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Government 157
Wesleyan University
Fall 2019

Office Hours:
Tues. & Weds., 2:00-3:30 PM
PAC 219

Class Meetings:
Mon. & Weds, 10:50 AM-12:10 PM
PAC 422

Democracy and Dictatorship: Politics in the Contemporary World

World events in the past three decades have underscored the importance of rethinking age-old questions about democracy: what it means, why it matters, what sorts of institutions can embody it, and what can be done to build, support, and deepen it. This course will explore these issues in light of the experiences of the United States, Sweden, Russia, and Tanzania.

The first part of the course explores what democracy means, where it came from, and why it matters. These reflections provide a basis for analyzing, in the second part of the course, some troubling aspects of democracy in the United States, such as that many U.S. citizens are poorly informed about politics, unwilling to vote, and confronted by serious impediments when they do choose to vote. By evaluating the quality of democracy in a country whose political system is well-known to most of us, we prepare ourselves to do the same in less familiar political systems.

The third part of the course examines democracy in "social democratic" Sweden, contrasting it to democracy in the "liberal democratic" United States. Sweden has a parliamentary system, proportional elections, a unicameral legislature, many significant political parties (including a social democratic party), and an extensive welfare state. The United States has a presidential system, plurality elections, a bicameral legislature, only two significant political parties (neither of which fits the description of a social democratic party), and a limited welfare state. Could, and if so should, democracy in the United States look more like democracy in Sweden?

Russia's transition from the former USSR and one-party rule was one of the most important events of the late 20th century. In the fourth part of the course we examine Marxism and Leninism, the ideologies that influenced the Soviet political system; review the historical legacies that have shaped and constrained the decisions of post-transition Russian leaders; and characterize the regime type in contemporary Russia during the presidency of Vladimir Putin.

In the fifth part of the course we examine the political system of Tanzania, whose political system was constitutionally limited to a single party from 1965 to 1992. Unlike most other one-party states, however, Tanzania had competitive elections for legislative offices, although no candidate uncongenial to the ruling party was allowed to stand for office. Was Tanzania a case of one-party democracy? Can democracy exist in a constitutional one-party state? To what extent has Tanzania become more democratic since 1992, when the constitutional ban on opposition parties was lifted?

Course Requirements

The course grade is based on two 5-6 page papers, two in-class closed-book exams, and class participation.

Summary of Due Dates and Final Grade Weightings

First Paper	Sep 27 (Fr)	22.5%
First Exam	Oct 16 (We)	22.5%
Second Paper	Nov 8 (Fr)	22.5%
Second Exam	Dec 4 (We)	22.5%
Class Participation		10.0%

Honor Code

Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will suffice for a grade of "F" for the entire course.

Electronics

Cell phones, laptops, tablets, digital assistants, and other potentially disruptive or distracting electronic devices should be stowed away and not consulted at any time during the class session.

Papers

(1) Each paper will be on an assigned topic handed out on September 18 (for the September 27 paper) and October 30 (for the November 8 paper). Each paper should be 5-6 pages long.

(2) No outside reading need be done. The course readings and your general knowledge will be sufficient for you to develop a well-argued answer to the question(s) you are addressing.

(3) Your grade will be based mostly on the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument and on your ability to support it by addressing, criticizing, and building on points in the assigned reading.

(4) The paper must contain specific citations, with page numbers, to most (say, two-thirds) of the readings assigned in the pertinent section of the course. Use the "author-date" form of citation (see example below). You need not attach a list of references or bibliography.

"...no state has ever possessed a government that fully measured up to the criteria of a democratic process" (Dahl 1998: 42).

(5) Minimize your use of quotations; use your own words to express what an author is saying.

(6) The first paper should be uploaded to the course Moodle by 5 PM on Friday, September 27. The second paper should be uploaded to the course Moodle by 5 PM on Friday, November 8.

