**POLITICAL CHANGE**

**POLS 6740**

Spring 2014

Professor Sam Handlin (samhandlin@gmail.com)

Time: TH 2:00-5:00 PM

Classroom: OSH 208

Office: OSH 321

Office Hours: T, 3:00-5:00 (or by appointment)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course examines the topic of political change with a focus on two major themes, states and regimes. The first part of the course examines the development of the modern state and the politics of state weakness. We start by examining differences in state formation between Europe and other world regions such as Latin America and Africa. We then explore the nature and implications of weak states in the developing world, taking up topics such as the measurement of state strength and capacity, corruption and prospects for its reduction, the relationship between state weakness and civil war, and the dynamics of electoral politics in contexts of state weakness. The second part of the course examines political regimes, understood as the rules and institutions regulating access to power within the state. We explore major topics in the study of regime change and democratization, including theories centered on socioeconomic modernization, on the organization and institutions of authoritarian regimes, on the nature and dynamics of hybrid regimes, and on international variables such as the influence of Western powers or, more recently, autocratic powers such as China and Russia.

Throughout the course, seminar discussions will engage not just the substantive and theoretical questions raised by course readings, but also the methodological choices of various authors and the implications of those choices. Students will read a variety of studies falling under the broad “qualitative” rubric, including those reliant on comparative historical analysis and single case studies. Students will also read a significant amount of quantitative work, including studies that draw on both observational and experimental research designs.

**TEACHING METHODS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The course will be run as a graduate seminar, with discussions led jointly by the professor and several different students each week. Classes will be geared toward understanding and discussing the major themes and questions of the weekly readings, as well as analyzing the methods utilized by scholars to develop and test their theories. In addition to leading several different discussions over the course of the semester and preparing “bullet points” for the rest of the class in advance of those discussions, students will be expected to write a final research paper related to themes from the course.

**COURSE GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Participation (20%)**

**Students are expected to attend all classes and to have done the readings in advance of every class**. Attendance is particularly important because the class meets only once a week. If you must miss a class, you should notify me in advance. Attendance alone, however, is not enough to satisfy the course requirements. Students are expected to arrive prepared to discuss the readings and to participate in seminar discussions (to the levels of their own comfort).

**Discussion Leadership (30%)**

Starting in the third week of class, groups of students will be responsible for leading the discussion with me each week. This will first entail preparing written “bullet points” summarizing key issues for 1-2 of our weekly readings (chosen in consultation with me) and disseminating those bullet points to the rest of the class a day in advance. Students will then be responsible for leading the part of the discussion that relates specifically to those 1-2 readings.

**Research Paper (50%)**

The major written assignment for the course will be a research paper of roughly 20 pages (double-spaced) in length. These papers should involve the deployment of empirical information garnered from sources outside the syllabus in order to probe or test an original hypothesis related to major course themes. Unless discussed with me, they should not take the form of “literature reviews” (e.g., simple summaries or discussions of extant research on a topic). Instead, the goal is to produce a research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference.

The week after Spring Break, I will schedule meetings with students to discuss their plans for the research paper. Prior to this meeting, students will be expected to email me a 3-4 page outline summarizing their plans for the paper and any research already conducted.

**COURSE READINGS**

There are three required books for the course:

Herbst, Jeffery. 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Ghandi, Jennifer. *Political Institutions Under Dictatorship*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Bunce, Valerie and Sharon Wolchik. 2011. *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Post-Communist Countries*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

We will utilize these books heavily during the first half of the course. You should plan on acquiring your own copies. All are easily available through amazon or other online retailers.

All other readings for the course will be made available in electronic form through Canvass in the “files” section.

**MISCELLANEA**

**Academic Misconduct**

All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.com and other measures. All quotations in written assignments must include a clear citation to the work from which they are taken. Otherwise they will be treated as plagiarism. **Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the university.**

**Late Assignments**

Late written assignments will lose one third of a grade (ie, from A to A-) for every day they are late. Extensions are only available on rare circumstances, in the case of documented emergencies and medical conditions, and **must be discussed with me prior to the deadline for that assignment.**

**Cell Phones in Class**

Cell phones must be turned off in class and kept out of sight. I don’t want to ever see the phone in your hand or on your desk.

**Wellness**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - [www.wellness.utah.edu](https://www.umail.utah.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=Ymwy-SOKuE6GY48_wj6EqSLsK2zAUc8IDJsotYSsy8asD2rKSYVrD9MEPeQ0puY8N0Q3xhhKSK4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wellness.utah.edu" \t "_blank); 801-581-7776.

**ADA Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**January 9 – Introduction**

Introductory discussion and housekeeping

**January 16 – The State - State Formation in Europe**

Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation.”

Tilly, Charles. 1985. War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. *Bringing the State Back In*. Peter Evans, Dietrich Reuschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. Cambridge, UK; Cambridge University Press.

Ertman, Thomas. 1997. *Birth of the Leviathan*. Chapters 1, 3, 5.

**January 23 – The State - State Formation Outside Europe in Later Periods**

Centeno, Miguel. *Blood and Debt*. Chapters 1, 3

Kurtz, Marcus. 2009. The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the “Resource Curse” in Third World State Building. *Politics & Society*, 37:4. 479-520

Herbst, Jeffery. *States and Power in Africa*. Chapters 1, 4

**January 30 – Dilemmas of Weak States – Governance and the Quality of Democracy**

O’Donnell, Guillermo. 1993. On the State, Democratization, and Some Conceptual Problems. *World Development*, 21:8. 1355-1369.

Mazzuca, Sebastian. 2010. Access to Power Versus Exercise of Power: Reconceptualizing the Quality of Democracy in Latin America. *Studies in Comparative International Development*. 45:3. 334-357.

