

Wesleyan University  
Spring 2007  
Government 157  
Room: PAC004  
TR 01:10PM-02:30PM

Jun Saito  
Email: jsaito@wesleyan.edu  
Office Location: PAC 221  
Office Hour: TR3:00-4:30  
or by appointment

# **Democracy and Dictatorship: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

## **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to politics in industrialized capitalist, state socialist, and developing countries. We explore the meaning of central concepts like democracy and socialism, the strengths and weaknesses of different kinds of political institutions (e.g., presidentialism vs. parliamentarianism in liberal democratic countries), the causes and consequences of shifts between types of political systems (e.g., the collapse of state socialism), and the relationships among social, economic, and political changes (e.g., among social justice, economic growth, and political democracy in developing countries).

## **Performance Evaluation**

Participation	15%
Problem Sets	20%
Preliminary Research Proposal	5%
Take Home Midterm	15%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

The primary objective of the course is to build each student's familiarity with political systems in the world and to nurture his or her analytical capability based on empirical information and rigorous thinking. In order to pursue this objective, each student's performance will be evaluated in the following respects.

Attendance is mandatory. Participation into classroom discussion is highly encouraged. Clarification questions are always welcome. Thought provocative questions will be highly appreciated. I will evaluate how active each student has been in class throughout the semester.

Problem sets are numerical exercises that are intended to help students understand how "models" of democratic institutions operate. These exercises will give insights about how political institutions provide incentives to both political elites and citizens at large.

The preliminary research proposal is intended to encourage each student to think about his or her research design for the term paper early in the semester. The student will receive a full credit as long as it is submitted in time. The research proposals will be about 2-page long, and further detail will be announced.

There will be one take-home midterm. Students will write a 4-page essay for this exam. Further detail will be announced.

The research paper will be about 8 to 10 pages long. The topic should be related to domestic politics of countries that are covered in this course. Students are required to address a causal hypothesis and to embed at least 3 cross-national comparative case studies. The guideline for the term paper will be handed out on February 20.

Final exam will take place in accordance with the designated schedule. The exam is inclusive and covers material throughout the course. Students can bring in one letter-sized “cheat sheet”. Practice questions will be distributed in advance.

### **Prerequisite**

There is no formal prerequisite, but I assume that students who take the class have enthusiasm for learning and logical thinking. This course also requires working knowledge of high school algebra. It is also assumed that students have regular access to the blackboard system (<http://blackboard.wesleyan.edu/>) and are willing to learn the basics of spreadsheet programs (e.g. MS-Excel).

### **Class Resources**

#### **Textbooks**

The following books are available for purchase at Broad Street Books. These books are also available on the reserve shelf in Olin Library.

Almond, Gabriel A., Russell J. Dalton, G. Bingham Powell Jr., and Kaare Strom, eds. 2006. *Comparative Politics Today*. Updated 8th ed. New York: Longman.

Archer, Jeffrey. 1984. *First among Equals*. New York: Linden Press Simon & Schuster.

Other reading materials will be provided through the blackboard system.

#### **Library Reserve**

In addition, the following books are located on the reserve shelf

Schumpeter, Joseph Alois. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. New York, London: Harper & Brothers.

Curtis, Gerald L. 1971. *Election Campaigning, Japanese Style*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little Brown.

#### **Internet Resources**

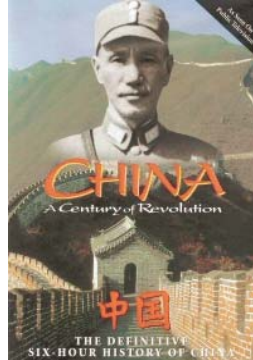
The primary class web site is within Wesleyan’s blackboard system. There are links to useful resources on the net. The lecture notes will be uploaded after each session.

