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Government 157
Wesleyan University
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Office Hours:
Tues., 2:00-4:00 P.M.
or by appointment

Class Meetings:
MW 11:00 - 12:20
PAC 422

Democracy and Dictatorship: Politics in the Contemporary World

World events in the past few years 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 provides an opportunity to rethink these questions in light of the experiences of the United States, Sweden, Russia and the former Soviet Union, and Tanzania.

The course is divided into five parts. The first part 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: that many U.S. citizens are poorly informed about politics, lukewarm in their support of freedom of speech and the press, disinclined to exercise their right 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, and an extensive welfare state. The United States has a presidential system, plurality elections, a bicameral legislature, only two significant political parties, and a limited welfare state. Could, and if so should, democracy in the United States look more like democracy in Sweden?

The Soviet Union's transition from communism and authoritarian rule was one of the twentieth century's most important political events. In the fourth part of the course we examine Marxism and Leninism, the ideologies that shaped the Soviet political system; review the historical legacies that shape and constrain the decisions of the current Russian leadership; evaluate the prospects for democratization in light of those legacies; and assess the causes and consequences of the disintegration of the USSR as a nation.

In the fifth part of the course we examine Tanzania, a political system that was constitutionally limited to a single party from 1965 to 1992, but differed from most other one-party states by its competitive elections, as well as by the frequency with which its legislators were voted out of 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 final grade will be based on two 5-6 page papers, two in-class closed-book exams, and class participation (see the file card requirement below).

Summary of Due Dates and Final Grade Weightings

First Paper	Oct. 7 (Fri.)	21%
First Exam	Oct. 31 (Mon.)	21%
Second Paper	Nov. 18 (Fri.)	21%
Second Exam	Dec. 12 (Mon.)	21%
Class Participation		16%

All students must take the examinations, and hand in the research design and term paper, at the date and time indicated on this syllabus. Please do not request a personal exemption from this policy except in the event of a grave medical or family emergency.

Ground Rules

- (1) A single instance of cheating or plagiarism will provide sufficient grounds for a grade of "F" in the entire course, not just on the assignment on which the cheating or plagiarism took place.
- (2) Please do not bring cellular phones, laptop computers, or other potentially disruptive or distracting electronic devices into the classroom.

Papers

- (1) Each paper will be on an assigned topic handed out a week or more in advance of the due date. Papers 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.

Many Americans who state that they support free speech in the abstract are more reluctant to support it in specific situations (McClosky and Brill 1983: 48-58).

- (5) Minimize your use of quotations; use your own words to express what an author is saying.
- (6) Papers must be typewritten or word processed. Make sure your typescript is dark. Keep a copy of your paper before handing it in.
- (7) The first paper is due on Friday, October 7; the second is due on Friday, November 18. Each should be submitted to the administrative assistant in the Government Department office by 3:00 PM on the due date. Do not put your paper in the cubbyholes outside the department office, under the instructor's door, etc.

Examinations

The first examination -- closed-book, closed-note -- will be given during the class period on Monday, October 31. It will cover the five classes from October 10 to October 26, which focus on contrasts between the political systems of Sweden and the United States. The second examination -- again closed-book, closed-note -- will be given during the class period on Monday, December 12. It will cover the material on Tanzania.

Class Participation

Class participation means coming to all the classes, on time, and turning in the daily file card (see below). Doing all of the reading carefully and on time is crucial to your comprehension of the lectures and to the quality of class discussion. Class participation, which will be measured primarily (although not exclusively) by a review of your performance on the file cards, normally counts for 16 percent of the final grade. If you miss many more classes than most of your classmates, however, or if you engage in behavior that disrupts the class, "class participation" may count for much more than 16 percent of the final grade. Please bear this policy in mind when deciding whether to take this course.

File-Card Requirement

1. At the beginning of each class (except on days when the research design is due or exams are given) please hand me, in person, a 3 x 5 white-colored file card with your name and the date on one side. On the other side of the file card, please include from the day's readings (a) one quotation, noting the author and page number, that you think raises a particularly interesting issue; and (b) one comment on your quotation.
2. No file cards will be accepted after 11:05 AM for any reason whatsoever. You may not turn in a file card if you do not attend class. No one may turn in a file card for anyone else. Your quotation and comment should both fit on one side of a single file card. Your writing must be easily legible.
3. File cards will not be returned to you, but each will be recorded as satisfactory, good, or excellent according to how carefully and thoughtfully it seems to have been done. At the end of the semester I shall assign each student a class participation grade based heavily, although not entirely, on the file card marks. If you want to know at any time how you are doing on this measure of class participation, feel free to contact me.

Obtaining Course Readings

One book is required for the course: Robert Dahl, On Democracy (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998). It is available at Broad Street Books. Print copies are on reserve at Olin.

