2006. Elections under Authoritarianism: Preliminary Lessons from Jordan. *Democratization* 13 (3):456-471.

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Introduction & Chapter 1.

Malesky, Edmund, and Paul Schuler. 2011. Nodding or Needling: Analyzing Delegate Responsiveness in an Authoritarian Parliament. *American Political Science Review* 104 (3):1-21.

**Session 9 (11/29): The Birth and Death of Regimes I: Structural Conditions**

Carothers, Thomas. 2002. The End of the Transition Paradigm. *Journal of Democracy* 13 (1):5-21.

Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1 & 2.

Dan Slater. 2009. Revolutions, Crackdowns, and Quiescence: Communal Elites and Democratic Mobilization in Southeast Asia. *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (1):203-254.

Smith, Benjamin B. 2005. Life of the Party: The Origins of Regime Breakdown and Persistence under Single-Party Rule. *World Politics* 57 (3):421-451.

**Session (11/5): University Holiday**

**Session 10 (11/12): The Birth and Death of Regimes II: Protest & Revolutions.**

- [Kricheli, Ruth, Yair Livne, and Beatriz Magaloni. 2011. Taking to the Streets: Theory and Evidence on Protests under Authoritarianism. Working Paper. Stanford University.](#)
- [Kuran, Timur. 1991. Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. \*World Politics\* 44 \(1\):7-48.](#)
- [Bellin, Eva. 2012. Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring. \*Comparative Politics\* 44 \(2\):127-149.](#)
- [Robertson, Graeme B. . 2011. \*The Politics of Protest in Hybrid Regimes: Managing Dissent in Post-Communist Russia\*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.](#)

**Session 11 (11/19): Constitutional Design**

- [Gouws, Amanda, and Paul Mitchell. 2005. South Africa: One Party Dominance Despite Perfect Proportionality. In \*The Politics of Electoral Systems\*, edited by M. Gallagher and P. Mitchell. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 353-374.](#)
- [Horowitz, Donald L. 2002. Constitutional Design: Proposals versus Processes. In \*The Architecture of Democracy: Constitutional Design, Conflict Management, and Democracy\*, edited by A. Reynolds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 15-36.](#)
- [Lijphart, Arend. 2002. The Wave of Power-Sharing Democracy. In \*The Architecture of Democracy: Constitutional Design, Conflict Management, and Democracy\*, edited by A. Reynolds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 37-54.](#)
- [Stepan, Alfred. 1999. Federalism and Democracy. \*Journal of Democracy\* 10 \(4\):19-34.](#)

**Session 12 (11/26): Foreign Intervention**

- [Corstange, Daniel, and Nikolay Marinov. 2012. Taking Sides in Other People's Elections: The Polarizing Effect of Foreign Intervention. \*American Journal of Political Science\* 56 \(3\):655-670.](#)
- [Easterly, William , Shanker Satyanath, and Daniel Berger. 2008. Superpower Interventions and their Consequences for Democracy: An Empirical Inquiry. Working Paper. New York University.](#)
- [Simpser, Alberto, and Daniela Donno. 2012. Can International Election Monitoring Harm Governance? \*The Journal of Politics\* 74 \(02\):501-513.](#)
- [Wright, Joseph. 2009. How Foreign Aid Can Foster Democratization in Authoritarian Regimes. \*American Journal of Political Science\* 53 \(3\):552-571.](#)

**Session 13 (12/3): Presentation of Research Projects**