## Audio Visual Materials

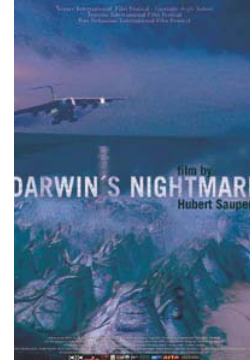
The lecture occasionally uses excerpts from the following audio-visual materials. Each showing will not exceed 10 minutes.



*First Among Equals*  
A TV drama series based on the novel by Jeffery Archer



*China: A Century of Revolutions*  
A PBS documentary series



*Darwin's Nightmare*  
A documentary film directed by Hubert Sauper

## Class Schedule

The instructor's selection of reading and audio visual materials does not imply that he is endorsing the arguments developed in these materials. Students are expected to evaluate the content critically.

### Part I: Introduction

#### Session 1: Introduction to Comparative Politics (January 25)

Archer, Jeffrey. 1984. *First among Equals*. New York: Linden Press Simon & Schuster, pp 1-44. [Textbook]  
Yang, Dali L. 1996. *Calamity and Reform in China: State, Rural society, and Institutional Change since the Great Leap Famine*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, Chapter 1. [PDF]

#### Session 2: What Politics Does (January 30)

Dahl, Robert A. 2006. *On Political Equality*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 1 "Introduction," Chapter 2 "Is Political Equality a Reasonable Goal?" [PDF]  
Schumpeter, Joseph Alois. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. New York, London: Harper & Brothers. Chapter XX II "Another Theory of Democracy" [PDF]

#### Session 3: Methods of Inquiry (February 1)

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases you Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2:131-49. [PDF]  
Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43 (1):169-95. [PDF]

Problem Set #1 is handed out.

## Part II: Comparing Democratic Institutions

### Session 4: Politics of the United States (February 6)

#### Problem Set #1 is due.

Ranney, Austin. 2006. "Politics in the United States." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

### Session 5: Politics of the United Kingdom (February 8)

Rose, Richard. 2006. "Politics in England." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

Problem Set #2 is handed out.

### Session 6: Comparing U.S. and U.K (1) (February 13)

#### Problem Set #2 is due

Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little, Brown, Chapter 1 "Perception of the Constituency" [PDF]

Archer, Jeffrey. 1984. *First among Equals*. New York: Linden Press Simon & Schuster, pp 47-72. [Textbook]

### Session 7: Comparing U.S. and U.K (2) (February 15)

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison, and John Jay. 1987. *The Federalist*. New York: Basil Blackwell, No.51. [PDF]

Bagehot, Walter. 1867. *The English Constitution*. 1st ed. London: Chapman and Hall. (In particular Crossman edition (1963), pp. 72-80.) [PDF]

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 7. [PDF]

Problem Set #3 is handed out.

### Session 8: Variety of Electoral Institutions (February 20)

#### Problem Set #3 is due.

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 8. [PDF]

Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93 (3):609-24. [PDF]

Guidelines for preliminary research proposal and the term paper are handed out.

### Session 9: Politics of Japan (February 22)

Rosenbluth, Frances M., and Michael F. Thies. 2006. "Politics in Japan." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

Problem Set #4 is handed out.

### Session 10: Comparing U.K. and Japan (February 27)

#### Problem Set #4 is due.

Archer, Jeffrey. 1984. *First among Equals*. New York: Linden Press Simon & Schuster, pp. 88-110. [Textbook]

Curtis, Gerald L. 1971. *Election Campaigning, Japanese Style*. New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 5 "The Koenkai". [PDF]

### **Session 11: Comparing U.S. and Japan (March 1)**

Read any two of the following:

Ramseyer, J. Mark, and Eric B. Rasmusen. 2001. "Why Are Japanese Judges so Conservative in Politically Charged Cases?" *American Political Science Review* 95 (2): 331-344. [PDF]

Thies, Michael F. 1998. "When Will Pork Leave the Farm? Institutional Bias in Japan and the United States." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 23 (4):467-92. [PDF]

Pempel, T. J. 1974. "The Bureaucratization of Policymaking in Postwar Japan." *American Journal of Political Science* 18 (4):647-64. [PDF]

Problem Set #5 is handed out.

