

# Comparative Democracies

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## Course Introduction

This course is divided into three parts. First, there will be a discussion of democratization and the democratization processes. Second, there will be a discussion of developing governance in different contexts, from Third World countries in the process of evolving into a democratic state to “failed” democracies to states attempting to reinstate democratic processes. Third, we will look at alternative governing arrangements, including authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Attention will be given to both the prerequisites for democratic development and their application and relevance in different national contexts.

Each student will be required to review a book from a list supplied by the instructor. The studies analyze aspects of democratic development or institution-building in various countries (these would include constitutions; parliaments; the comparative power of the executive; changes in the culture of systems; political parties; elections and electoral systems; etc). Reports on books will be given in class and the final typed copy of report will be due at the last class meeting. In delivering the reports in class, each student will be required to include for the other class members a short (1-2 page) outline of their report.

## Requirements

1. Students should read the assigned readings prior to the class meeting to be prepared to discuss them in class.
2. There will be a midterm quiz on all materials (readings, class lectures and discussions) up to the point of the quiz.
3. A class report (see below).
4. A final exam covering all course materials will be two hours in length and will be given at the time scheduled by the university during finals’ week.
5. Class discussions, lectures, reports, videos, and the assigned readings will all be part of the class materials.
6. Additional assignments may be given in class.
7. All students are required to attend each class.
8. Class time will be given to developing a book review to be presented in class.

The course will focus in particular on the following:

- a. The basic conditions that lead to the creation, consolidation and stability of the democratic state.

- b. The institutions within a democratic state intended to serve as a linkage between mass publics and the political elites, insuring representativeness and accountability. Primarily these are elections and political parties.
- c. The rise of anti-democratic states, namely authoritarian and totalitarian political systems, their operations, governing assumptions, value structure and the conditions that bring them about.
- d. The consequences of empire and its demands and costs for the contemporary American system.

Each class will normally be divided into two parts. In the first I will discuss and at times lecture on the materials and issues relevant to the subject under analysis. In the second part, a discussion of the assigned readings will take place in which the students in the class are expected to be familiar with the materials and make an active and informed contribution to the discussion.

### Grade Determination

Class Work	30%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	40%
	100%

### Required Readings for the Course:

Chalmers Johnson, The Sorrows of Empire. New York: A Metropolitan/Owl Book/ Henry Holt and Company, 2004. Paperback

Robert A. Dahl, On Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998. Paperback

Laurence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris, eds. Comparing Democracies 3: Elections and Voting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. London: Sage, 2010

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government and Politics. New York: St. Martin's Press (most recent edition)

Two articles by Amartya Sen: "Democracy as a Universal Value," National Endowment for Democracy and the Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

Journal of Democracy 10.3 (1999) 3-17: and “Why Democratization Is Not The Same As Westernization: Democracy and Its Global Roots. The New Republic Online. Post date: 09.25.03 Issue Date: 10.06.03 (posted together on NEU Blackboard)

### **Recommended reading of value to the course:**

Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro and Jose Cheibub, eds., The Democracy Sourcebook. Cambridge MA: MIT Press

The format for the course will include lectures, class critiques of the assigned readings, guest speakers (as available) and selected videos on concentrated areas of development.

### **Class Schedule**

#### **1. *Democratization and Its Meaning***

*Introduction to Course*

*Overview of Approaches*

*Review of Requirements*

*Introduction to Subject*

*Indices of Democratic Attainment*

#### **Required:**

Amartya Sen, “Democracy as a Universal Value”

#### **Recommended:**

Robert A. Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory.

David Held, Models of Democracy

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, The Federalist Papers

Benjamin Barber, Strong Democracy

Robert A. Dahl, On Democracy

Robert A. Dahl, Preface to Democratic Theory

Robert A. Dahl, Democracy and Its Discontents

Carol Pateman, Participation and Democratic Theory

David Held, Models of Democracy

Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., The Global Resurgence of Democracy

Andreas Schedler, Larry Diamond, and Marc F. Plattner, eds., The Self-Restraining State: Power and Accountability in New Democracies

Alex Inkeles, ed., On Measuring Democracy: Its Consequences And Concomitants

Freedom House Surveys

2. *The Democratic Ideal vs. Actual: Conditions that Favor Democracy*

**Required:**

Robert A. Dahl, On Democracy

**Recommended:**

Lisa Anderson, ed., Transitions to Democracy, Irving Leonard Markowitz, 42-71; Evelyne Huber, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and John D. Stephens, 168-192.

