DEmOCRACY, AUTHORITARIANISM AND REGIME CHANGE
Political Science, G8428
Columbia University, Spring 2013

Professor Kimuli Kasara  Time: Thursday, 4.10-6.00pm
Office: IAB 717  Location: IAB 711
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2-4  E-mail: kk2432 • columbia.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW

The formal and informal procedures that determine access to high political office vary greatly across countries and over time. Scholars of comparative politics have tended to study political regimes by explaining why some countries are democratic and others are not. In addition to surveying the large literature on democratization this seminar explores political regimes in a more general way. This course is intended for PhD students preparing for their qualifying exams.

The readings assigned address the following questions: Why are some regimes democratic while others are not? Why do some leaders create public legitimating ideologies instead of relying primarily on force or cooptation? Why do some non-democratic political leaders govern through institutions while others rely on networks of individuals who are personally beholden to them? Why are some ruling elites in non-democratic regimes broader than others? What role do elections that are unlikely to change the identity of the head of state play in non-democratic regimes?

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The requirements are as follows:

- **Class participation** – 20% of the final grade for the class.

- **Referee reports** – One due on or before March 1st and one due after – 15% each
  Each student will submit two referee reports. The reports ought to start with a brief summary of the paper followed by a justification of your recommendation (publish, revise and resubmit, or reject). The reports should include a detailed discussion of the rigor and plausibility of the theory advanced and/or an evaluation of the quality of the evidence provided. Because constructive criticism is an important part of our profession, these reports ought to include suggestions on how the paper can be improved. Finally, reports ought to include a discussion of whether the paper makes an important contribution to debates in a research area of general interest. Reports should be 1.5 to 2 single-spaced pages long and students will post them on Courseworks at 9am on the day the paper is being discussed in class.

- **Presentation of research proposal** – 10%
  Each student must make a presentation at the end of the semester describing a proposed research project.
• **Final Paper – 40%**
  Students must write a research paper based on the topic of their presentation.

**LOGISTICS**

There is no course reader for this class. All readings are available online or on the class website on Courseworks.

**READINGS**

**Session 1 (1/24): Introduction**

**Session 2 (1/31): Structural Correlates of Regime Type I: Economic**


**Recommended**


**Session 3 (2/7): Structural Correlates of Regime Type II: Social and Cultural**


Session 4 (2/14): The Extension of the Franchise in the West


Recommended


Session 5 (2/21): Authoritarian Institutions


Recommended


Session 6 (2/28): Representation in Authoritarian Regimes

Recommended


Session 7 (3/7): The Birth and Death of Regimes

Recommended


Session 8 (3/14): Regime Stability: The Use of Force
& Company Inc., Chapter 1.

Spring Break (3/21):


No Class (4/4):

Session 10 (4/11): Regime Stability: Hearts and Minds

Session 11 (4/18): Foreign Intervention

TBA
Session 12 (4/28): Constitutional Design and Democratic Stability


Session 13 (5/2): Presentations