

**Government 157: Democracy and Dictatorship**  
**[UPDATED VERSION SEPTEMBER 26, 2006]**

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**Place and Time:** VVO 110, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40-4:00 pm

**Office Hours:** PAC 220, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:00 am; 1:00-2:00 pm  
(Preferably by Appointment)

**Course Description:** This class is intended to introduce students to the field of comparative politics. It focuses on the subject of the political regime. It begins by exploring debates about democracy, highlighting the disagreements among those who define it in “minimalist” or “procedural” terms, on the one hand, and those who defend more “maximalist” or “substantive” conceptualizations, on the other. It continues by distinguishing among different types of non-democratic regimes, contrasting classical versus contemporary criteria of classification, and examining closely the contemporary dispute over the essence of fascism. It concludes with an investigation into the dynamics of transitions among and between regime types, with an emphasis on the problems associated with transitions from non-democratic to democratic forms of rule.

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to have read assigned material before coming to class, and to be ready and willing to participate. Such participation will account for 10% of the overall grade. In addition, there will be two in-class midterms, each of which will account for 20% of the overall grade. Finally, there will be a 48-hour take-home final exam, which will account for 50% of the overall grade.

**Reading Materials:** All reading materials will be posted on-line, through the library, at least one week before the assigned date. There will also be a copy of each week’s readings on reserve in the library.

**Part One: Democracy Defined**

**Session One. Tuesday, September 5:** Introduction

**Session Two. Thursday, September 7:** Introduction

**Session Three. Tuesday, September 12:**

Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy* (New York: Harper, 1950), Chapters 21-22.

**Session Four. Thursday, September 14:**

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971), pp. 1-32.

Robert Dahl, *Modern Political Analysis* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, INC, 1976), pp.82-99.

**Session Five. Tuesday, September 19:**

William Robinson, *Promoting Polyarchy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Chapter One (pp.13-72).

**Session Six. Thursday, September 21:**

Adam Przeworski, "The Material Bases of Consent," in *Capitalism and Social Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

**Session Seven. Tuesday, September 26:**

Robert Dahl, *A Preface to Economic Democracy* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), pp.84-135.

**Session Eight. Thursday, September 28:**

First Midterm

**Part Two: Regime Types**

**Session Nine. Tuesday, October 3:**

Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1984), Book Four (pp.118-146).

**Session Ten. Thursday, October 5:**

Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (New York: Oxford University Press, 1958), pp. 196-244.

**Session Eleven. Tuesday, October 10:**

Georg Konrad and Ivan Szelenyi, *Intellectuals on the Road to Class Power* (New York: Harcourt Brace Javonovich, 1979), Chapters I and II (pp.3-60).

**Session Twelve. Thursday, October 12:**

Juan J. Linz, *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2000), pp. 65-142.

**Tuesday, October 17:** Fall Break

**Session Thirteen. Thursday, October 19:**

Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman, *The Washington Connection and Third World Fascism* (South End Press, 1979), Chapter One (pp.1-41).

Available on-line, at:

([http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Herman%20/ThirdWorldFascism\\_ChomHer.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Herman%20/ThirdWorldFascism_ChomHer.html))

**Session Fourteen. Tuesday, October 24:**

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire* (New York: Vintage Books, 1989), Chapters 3 and 4 (pp.56-111).

**Session Fifteen. Thursday, October 26:**

Michael Mann, "The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing," *New Left Review* I / 235, May-June 1999.

**Session Sixteen. Tuesday, October 31:**

Second Midterm

**Part Three: Transitions to Democracy**

**Session Seventeen. Thursday, November 2:**

Göran Therborn, "The Rule of Capital and the Rise of Democracy," *New Left Review*, no. 103 (May-June 1977), pp.3-41.

**Session Eighteen. Tuesday, November 7:**

Guillermo O'Donnell and Phillippe C. Schmitter, "Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies," *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 15-47).

**Session Nineteen. Thursday, November 9:**

Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991), Chapter 4 (pp.136-187).

**Session Twenty. Tuesday, November 14:**

Juan J. Linz and Al Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp.1-83.

**Session Twenty-One. Thursday, November 16:**

Juan J. Linz and Al Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp.87-147.

**Tuesday, November 21:** Thanksgiving Break

**Thursday, November 23:** Thanksgiving Break

**Session Twenty-Two. Tuesday, November 28:**

Nicos Poulantzas, *The Crisis of the Dictatorships* (London: NLB, 1976), Chapters 3 and 5 (pp.41-67, 90-126).

**Session Twenty-Three. Thursday, November 30:**

Przeworski et al, *Sustainable Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), Chapters 1 and 3 (pp.19-33, 40-53).

**Session Twenty-Four. Tuesday, December 5:**

William Robinson, *Promoting Polyarchy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Selection from Chapter 7, pp.339-385.

**Session Twenty-Five. Thursday, December 7:** Last Day of Class