

STATES, REGIMES AND INSTITUTIONS

MASTER IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (Carlos III-Juan March Institute of Social Sciences, IC3JM)

Course 2023/24

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1. Presentation

The object of this course is the analysis of democratization. The basic question is under what conditions countries do democratize, or why some countries are democratic and others autocratic. The literature has explored many potential answers, having to do with modernization, values, inequality, and international pressure. Contributions from several fields (Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Political Sociology, and History) are examined.

The sequence of the course is the following: after an introductory session on causality and democracy, we move into modernization theory (three sessions), theories based on inequality, and theories based on international factors. This, pretty much, covers the range of standard academic explanations based on quantitative analysis. Then, we take a more historical perspective, trying to understand the long-term evolution of democracy and whether it is a Western original creation. In the final part of the course, we focus on the current period, analyzing the “fatigue” of democracy: autocratization and populism.

The course is mainly substantive, about theories and empirical analyses on democratization, but there is also a heavy emphasis on methodological and statistical issues.

Many of the readings rely heavily on statistical analysis. Students with a background in statistics / econometrics will find this stuff easy, but others may feel a bit lost at the beginning. Rather than focusing on technical details, the point is that everyone gets familiar with the logic of quantitative testing and the issues associated with the operationalization of complex concepts (economic development, class interest, value change, political regime, etc.).

By digging deep into the theories of democratization, the student is exposed to some of the core debates in Comparative Politics but also, more generally, in the Social Sciences.

2. Class preparation and dynamics

The classes are based on discussion of the readings (all the readings are available in Aula Global). Students are expected to read all the required materials before the session. Students may be asked randomly during the discussions about the main points of the texts. Please read carefully everything, preferably taking notes about the internal consistency of the main explanations (consistency between theory and empirics), the limitations of the empirical analysis, etc. The most important aspect is that the student is able to relate and compare readings from the different sessions.

Students may be asked to prepare presentations of the readings. As everyone has already read the texts, the presentation should be brief and based exclusively on a critical analysis: weak points, shortcomings, unaddressed issues, bad methodology, flawed empirical analysis, etc. The presentation is supposed to generate a discussion in which everyone else can participate.

It is essential that every student participates in class discussions.

Some of the readings are quite technical, assuming an intermediate to advanced level of statistics. Even if you do not understand many of the technical details, try to understand the statistical tables and become familiar with the vocabulary and the presentation style.

3. Evaluation and office hours

Students have to prepare a short, empirical paper that will be delivered at the end of the exam period. The paper must have between 3,000 and 6,000 words (without including tables, references, and notes). The paper has to present a clear research question, formulate a hypothesis and present an empirical analysis. The paper does not necessarily have to be quantitative (though it is strongly recommended); if you opt for a qualitative paper, it has to be based on a comparative design, case studies are not allowed. Do not rush with the formulation of the research question for the paper, it is better if you first become familiar with the literature. The last session will be devoted to paper proposals.

The paper has to be crafted as a journal article in terms of style, presentation and references.

The paper is 80 per cent of the final grade.

10 per cent corresponds to class presentations and class participation.

10 per cent corresponds to assignments. Assignments will be announced during the course.

Please send me an e-mail if you want to arrange a meeting.

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 12th). Methodological issues behind comparisons

Comparisons and unit homogeneity. The problem of causality. Problems in observational studies: selection, omitted variables, reverse causality. Two causal approaches: the physical and the historical.

Lecture

Week 2 (Sept. 19th). State-building and nation-building

Scott Abramson. 2017. "The Economic Origins of the Territorial State." *International Organization*, 71(1): 97-130.

Liah Greenfield. 2019. *Nationalism. A Short History*. Brookings Institution. Read Introduction, Ch. 4 and Conclusions.

Andreas Wimmer. 2018. *Nation Building. Why Some Countries Come Together While Others Fall Apart* (Princeton University Press): Intro, Ch. 1, Ch. 5.

Week 3 (Sept. 26th). Regimes. Concept and measurement

Robert Dahl. 1971. *Polyarchy. Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press: Chapter 1.