## **Part III: Socialist Revolutions and their Aftermath**

### **Session 12: Leninism as a Political Strategy (March 6)**

**Problem Set #5 is due.**

Lenin, Vladimir. 1902. *What is to be Done? Burning Questions of Our Movement*. Marxists Internet Archive, Chapter 1 and 2. [PDF]

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press, Chapter 7 "Democratic Route to Modern Society" [PDF]

### **Session 13: Politics of Russia (March 8)**

**Preliminary Research Proposal is due.**

Remington, Thomas F. 2006. "Politics in Russia." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

### **Session 14: Politics of China (March 27)**

Manion, Melanie. 2006. "Politics in China." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

Take-home midterm is handed out.

### **Session 15: Comparing the West vs. China, Russia vs. China (March 29)**

Landes, David S. 2006. "Why Europe and the West? Why Not China? ." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20 (2):3-22. [PDF]

Roland, Gerard. 2002. "The Political Economy of Transition." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16 (1):29-50. [PDF]

## **Part IV: Politics of Development and Democratization**

### **Session 16: International System and Development Strategy (April 3)**

**Take-home midterm is due.**

Haggard, Stephan. 1990. *Pathways from the Periphery: the Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, Chapter 1 & 2. [PDF]

### **Session 17: Politics of India (April 5)**

Mitra, Subrata K. 2006. "Politics in India." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

### **Session 19: Ethnic Heterogeneity and Politics of Identity (April 10)**

- Neto, Octavio Amorim, and Gary W. Cox. 1997. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (1):149-74. [PDF]
- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1):75-90. [PDF]

### **Session 17: Politics of Nigeria (April 12)**

- Mundt, Robert J., and Oladimeji Aborisade. 2006. "Politics in Nigeria." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

### **Session 20: Resource Curse (April 17)**

- Sachs, Jeffrey D., and Andrew M. Warner. 2001. "The Curse of Natural Resources." *European Economic Review* 45 (4-6):827-38. [PDF]
- Ross, Michael. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 (3):325-61. [PDF]

### **Session 21: International Trade and Domestic Political Coalition (April 19)**

- Cameron, David. 1978. "The Expansion of the Public Economy: A Comparative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 72 (4):1243-61. [PDF]
- Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade." *American Political Science Review* 81 (4):1121-37. [PDF]

### **Session 22: Politics of Brazil (April 24)**

- Hagopian, Frances. 2006. "Politics in Brazil." In *Comparative Politics Today*, ed. G. A. Almond, R. J. Dalton, G. B. Powell Jr. and K. Strom. New York: Longman. [Textbook]

### **Session 23: Comparing Latin America and Asia (April 26)**

- Haggard, Stephan. 1990. *Pathways from the Periphery: the Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, Chapter 6 & 7. [PDF]

## **Part V: Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited**

### **Session 24: Democratic Transition and Consolidation (May 1)**

- Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review* 53 (1):69-105. [PDF]
- Boix, Carles, and Susan Stokes. 2003. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics* 55 (4):517-49. [PDF]

### **Session 25: Democracy and the Problem of Governance (May 3)**

- Barro, Robert J. 1996. "Democracy and Growth." *Journal of Economic Growth* 1 (1):1-27. [PDF]
- Husted, Thomas A., and Lawrence Kenny. 1997. "The Effect of the Expansion of the Voting Franchise on the Size of Government." *Journal of Political Economy* 105 (1):54-82. [PDF]

### **Session 26: The Meaning of Democracy in a Changing World (May 8)**

- Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 76 (6):22-43. [PDF]

### **The research paper is due May 10.**

The final exam will take place in accordance with the designated schedule.