

DEMOCRACY, AUTOCRACY, AND REGIME CHANGE
Political Science, W3951
Columbia University, Fall 2012

Professor Kimuli Kasara
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4
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Time: Wednesday 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 Courseworks by 9pm on the Tuesday before class.
- *Research Memo 1: Identifying a Research Question – due October 17th by 9am – 10%*
You will write a short 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 31st by 9am – 15%*
You will write a short 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 14th.
- *Presentation of research project in class – December 5th – 5%*
- *Research paper – due December 13th by 9am – 35%*
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 (<https://courseworks.columbia.edu/>).

READINGS

Session 1 (9/5): Introduction

Session 2 (9/12): What is Democracy and What is it Good for?

[Bardhan, Pranab. 1999. Democracy and Development: A Complex Relationship in *Democracy's Value*, edited by I. Shapiro and C. Hacker-Cordon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp 93-111.](#)

[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.](#)

[Schumpeter, Joseph. 2003. Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy. In *The Democracy Sourcebook*, edited by R. A. Dahl, I. Shapiro and J. A. Cheibub. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.](#)

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

Session 3 (9/19): 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\(1\)](#)

[Lipset, Seymour M. 1959. Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Legitimacy. *American Political Science Review* 53 \(1\)](#)

[Luebbert, Gregory. 1987. Social Foundations of Political Order in Interwar Europe. *World Politics* July 1987.](#)

Session 4 (9/26): 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.](#)

[Lust, Ellen. 2011. Missing the Third Wave: Islam, Institutions, and Democracy in the Middle East. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 46:163-190.](#)

[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 (10/3): Regimes and Political Violence

[Harris, David. 1999. From 'Warlord' to 'Democratic' President: How Charles Taylor won the 1997 Liberian Elections. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37 \(3\):431-55.](#)

[Remmer, Karen L. 1991. *Military Rule in Latin America*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Chapters 1 & 2.](#)

[Snyder, Jack. 2000. *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York WW Norton & Company Inc., Chapter 1.](#)

[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.](#)

Session 6 (10/10): Authoritarian Government

[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.](#)

[Kershaw, Ian. 1997. 'Working towards the Führer': Reflections on the Nature of the Hitler Dictatorship. In *Stalinism and Nazism: Dictatorships in Comparison*, edited by I. Kershaw and M. Lewin. New York Cambridge University Press](#)

[Jackson, Robert H., and Carl G. Rosberg. 1984. Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa. *Comparative Politics* 16 \(4\):421-442.](#)

[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 7 (10/17): Representation in Autocratic Regimes

[Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2003. Autocracy by Democratic Rules: The Dynamics of Competitive Authoritarianism in the Post-Cold War Era. In *Mapping the Great Zone: Clientelism and the Boundary between Democratic and Democratizing*. Columbia University, New York.](#)

[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, Chapters 1 and 2.](#)

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

[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 8 (10/24): The Birth and Death of Regimes I: Structural Conditions

- [Bratton, Michael, and Nicholas Van de Walle. 1994. Neopatrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa. *World Politics* 46 \(4\):453-489.](#)
- [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.](#)
- [Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Prologue and 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.](#)

Session 9 (10/31): The Birth and Death of Regimes II: Protest and Revolutions

- [Anderson, Lisa. 2011. Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences Between Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya. *Foreign Affairs* 90 \(3\).](#)
- [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.](#)

(11/7): University Holiday

Session 10 (11/14): Constitutional Design & Discussion of Research Memos

- [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.](#)

(11/21): No Class

Session 11 (11/28): 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.](#)
- [Finkel, Steven E., and Amy Erica Smith. 2011. Civic Education, Political Discussion, and the Social](#)

[Transmission of Democratic Knowledge and Values in a New Democracy: Kenya 2002. *American Journal of Political Science* 55 \(2\):417-435.](#)

[Hyde, Susan. 2011. International Dimensions of Elections. In *The Dynamics of Democratization: Dictatorship, Development, and Diffusion*, edited by N. J. Brown. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.](#)

Session 12 (12/5): Presentation of Research Projects