The rest of the readings for the course are on reserve in paper and electronic formats. Two paper copies of each reading are available at the reserve desk in Olin. Electronic copies can be accessed by proceeding through the seven steps listed below.

1. Go to the electronic reserves homepage, <http://eres.olin.wesleyan.edu/eres/>
2. Click on "Electronic Reserves & Reserves Pages."
3. Type in govt157 (no spaces, case-insensitive).
4. Click on the course identification number (highlighted in blue).
5. Enter the password (I'll reveal it verbally in class) and click "accept."
6. The readings are in folders: "Democracy/USA" "Sweden," "Russia," or "Tanzania."
7. Open up the folder that contains the reading you're looking for, and click on it. Some are .pdf; others are links to articles in journals in Wesleyan's online collection.

Summary of Course Schedule

We Sep 7	Introduction to the Course
Mo Sep 12	The Nature and Quality of Democracy
We Sep 14	The Justification and Consequences of Democracy
Mo Sep 19	The Causes and Conditions of Democracy
We Sep 21	Political Knowledge in the United States
Mo Sep 26	Political Tolerance in the United States
We Sep 28	Voter Enfranchisement: The United States in Comparative Perspective
Mo Oct 3	Voter Turnout: The United States in Comparative Perspective
We Oct 5	The Presidential Election of 2004 First Paper Due Friday, Oct 7
Mo Oct 10	Sweden's Political Institutions and Party System
We Oct 12	The Welfare State in Sweden and the United States
We Oct 19	Social Democracy in Sweden and the United States
Mo Oct 24	Social Capital in Sweden and the United States
We Oct 26	Gender Quotas for National Legislatures
Mo Oct 31	First Examination
We Nov 2	Marxism
Mo Nov 7	Marxism and Leninism
We Nov 9	Lenin, Russia, and Revolution
Mo Nov 14	Stalinism and the Collapse of Communism
We Nov 16	Russia Since Communism Second Paper Due Friday, Nov 18
Mo Nov 21	Political Authority in Pre-Colonial Tanganyika
Mo Nov 28	Colonial Tanganyika and Zanzibar
We Nov 30	Democracy and the One-Party State in Tanzania
Mo Dec 5	Human Rights and the Transition to Multiple Parties in Tanzania
We Dec 7	Contemporary Tanzanian Politics
Mo Dec 12	Second Examination

Topics And Readings

We Sep 7 Introduction to the Course

1. Democracy in Theory

Mo Sep 12 The Nature of Democracy

Robert Dahl, On Democracy, 1-43, 83-99.

We Sep 14 The Justification of Democracy

Robert Dahl, On Democracy, 44-80.

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

Mo Sep 19 The Quality and Conditions of Democracy

Carl Cohen, Democracy. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1971, 3-27.

Robert Dahl, On Democracy, 145-188.

2. Democracy in the United States

We Sep 21 Political Knowledge in the United States

Ilya Somin, "When Ignorance Isn't Bliss: How Political Ignorance Threatens Democracy." Policy Analysis No. 525 (September 22, 2004), 1-27.

Mo Sep 26 Political Tolerance in the United States

Herbert McClosky and Alida Brill, "The First Amendment: Freedom of Speech and the Press." From The Dimensions of Tolerance: What Americans Believe About Civil Liberties. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1983, 32-92.

We Sep 28 Voter Enfranchisement: The United States in Comparative Perspective

Blais, André, Louis Massicotte, and Antoine Yoshinaka, "Deciding Who Has the Right to Vote: A Comparative Analysis of Election Laws." Electoral Studies 20 No. 1 (March 2001), 41-62.

Pastor, Robert, Tova Andrea Wang, and Miles Rapoport. Articles in "Democracy at Risk." American Prospect Online, Special Report, January 2005. At <http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=Democracy+at+Risk> (These are the first three articles in the special issue; about 13 pp. total).

Mo Oct 3 Voter Turnout: The United States in Comparative Perspective

David Glass, Peverill Squire, and Raymond Wolfinger, "Voter Turnout: An International Comparison." Public Opinion December/January 1984, 49-55.

Arend Lijphart, "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma." American Political Science Review 91 No. 1 (March 1997), 1-14.

We Oct 5 Improving Democracy in the United States

Derek Bok, "Engaging Citizens of Modest Means." Chapter 13 in Bok, The Trouble with Government (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001), 320-345.

Richard N. Rosenfeld, "What Democracy? The Case for Abolishing the United States Senate." Harper's Magazine, May 2004, 35-44.

