

CSS 230

Sophomore Tutorial in Government: 2018-2019 State and Society in the Modern Age

Sarah Elise Wiliarty

Email: swiliarty@wesleyan.edu

Office: 409 Public Affairs Center

Office hours: Thursdays 10am-12pm

Classroom location: CSS Library

Course Description

The sophomore tutorial in government analyzes the emergence and functioning of the modern nation state, primarily in the West. We are interested in how the nation state came into being and what forms of government have evolved over the past 200 years or so. We will also examine a variety of challenges to the nation state, including modernization and the deepening of democracy. Throughout the class, our focus will be on the question of what is required for the emergence and maintenance of a democratic political system.

When political scientists approach these issues, we are looking for generalities and systemic explanations. We seek to draw out common theoretical principles from a variety of diverse empirical cases. Political scientists may ask questions such as: What forces in a society tend to produce democratic outcomes? Under what conditions is a revolution more or less likely? Where does sovereignty rest? There isn't a general agreement among political scientists about how to attempt to answer these questions. In this course, we read both classic texts and newer works on these topics and consider which approaches are most enlightening.

Topics

1. What is the State?
2. What is Democracy?
3. Democratic Political Institutions and Political Culture
4. Paths to Modernity
5. The Challenge of Modernization
6. The Welfare State
7. Women and Democracy
8. Democracy and Extremism in Europe

Requirements

Assignments will consist of weekly essays of five double-spaced pages. Each week you will receive a handout about the readings for the following week. Handouts will contain questions and suggestions which will underscore important topics in the readings. These topics will serve as a focus for both discussion and the essays. All of the weekly readings are required and will be available through the class Moodle. The books that will be used most extensively will be available for purchase at RJ Julia Bookstore. Do not feel that you must buy all of these! They are available at the bookstore if you want them, but you can also get them at the Olin Reserve Room. There is also a long CSS tradition of students sharing books so ask around if you are interested in that possibility.

Berman, Sheri. 2006. *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. [Optional to purchase, but a real CSS classic.]

Mudde, Cas. 2017. *On Extremism and Democracy in Europe*. New York: Routledge.

Teele, Dawn Langan. 2018. *Forging the Franchise: The Political Origins of the Women's Vote*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Note – this book is not being released until early September, but you should be able to get it after that.]

Tilly, Charles. 1993. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1992*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 1984. *Democracy in America*. Edited and abridged by Richard D. Heffner. New York: Mentor.

Week I: What Is The State?

Readings:

Tilly, Charles. 1993. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell. Chapters 1-3.

Scott, James. 1998. *Seeing Like A State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Chapters 1-2.

Week II: What Is Democracy?

Readings:

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1 – 7.

Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 6-8.

Week III: Democratic Political Institutions and Political Culture

Readings:

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 1984. *Democracy in America*. Edited and abridged by Richard D. Heffner. New York: Mentor.

Part One: All

Part Two: Book I, chapters 16-18, 25
Book II, chapters 26-31; 34
Book III, chapters 38-39, 41
Book IV, all

Note: If you have some other edition of the book, these selections will not match. Talk to me and we will figure it out.

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling alone: America's declining social capital," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 6, no. 1: 65-78.

Skocpol, Theda. 1996. "Unravelling from above," *The American Prospect* 25 (March 1996): 20-25.

Beinart, Peter. 2017. "Breaking Faith," *The Atlantic*, April 2017.

Week IV: Paths to Modernity

Readings:

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9.

Tilly, Charles. 1993. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell. Chapter 5.

Week V: The Challenge of Modernization

Readings:

Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7.

Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, 76 (6).

Zakaria, Fareed. 2016. "America's Democracy Has Become Illiberal," *The Washington Post*, 12/29/16.

Week VI: The Welfare State

Readings:

Berman, Sheri. 2006. *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Intro, Chaps. 2, 5-7.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.

Levitsky, Sandra R. 2014. *Caring For Our Own: Why There Is No Political Demand For New American Social Welfare Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Introduction, Chap. 3.

Week VII: Women and Democracy

Readings:

Teele, Dawn Langan. 2018. *Forging the Franchise: The Political Origins of the Women's Vote*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes.'" *Journal of Politics* 61(3): 628-57.

Week VIII: Democracy and Extremism in Europe

Readings:

Mudde, Cas. 2017. *On Extremism and Democracy in Europe*. New York: Routledge.

Further readings may be announced later.