Soiffer, Hillel and Matthias vom Hau. 2008. Unpacking the Strength of the State: The Utility of State Infrastructural Power. *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 43:3/4. 219-230.

Kaufmann, Daniel, Aart Kraay, and Massimo Mastruzzi. 2009. Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators, 1996-2008. The World Bank. (SKIM)

Kurtz, Marcus and Andrew Schrank. 2007. “Growth and Governance: Models, Measures, and Mechanisms.” *The Journal of Politics*, 69:2, 538-554.

**February 6 – Dilemmas of Weak States – Corruption**

Seligson, Mitchell. 2006. “The Measurement and Impact of Corruption Victimization: Evidence from Latin America.” *World Development*, 34:2.

Olken, Benjamin. 2007. Monitoring Corruption: Evidence for a Field Experiment in Indonesia. *Journal of Political Economy*. 115:2. 200-249.

Treisman, Daniel. 2000. The Causes of Corruption: A Cross-National Study. Journal of Public Economics, 76:3. 399-457.

Banerjee, Abhijit, Donald Green, Jeffery McManus, and Rohini Pande. 2012. Are Poor Voters Indifferent to Whether Elected Leaders are Criminal or Corrupt? A Vignette Experiment in Rural India. Working Paper.

**February 13 – Dilemmas of Weak States – Electoral Competition and Representation**

Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. “Linkages Between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities.” *Comparative Political Studies*, 33:6, 845–79.

Mishler, William and Richard Rose. 2001. “What Are the Origins of Political Trust?: Testing Institutional and Cultural Theories in Post-Communist Societies.” *Comparative Political Studies*, 34, 30-62.

Pop-Eleches, Grigore. 2010. “Throwing Out the Bums: Protest Voting and Unorthodox Parties After Communism.” *World Politics*, 62:2, 221-260

Handlin, Samuel. 2012. “The Politics of Polarization: Governance and the Consolidation of Latin America’s Two Lefts.” Working Paper.

**February 20 – Dilemmas of Weak States – Violence and Civil War**

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War*.* *American Political Science Review*.

Andreas Wimmer, Lars-Erik Cedarman, and Brian Min. 2009. Ethnic Politics and Armed Conflict: A Configurational Analysis of a New Global Data Set. *American Sociological Review*. 74:2. 316-337.

Kalyvas, Stathis and Laia Balcells. 2010. International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict. *American Political Science Review*, 104:3. 415-429.

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. Using Case Studies to Expand Economic Models of Civil War. *Perspectives on Politics*, 2:2. 259-279.

Roessler, Philip. 2011. The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa. *World Politics*, 63:2. 300-346.

**February 27 - Political Regimes** – **Conceptualizing and Measuring Regimes**

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

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. “Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research.” *World Politics*, 49:3, 430-451.

Coppedge, Michael and John Gerring. 2011. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach. *Perspectives on Politics*, 9:2. 247-267.

Munck, Gerardo and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies*, 35:1, 5-34.

O’Donnell, Guillermo. 1994. Delegative Democracy. *Journal of Democracy*, 5:1. 55-69.

**March 6 - Political Regimes – Modernization Theory and its Critics**

Lipset, Seymour Martin Lipset 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic

Development and Political Legitimacy.” *American Political Science Review* 53, 69-

105.

Przeworski , Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts,” *World*

*Politics* 49, 155-183.

O’Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions About Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1-56.

Boix, Carles. 2011. Democracy, Development, and the International System. *American Political Science Review*. 105:4. 809-828. (\*)

Miller, Michael. 2012. Economic development, Violent Leader Removal, and Democratization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 56:4. 1002-1020. (\*)

**March 13 – No Class, Spring Break**

**March 20 – Political Regimes – Unpacking Autocracies and their Institutions**

Geddes, Barbara. 1999. What Do We Know About Democratization After 20 Years? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2: 115-144.

Ghandi, Jennifer. *Political Institutions Under Dictatorship*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 1-72

Blaydes, Lisa. 2010. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 48-63, 148-170.

**March 27 - Political Regimes – Hybrid Regimes**

Schedler, Andreas. 2002. The Menu of Manipulation. *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2.

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2. 51-65.

Diamond, Larry. 2002. Thinking About Hybrid Regimes. *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2.

Bunce, Valerie and Sharon Wolchik. 2011. *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Post-Communist Countries*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 3-34. 114-147, other selections TBD.

**April 3 – Class Cancelled**

**April 10 – International Forces in the Third Wave: Western Powers**

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 1-83, other selections TBD.

Kopstein, Jeffrey and David Reilly. 2000. Geographic Diffusion and the Transformation of the Post-Communist World. *World Politics*, 53:1.

Hyde, Susan. 2007. The Observer Effect in International Politics. *World Politics*, 60:1.

**April 17 – Political Regimes – The Democratic Recession and Geopolitical Competition**

Cameron, David and Mitchell Orenstein. 2011. Post-Soviet Authoritarianism? The Influence of Russia in its ‘Near Abroad.’ *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 28:1.

Finkel, Evgeny and Yitzhak Brudny. 2012. Russia and the Colour Revolutions. *Democratization*. 19:1, 15-36.

Corrales, Javier. 2009. Using Social Power to Balance Soft Power. *The Washington Quarterly*. 32:4, 97-114.

Ambrosio, Thomas. 2010. Constructing a Framework of Authoritarian Diffusion: Concepts, Dynamics, and Future Research. *International Studies Perspectives*, 11:4, 375-392.

Woods, Ngaire. 2008. Whose Aid? Whose Influence? China, Emerging Donors and the Silent Revolution in Development Assistance. *International Affairs*, 84:6, 1205-1221.

***APRIL 24TH – RESEARCH PAPER DUE***