Examinations

Each exam is closed-book, closed-note. The first exam will be given during the class period on Wednesday, October 16. It will cover the September 30 to October 14 class sessions and assigned readings. The second exam will be given during the class period on Wednesday, December 4. It will cover the November 11 to December 2 class sessions and assigned readings.

Obtaining Course Readings

All readings are available on the course Moodle site. No books are required for this course.

Accessibility Services

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodation, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and must provide documentation of the disability.

Accommodation may require early planning, and retroactive requests for accommodation are not usually granted. Accordingly, if you believe that you need accommodation for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Accessibility Services (accessibility@wesleyan.edu), located in North College, Room 021, or call 860/685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and to review the process for requesting accommodation.

Summary of Course Schedule

Mo Sep 2	Introduction to the Course
We Sep 4	Conceptualizing, Justifying, and Measuring Democracy
Mo Sep 9	Democracy, Political Knowledge, and Political Decision-Making
We Sep 11	Democratic Consolidation and Democratic Backsliding
Mo Sep 16	Who Has the Right to Vote?
We Sep 18	Voter Turnout: The United States in Comparative Perspective
Mo Sep 23	Erosion of Democracy in the United States?
We Sep 25	Electoral Reform in the United States First paper due Friday, Sep. 27, 5 PM
Mo Sep 30	Sweden's Political Institutions and Party System
We Oct 2	Social Democracy in Sweden and the United States
Mo Oct 7	The Welfare State in Sweden and the United States
We Oct 9	The Rise of Right-Wing Populism in Europe and the United States
Mo Oct 14	Gender Quotas for National Legislatures
We Oct 16	First examination
We Oct 23	Marxism
Mo Oct 28	Marxism and Leninism
We Oct 30	Lenin, Russia, and Revolution
Mo Nov 4	Stalinism and the Collapse of Communism
We Nov 6	Russia Since Communism Second paper due Friday, Nov. 8, 5 PM
Mo Nov 11	Political Authority in Pre-Colonial Tanganyika
We Nov 13	Colonial Tanganyika and Zanzibar
Mo Nov 18	Nyerere and the Depoliticization of Ethnicity in Mainland Tanzania
We Nov 20	Democracy and the One-Party State in Tanzania
Mo Nov 25	The Transition From One-Party Rule in Tanzania
Mo Dec 2	Tanzania Since 2015: Democratic Backsliding?
We Dec 4	Second examination

Topics And Readings

Mo Sep 2 Introduction to the Course

1. Democracy in Theory

We Sep 4 Conceptualizing, Justifying, and Measuring Democracy

Dahl, Robert (1998). *On Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 35-43, 83-99.

Sen, Amartya (1999). "Democracy as a Universal Value." *Journal of Democracy* 10 No. 3 (July), 3-17.

Mo Sep 9 Democracy, Political Knowledge, and Political Decision-Making

Brennan, Jason (2016). *Against Democracy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 2 (23-53).

We Sep 11 Democratic Consolidation and Democratic Backsliding

Schedler, Andreas (1998). "What is Democratic Consolidation?" *Journal of Democracy* 9 No. 2 (Apr), 91-107.

Kaufman, Robert R., and Stephan Haggard (2019). "Democratic Decline in the United States: What Can We Learn From Middle-Income Backsliding?" *Perspectives on Politics* 17 No. 2, 417-432.

Mo Sep 16 Who Has the Right to Vote?

Massicote, Louis, André Blais, and Antoine Yoshinaka (2004). "Who Has the Right to Vote?" In Massicote, Blais, and Yoshinaka, *Establishing the Rules of the Game*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Chapter 2 (15-39).

Manza, Jeff, and Christopher Uggen (2004). "Punishment and Democracy: Disenfranchisement of Nonincarcerated Felons in the United States." *Perspectives on Politics* 2 No. 3 (September), 491-505.

2. Democracy in the United States

We Sep 18

Voter Turnout: The United States in Comparative Perspective

DeSilver, Drew (2018). "US Trails Most Developed Countries in Voter Turnout." Pew Research Center, May 21, pp. 1-6.