Larry Diamond, Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation.

Georg Sorensen, Democracy and Democratization.  
Democracy and Democratization;

3. *Building and Sustaining Democracy*

**Begin Book Reports by students.**

**Required:**

Laurence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris, eds., Comparing Democracies 3, pp. 1-140

**Recommended:**

Sylvia Chang, Liberalism, Democracy and Development  
Democracy Sourcebook, Horowitz, 147-152

Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Contemporary Democracies: Participation, Stability, and Violence

4. *Public Opinion, Voting and Democracy*

**Book Reports (continue)**

**Required:**

L. LeDuc, et. al., Comparing Democracies 3, pp. 141-241

**Recommended:**

Robert Putnam, Making Democracy Work.

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, eds., The Civic Culture

Revisited

Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man

Barrington Moore, The Social Origins of Dictatorship and

Democracy

Larry Diamond, Consolidating the Third Wave

Democracies

Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies

Samuel Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations

Charles Tilly, Democracy

Arend Lijphart, Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensual Government in Twenty-One Countries

5. *Authoritarian State Systems*

**Book Reports** (continue)

**Required:**

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes, pp. 1-80

**Recommended:**

Christopher Lapham, Third World Politics: An Introduction

Peter Calvert and Susan Calvert, Politics and Society in the Third World

James C. Scott, Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government and Politics

**Recommended:**

Charles Tilly, Trust and Rule

Wendy Griswold, Cultures and Societies in a Changing World

John Ehrenberg, Civil Society: The Critical History of An Idea

Brian O'Connell, Civil Society: The Underpinnings of American Democracy

Larry Diamond, ed., Political Culture and Democracy in Developing Countries

Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone

Nancy L. Rosenblum and Robert C. Post, eds., Civil Society and Government

Lester M. Salamon, S. Wojciech and Associates, Global Civil Society: Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector (Vol. I and II)

Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Democracy

Henry Milner, Civic Literacy: How Informed Citizens Make Democracy Work

Mark E. Warren, Democracy and Association

## **6. *The Totalitarian State: Assumptions and Beginnings***

### **Book Reports (continue)**

#### **Required:**

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes, pp. 81-187

#### **Recommended:**

Richard J. Evans, The Coming of the Third Reich

Zevedic Barabro, Democracy and Dictatorship

Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy

F. L. Carsen, The Rise of Fascism

Lisa Anderson, ed., Transitions to Democracy: Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, 72-96

Robert A. Dahl, Economic Democracy

Ralf Dahrendorf, Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society

Robert A. Dahl, Economic Democracy

Democracy Sourcebook: Miller, 133-141: Horowitz, 147-152

Adam Przeworski, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub and Fernando Limongi, Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the United States 1950-1990.

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stehens and John P. Stephens, Capitalist Development and Democracy

Adam Przeworski, Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America

Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, The Political Economy of Democratic Institutions

Stephen Haggard, Pathways From the Periphery: The Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrialized Nations

Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., Economic Reform and Democracy

Michael Bratton, Robert Mattes and E. Gyimah-Boadi, Public Opinion, Democracy, and Market Reform in Africa

## 7. *The Totalitarian State: Operations and Decline*

### **Book Reports** (continue)

#### **Required:**

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes, pp. 81-187

#### **Recommended:**

Michael Burleigh, The Third Reich: A New History

Joseph W. Bendersky, A Concise History of Nazi Germany

Robert O. Paxson, The Anatomy of Fascism

John W. Dower, Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II

Arend Lijphart, Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration.

Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., Civil Military Relations and Democracy

Juan E. Méndez, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, and

Guillermo O'Donnell, eds., The (Un)Rule of Law and the Underprivileged in Latin America.

Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism in Latin America," Latin American Research Review, 25 (1990), 157-179.

## 8. *An Overview of the Totalitarian State: Nazi Germany in Action*

### **Book Reports** (if time permits)

#### **Required:**

Paul Brooker, Non-Democratic Regimes, pp. 188-260

#### **Video of documentary "Mein Kampf"**

#### **Recommended:**

Richard Katz and William Crotty, eds., Handbook of Political Parties

David Throup and Charles Hornsby, Multi-Party Politics in Kenya

Richard S. Katz, A Theory of Parties and Electoral Systems

Mary Ellen Fischer, ed., Establishing Democracies

Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America

## 9. *The Alternatives to Democracy: Totalitarian Systems (Conclusion)*

### **Mid-Term Quiz**

**Required:**

Review all class materials to date

**Recommended:**

Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism

Richard Overy, The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia

Robert Gellately, Lenin, Stalin and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe

Giles MacDonough, After The Reich: The Brutal History of the Allied Occupation

Mark Mazower, Hitler's Empire: How the Nazis Rules Europe

Richard J. Evans, The Third Reich At War

Wendy Z. Goldman, Terror and Democracy in the Age of Stalin: The Social Dynamics of Repression

**10. Religion, Secularization and the State****Book Reports (continue)****Required:**

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide, pp. 3-158

**Recommended:**

Jennifer I. McCoy and David J. Meyers, eds., The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela

Andreas Schedler, ed., Electoral Authoritarianism

Stephen Kinzer, Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change From Hawaii to Iraq

Theda Skocpol, ed., Democracy, Revolution, and History

Barrington Moore, The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy

Ronald Wintobe, The Political Economy of Dictatorships

**11. Secularization, Religion and Their Consequences****Book Reports (continue)****Required:**

P. Norris and R. Inglehart, pp. 159-242

**Recommended:**

Robert Fatton, Jr., Haiti's Predatory Republic: The Unending Transition to Democracy

Alex Dupuy, Haiti in the Third World Economy: Class, Race and Underdevelopment Since 1700

Paul Collier, Wars, Guns, and Votes: Democracy in



Dangerous Places  
Joel Migdal, Strong Societies and Weak States

## 12. *Militarism, Empire and the Democratic State*

### **Book Reports** (continue)

#### **Required:**

Chalmers Johnson, The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy and the End of the Republic, pp. 1-151

#### **Recommended:**

Michael Bratton and Nicholas van de Walle, Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transition in Comparative Perspective

Terry Lynn Karl, "El Salvador's Negotiated Revolution," Foreign Affairs, 71(2), p. 147-64

## 13. *American Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

#### **Required:**

Chalmers Johnson, The Sorrows of Empire, pp. 152-312

#### **Recommended:**

Thomas Carothers, Aiding Democracy Abroad: The Learning Curve

Lisa Anderson, ed., Transitions to Democracy

Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, Yun-han Chu and Hung-Mao Tien, eds., Consolidating The Third Wave

Democracies: Regional Challenges

Ted Robert Gurr and Barbara Harff, Ethnic Conflicts in World Politics

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds., Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe

Joel S. Migdal, Peasants, Politics and Revolution: Pressures Toward Political and Social Change in the Third World

John L. Esposito and John O. Voll, Islam and Democracy

Penny Leroux, People of God

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, Transitions From Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe

Samuel P. Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies

#### **14. Last Class:**

*Overview of Course*  
*Themes of Course*  
*Preserving the Democratic Principle*  
*Introduction to Final Exam*

#### **Required:**

Review course material

#### **Written Review of Report on Book due**

#### **Recommended:**

John Peeler, Building Democracy in Latin America

Frances Hagopian, ed., Religious Pluralism, Democracy, and the Catholic Church in Latin America

Cynthia McClintock, Revolutionary Movements in Latin America

Kees Koonings and Dirk Kruijtt, eds., Societies of Fear: The Legacy of Civil War, Violence and Terror in Latin America

Howard J. Wiarda and Margaret Macleish Mott, Catholic Roots and Democratic Flowers: Political Systems in Spain and Portugal

Thomas W. Walker, ed., Nicaragua Without Illusions: Regime Transition and Structural Adjustment in the 1990s

#### **15. Final Exam**

**The final exam covers all course materials.**

**Note: Changes and additions to the class schedule will be made in class. The discussions of the topics may carry over from one class to the next and are not tailored to a 2-hour class meeting time format.**

#### **Final Exam**

The exam will take place in the class meeting room during the regular class hours. It will be an essay exam and include all materials covered in the course.

**Note:** Videos and other materials will be scheduled to be shown in class. These will be announced during the semester.

#### **Recommended Readings:**

Arendt, Hannah. The Origins of Totalitarianism. Harvest Books, 1973.

Chan, Sylvia. Liberalism, Democracy, and Development. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Dahl, Robert. On Democracy. Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2000.

Diamond, Larry. Squandered Victory. New York: Owl Books, 2006.

Johnson, Chalmers. Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire. New York: Owl Books, 2004, second edition.

Johnson, Chalmers. The Sorrows of Empire. New York: Owl Books, 2004.

Midgal, Joel. Strong Societies and Weak States. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1988.

Wintrobe, Ronald. The Political Economy of Dictatorship. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.