

Political Science 597.02: Political Problems of the Contemporary World

Jeremy Wallace
Autumn 2011

Time: MW 11:30am – 1:18pm Office Hours: T 9:30 – 11:30am
Location: Denney Hall 0206 Location: Derby Hall 2104
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For the first time in history, more than half of the world's nations are democracies and its people live in cities. This course addresses these two critical political issues in the contemporary developing world: regime type (that is, dictatorship versus democracy and the blurring of the lines between the two) and urbanization.

Course Requirements

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| 1. Participation and Attendance | 15% |
| 2. Data Assignment | 25% |
| 3. Midterm Exam | 25% |
| 4. Cumulative Final Exam | 35% |

Participation & Attendance – As stated in the Format section below, class sessions will combine lectures and discussions. In order for discussions to thrive, your active presence is required. *Reading quizzes will be used if discussion betrays ignorance of the assignments.*

Data Assignment – Students will write a brief research note (3-5 pages) related to course material.

Midterm Exam – This exam will cover all material from the lectures and readings that occurs prior to the exam.

Cumulative Final Exam – This exam will cover material from the entirety of the course, although the exam will be biased towards topics discussed after the Midterm Exam.

Format

The class format will be that of a combined lecture-seminar. Sessions will typically include extensive remarks by the instructor – remarks designed to orient the student and to provide a context within which the readings for that day can be understood. Sessions will also include periodic discussion – as a whole class and in smaller groups – of both points made in the lecture and of the readings assigned for that day. All students are encouraged to ask questions and raise points of interest during our sessions.

GEC

This course fulfills the capstone requirement from the General Education Curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Grading

Grading will be based upon (a) accuracy of factual information; (b) ability to synthesize the appropriate evidence, both theoretical and empirical, from all parts of the course not just rehashing the texts; (c) judgment in separating the important from the trivial, keeping on the subject, critically evaluating all assumptions [including your own and mine]; and (d) effective expression—organization, choice of words, basic grammar, etc.

93-100	A	80-82.99	B-	67-69.99	D+
90-92.99	A-	77-79.99	C+	63-66.99	D
87-89.99	B+	73-76.99	C	60-62.99	D-
83-86.99	B	70-72.99	C-	Below 59.99	E

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Schedule of Readings – available on carmen.osu.edu.

Week 01

Sep 26, 28

[1] Adam Przeworski 1991. *Democracy and the Market*. Prologue. pp. 1-9.

[2] Tarek Masoud 2011. “The Road to and from Liberation Square.” *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 21-34.

[3] Peter Schraeder & Hamadi Redissi 2011. “Ben Ali’s Fall.” *J. of Democracy*. pp. 5-19.

Democracy and Dictatorship

Week 02 – On Regime Types

Oct 3, 5

- [1] Mancur Olson 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy and Development,” *American Political Science Review*. pp. 567-576.
- [2] Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl 1991. “What Democracy Is....and Is Not,” *J. of Democracy*. pp. 75-88.
- [3] Amartya Sen 1999. “Democracy as a Universal Value,” *J. of Democracy*. pp. 3-17.
- [4] Jose Cheibub, Jennifer Gandhi, & James Vreeland 2010. “Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited.” *Public Choice*. pp. 67-101

Week 03 – Modernization Theory

Oct 10, 12

- [1] Adam Przeworski & Fernando Limongi 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts.” *World Politics*. pp. 155-183.
- [2] Larry Diamond 2003. “Can the Whole World Become Democratic?” pp. 1-36.
- [3] James Robinson. 2006. “Economic Development and Democracy.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. pp. 503-527.
- [4] Robert Kaufman 2009. “The Political Effects of Inequality in Latin America: Some Inconvenient Facts.” *Comparative Politics*. pp. 359-379.

Week 04 – Types of Non-Democratic Regimes & States

Oct 17, 19

- [1] Barbara Geddes. 1999. “What do we know about Democratization after 20 Years?” *Annual Review of Political Science*. pp. 115-144.
- [2] Axel Hadenius & Jan Teorell 2007. “Pathways from Authoritarianism.” *J. of Democracy*. pp. 143-156.
- [3] Doner, Ritchie, & Slater 2005. “Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States” *International Organization*. pp. 327–361.

Week 05 – The Resource Curse

Oct 24, 26

- [1] Stephen Haber & Victor Menaldo 2011. “Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism?” *APSR*. pp. 1-26.
- [2] Michael Ross 2009. “Oil and Democracy Revisited.” pp. 1-50.

Week 06 – On Shooting Protestors & Midterm

Oct 31

- [1] Mark Thompson. 2001. “To Shoot or Not to Shoot: Posttotalitarianism in China and Eastern Europe.” *Comparative Politics*.

Nov 2 – **Midterm Examination**

Urbanization

Week 07 – The Basics of Cities

Nov 7, 9

- [1] Packer 2006 – The Megacity
- [2] E.J. Hobsbawm 1973. “Cities and Insurrections”
- [3] Paul Krugman 1991. *Geography and Trade*. Chapter 2. pp. 35-67.

Week 08 – Urban Bias

Nov 14, 16

- [1] Alberto Ades & Edward Glaeser 1995. “Trade and Circuses: Explaining Urban Giants.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. pp. 195-227.

Week 09 – Global Issues & Bubbles

Nov 21, 23

- [1] *World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography*. Selections.
- [2] News Pieces: TBD

Week 10 – Conclusions

Nov 28, 30

- [1] J. Vernon Henderson 2009. “Urbanization in China.” pp. 1-30.

Thursday, December 8, 2011 11:30am – 1:18pm

Final Examination

<http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/AU11Finals.pdf>