José Antonio Cheibub, Jennifer Gandhi, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited." *Public Choice*, 143(1-2): 67-101. [Skip section 4]

Michael Coppedge et al. 2016. "Measuring high level democratic principles using the V-Dem data." *International Political Science Review*, 37(5): 580-593.

Week 4 (Oct. 3rd). The search for determinants: Modernization theory

Seymour Lipset. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review*, 53(1): 69-105. [Read only 69-85].

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and facts." *World Politics* 49(2): 155-183.

Carles Boix and Susan Stokes. 2003. "Endogenous democratization." *World Politics* 55.4: 517-549.

Carl Henrik Knutsen & Sirianne Dahlum. 2022. "Economic Determinants." In M. Coppedge, A. B. Edgell, C. H. Knutsen and S. I. Lindberg (eds), *Why Democracies Develop and Decline* (Cambridge University Press), 119-160. [Read only 119-146]

Week 5 (Oct. 10th). The search for determinants: Inequality

Ben Ansell and David Samuels. 2014. *Inequality and Democratization. An Elite-Competition Approach*. Cambridge University Press: Chapters 1-3, Chapter 5.

Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman. 2012. "Inequality and Regime Change: Democratic Transitions and the Stability of Democratic Rule." *American Political Science Review*, 106 (3): 495-516.

Carl Henrik Knutsen & Sirianne Dahlum. 2022. "Economic Determinants." In M. Coppedge, A. B. Edgell, C. H. Knutsen and S. I. Lindberg (eds), *Why Democracies Develop and Decline* (Cambridge University Press), 119-160. [Read only 146-153]

Week 6 (Oct. 17th). The search for determinants: Values

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy. The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge University Press: pp. 15-31, 48-61, 149-209.

Robert Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 5-6.

Week 7 (Oct. 24st). Towards a historical explanation of democracy

Carl H. Knutsen and Svend-Erik Skaaning. 2022. "The Ups and Downs of Democracy, 1789-2018." In M. Coppedge, A. B. Edgell, C. H. Knutsen and S. I. Lindberg (eds), *Why Democracies Develop and Decline* (Cambridge University Press), 29-54.

Seva Gunitsky. 2014. "From Shocks to Waves: Hegemonic Transitions and Democratization in the Twentieth Century." *International Organization*, 68(3): 561-597.

Kevin Narizny. 2012. "Anglo-American Primacy and the Global Spread of Democracy: An International Genealogy." *World Politics*, 64(2): 341-373.

Week 8. (Oct. 31st). The Western origins of democracy

Joseph Henrich. 2020. *The Weirdest People in the World. How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous*. London: Allen Lane. Pages 3-58, Ch. 12.

James Kloppenberg. 2016. *Toward Democracy. The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 2-3.

Steve Bruce. 2004. "Did Protestantism Create Democracy?" *Democratization*, 11(4): 3-20.

Week 9 (Nov. 7th). Democracy in non-Western countries. Colonialism, missionaries.

Jacob G. Hariri. 2012. "The Autocratic Legacy of Early Statehood." *American Political Science Review*, 106(3): 471-494.

Jack Paine. 2019. "Democratic Contradictions in European Settler Colonies." *World Politics*, 71(3): 542-585.

Robert Woodberry. 2012. "The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy." *American Political Science Review*, 106(2): 244-274.

Week 10. (Nov. 14th). Democracy and individualism

Sánchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. 2023. "Democracy and Individualism. A Historical Approach". Manuscript in progress.

Week 11 (Nov. 21th). The fatigue of democracy: Populism, illiberal democracy

Nadia Urbinati. 2019. "Political Theory of Populism". *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22: 111-127.

Rogers Brubaker. 2017. "Why Populism?" *Theory and Society*, 46(5): 357-385.

Jonathan Hopkin and Mark Blyth. 2019. "The Global Economics of European Populism: Growth Regimes and Party System Change in Europe." *Government and Opposition*, 54(2): 193-225.

Week 12 (Nov. 28th). Discussion of paper proposals