Fri Oct 7 **Paper on US Democracy Due**

3. Democracy in Sweden

Mo Oct 10 Sweden's Political Institutions and Party System

Jonas Pontusson, "Sweden." In Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, eds., European Politics in Transition, 2nd ed. (Lexington MA: D.C. Heath, 1992), 427-440, 461-509.

Robert Dahl, On Democracy, 119-141

We Oct 12 The Welfare State in Sweden and the United States

Henry Milner, Sweden: Social Democracy in Practice. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), 1-21, 186-212.

Derek Bok, "Why Working People and the Poor Do Badly." Chapter 7 in Bok, The Trouble with Government (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001), pp. 169-195.

We Oct 19 Social Democracy in Sweden and the United States?

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

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

- Mo Oct 24 Social Capital in Sweden and the United States
- Robert Putnam, "Civic Disengagement in Contemporary America." Government and Opposition 36 No. 2 (Spring 2001), 135-156.
- Bo Rothstein, "Social Capital in the Social Democratic Welfare State." Politics and Society 29 No. 2 (June 2001), 207-241.
- We Oct 26 Gender Quotas for National Legislatures
- Drude Dahlerup and Lenita Freidenvall, "Quotas as a 'Fast Track' to Equal Representation for Women: Why Scandinavia Is No Longer the Model." International Feminist Journal of Politics 7 No. 1 (March 2005), 26-48.
- Amy Caiazza, "Does Women's Representation in Elected Office Lead to Women-Friendly Policy?" Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) Publication No. 1910 (May 2002). <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/I1910.pdf>
- Mo Oct 31 **First Examination**

4. Democratization in the Former Soviet Union?

- We Nov 2 Marxism
- Karl Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844"; "The Communist Manifesto." Both in David McLellan, ed., Karl Marx: Selected Writings (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977), 75-96, 221-246. First published in 1844 and 1848 respectively.
- Mo Nov 7 Marxism and Leninism
- V. I. Lenin, "What Is to Be Done?" In V. I. Lenin, Selected Works in Three Volumes. Vol. 1, 141-153 and 207-232 only. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1970. First published in 1902.
- V. I. Lenin, "The State and Revolution." In V. I. Lenin, Selected Works in Three Volumes. Vol. 2, 289-318 and 347-362 only. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1970. First published in 1917.
- We Nov 9 Lenin, Russia, and Revolution
- William Henry Chamberlin, The Russian Revolution, 1917-1921, V. 1 (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1965), 1-17. First published in 1935.
- Joan DeBardeleben, "The Emergence of the Soviet State." In Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, eds., European Politics in Transition, 2nd ed. (Lexington MA: D.C. Heath, 1992), 513-543.

- Mo Nov 14 Stalinism and the Collapse of Communism
 "Z" [Martin Malia], "To the Stalin Mausoleum." Dædalus 119 No. 1 (Winter 1990), 295-340.
- We Nov 16 Russia Since Communism
 Pål Kolstø, "Nation-Building in the Former USSR." Journal of Democracy 7 No. 1 (January 1996), 118-132.
 Peter Rutland, "Collapse and Recovery: Russian Politics from Gorbachev to Putin." Twenty-First Century (Chinese University, Hong Kong), October 2004. English-language ms. version
- Fri Nov 18 **Paper on Soviet Authoritarianism Due**

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

- Mo Nov 21 Political Authority in Pre-Colonial Tanganyika
 John Iliffe, A Modern History of Tanganyika (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979), 6-25.
 J. Gus Liebenow, Colonial Rule and Political Development in Tanzania: The Case of the Makonde (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1971), 40-71.
- Mo Nov 28 Colonial Tanganyika and Zanzibar
 Rodger Yeager, Tanzania: An African Experiment. 2nd Edition. (Boulder: Westview Press, 1989), 5-37.
 William E. Smith, "Transition." New Yorker 3 March 1986, 72-83.
- We Nov 30 Democracy and the One-Party State in Tanzania
 Julius Nyerere, Freedom and Unity (London: Oxford University Press, 1966), 103-06, 195-203.
 Dean McHenry, "Democracy and Socialism." Chapter 4 in McHenry, Limited Choices: The Political Struggle for Socialism in Tanzania. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1994, pp. 47-74.

Mo Dec 5

Human Rights and the Transition to Multiple Parties in Tanzania

Charles Humana, World Human Rights Guide (London: Hutchinson, 1992), 3-10, 350-53, 314-318.

Gøran Hyden, "Top-Down Democratization in Tanzania." Journal of Democracy 10 No. 4 (October 1999), 142-155.

We Dec 7

Contemporary Tanzanian Politics

Tim Kelsall, "Governance, Democracy, and Recent Political Struggles in Mainland Tanzania." Commonwealth and Comparative Politics 41 No. 2 (July 2003), 55-82.

Mo Dec 12

Second Examination