Stockemer, Daniel (2017). "What Affects Voter Turnout? A Review Article/Meta-Analysis of Aggregate Research." *Government and Opposition* 52 No. 4 (October), 698-722.

Green, Donald P., and Alan Gerber (2015). *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 155-164, 174-183.

Mo Sep 23

Erosion of Democracy in the United States?

Roberts, Kenneth M. (2019). "Parties, Populism, and Democratic Decay: A Comparative Perspective on Political Polarization in the United States." In Kurt Weyland and Raúl L. Madrid, eds., *When Democracy Trumps Populism: European and Latin American Lessons for the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5, 132-153.

Madrid, Raúl L., and Kurt Weyland (2019). "Conclusion: Why US Democracy Will Survive Trump." In Kurt Weyland and Raúl L. Madrid, eds., *When Democracy Trumps Populism: European and Latin American Lessons for the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6, 154-186.

We Sep 25

Electoral Reform in the United States

Norris, Pippa (2016). "Why American Elections Are Flawed (And How to Fix Them)." Harvard Kennedy School Faculty Research Working Paper 16-038 (September).

<https://research.hks.harvard.edu/publications/workingpapers/Index.aspx>

Singh, Shane P. (2018). "Compulsory Voting and the United States." In Todd Donovan, ed., *Changing How America Votes*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapter 2, 14-25.

Fr Sep 27

First Paper Due

3. Democracy in Sweden

Mo Sep 30

Sweden's Political Institutions and Party System

Lijphart, Arend (1991). "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 2 No. 1 (Winter), 72-84.

Albertus, Michael, and Daniel Menaldo (2018). "Sweden: From Agrarian Oligarchy to Progressive Democracy." In Albertus and Menaldo, *Authoritarianism and the Elite Origins of Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

We Oct 2

Social Democracy in Sweden and the United States

C.T. Husbands (1976). "Editor's Introductory Essay." Introduction to Werner Sombart, *Why Is There No Socialism in the United States?* (1906). White Plains, NY: International Arts and Sciences Press, xv-xxxvii.

Seymour Martin Lipset (1983), "Radicalism or Reformism: The Sources of Working Class Politics." *American Political Science Review* 77 No. 1 (March), 1-18.

Mo Oct 7

The Welfare State in Sweden and the United States

Steinmo, Sven (2010). "Sweden: The Evolution of a Bumble Bee." Chapter 2 in Steinmo, *The Evolution of Modern States: Sweden, Japan, and the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 30-86.

Lynch, Julia F. (2014) "A Cross-National Perspective on the American Welfare State." In Daniel Béland, Christopher Howard, and Kimberly J. Morgan, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7, 112-132.

We Oct 9

The Rise of Right-Wing Populism in Europe and the United States

Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris (2017). "Trump and the Populist Authoritarian Parties: The Silent Revolution in Reverse." *Perspectives on Politics* 15 No. 2 (June), 443-454.

Rydgren, Jens, and Sara van der Meiden (2019). "The Radical Right and the End of Swedish Exceptionalism." *European Political Science* 18 No. 3 (September), 439-455.

Mo Oct 14 Gender Quotas for National Legislatures

Hughes, Melanie M., Pamela Paxton, and Mona Lena Krook (2017). "Gender Quotas for Legislatures and Corporate Boards." *Annual Review of Sociology* 43, 331-352.

Friedenvall, Lenita (2018). "Gender Equality Without Legislated Quotas in Sweden." In Éléonore Lépinard and Ruth Rubio-Marín, eds. *Transforming Gender Citizenship: The Irresistible Rise of Gender Quotas in Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 12, 366-399.

We Oct 16 **First Examination**

4. Democratization in the Former Soviet Union?

We Oct 23 Marxism

Marx, Karl (1844/1848). "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844"; "The Communist Manifesto." Both in David McLellan, ed., *Karl Marx: Selected Writing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977, 75-96, 221-247.

Mo Oct 28 Marxism and Leninism

Lenin, V. I. (1902). "What Is to Be Done? Burning Questions of Our Movement." In Robert C. Tucker, ed., *Lenin: An Anthology*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1975. Selections: 23-31, 67-91.

Lenin, V. I. (1917). "The State and Revolution." In V. I. Lenin, *Selected Works in Three Volumes*. Vol. 2, 289-318, 347-362 only. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1970.

We Oct 30 Lenin, Russia, and Revolution

Chamberlin, William Henry (1935/1965), *The Russian Revolution, 1917-1921*, Vol. 1. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1-17.

DeBardleben, Joan (1992), "The Emergence of the Soviet State." In Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, eds., *European Politics in Transition*, 2nd ed. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath, 513-543.

- Mo Nov 4 Stalinism and the Collapse of Communism
- "Z" [Martin Malia] (1990). "To the Stalin Mausoleum." *Dædalus* 119 No. 1 (Winter), 295-340.
- We Nov 6 Russia Since Communism
- McFaul, Michael (2018). "Choosing Autocracy: Actors, Institutions, and Revolution in the Erosion of Russian Democracy." *Comparative Politics* 50 No. 3 (April), 305-325.
- Fish, M. Steven (2018). "What Has Russia Become?" *Comparative Politics* 50 No. 3 (April), 327-346.
- Fr Nov 8 Second paper due**

5. Tanzania: Democracy in a One-Party State?

- Mo Nov 11 Political Authority in Pre-Colonial Tanganyika
- Iliffe, John (1979). "Tanganyika in 1800." In Iliffe, *A Modern History of Tanganyika*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2, 6-25.
- Liebenow, J. Gus (1971). "Fragmentation and Cohesion in Traditional Makonde Society." In Liebenow, *Colonial Rule and Political Development in Tanzania: The Case of the Makonde*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press. Chapter 3, 40-71.
- We Nov 13 Colonial Tanganyika and Zanzibar
- Mazrui, Ali (1979). "Francophone Nations and English-Speaking States: Imperial Ethnicity and African Political Formations." In Donald Rothchild and Victor A. Olorunsola, eds., *State Versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 2, 25-43.
- Killian, Bernadeta (2008). "The State and Identity Politics in Zanzibar: Challenges to Democratic Consolidation in Tanzania." *African Identities* 6 No. 2 (May), 99-125.
- Mo Nov 18 Nyerere and the Depoliticization of Ethnicity in Mainland Tanzania
- Nyerere, Julius (1966) *Freedom and Unity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 103-106, 195-203.
- Malipula, Mrisho (2014). "Depoliticised Ethnicity in Tanzania: A Structural

and Historical Narrative." *Afrika Focus* 27 No. 2, 49-70.

We Nov 20 Democracy and the One-Party State in Tanzania

McHenry, Dean (1994). "Democracy and Socialism." In McHenry, *Limited Choices: The Political Struggle for Socialism in Tanzania*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Chapter 4, 47-74.

Humana, Charles (1992). *World Human Rights Guide*. London: Hutchinson, 3-10, 306-309 (Sweden), 314-318 (Tanzania), 350-353 (USA).

Mo Nov 25 The Transition from One-Party Rule in Tanzania

Pallotti, Arrigo (2017). "Lost in Transition? CCM and Tanzania's Faltering Democratisation Process." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 35 No. 4, 544-564.

Hoffman, Barak, and Lindsay Robinson (2009). "Tanzania's Missing Opposition." *Journal of Democracy* 20 No. 4, 123-136.

Mo Dec 2 Tanzania Since 2015: Democratic Backsliding?

Paget, Dan (2017). "Tanzania: Shrinking Space and Opposition Protest" *Journal of Democracy* 28 No. 3 (July 2017), 153-167.

We Dec 4 **Second Examination**