

The Quest for Democracy in An Age of Disorder
Sociology 465/547
Spring 2005
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Description

This class will explore the nature and dimensions of democracy. Much of its attention will focus on the varying definitions of democracy, how those definitions have changed over time, and the meaning, in particular, of democracy in the modern age. This search for the meaning and nature of democracy takes place against the backdrop of a world today in turmoil. The collapse of the old political alignments, set in motion basically by the end of the Cold War era, has produced new fragments, divisions and tensions in the world. Of utmost importance to us, as citizens and political beings, is how to create and sustain democracies in today's world. The course will begin with a discussion of the old era, the dissolution of the Soviet Empire, and some of the issues and events facing the world today.

Course Topic Outline

I. The Age of Disorder

A. *The World Pre-1990*

The Soviet Empire
China
The West

B. *Dissolutions: 1990 and Beyond*

Collapse of the Soviet Union
Fall of Eastern Europe

C. *A Brave New World*

II. The Quest for Democracy

A. *The Nature of Democracy: Classical Variants*

The Classical Version: Athenian Democracy
Rousseau's Social Contract
Liberal Democracy
Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America

II. The Quest for Democracy (cont.)

B. *Modern Versions of Democracy*

A Minimalist Definition: Schumpeter
Pluralism and Neo-Pluralism

C. *Critiques of Modern Versions*

Critiques of Dahl and Schumpeter

III. Democracy and Society

A. *Democracy and Capitalism*

Schumpeter; Marx

B. *The Historical Pre-Conditions of Modern Democracies*

Lipset; Barrington Moore, Jr.

C. *Alternative Routes to Economic Growth in the Contemporary Age*

China, and the Four Little Dragons

IV. Constructing Democracies Today

A. *The Transitions to Democracy*

The Global Shift to Democracy and Its Problems

B. *The Civil Order in Old and New Democracies*

Putnam, Making Democracy Work and Bowling Alone

C. *Social Movements and Insurgency Across the World*

Social Movements
Transnational Movements

D. *Democracy Re-Invented: New Variants and Insights*

Deliberative Democracy
Strong Democracy
Participation and Democracy

Class Schedule and Topics

Week One	(1)Introduction: Democracy in An Age of Disorder (2)The World Prior to 1990 Read: David Held, Introduction and Chapter 8
Week Two	Dissolutions: 1990 and Beyond Read: David Remnick, <u>Lenin's Tomb</u> , Skim I, II; Rd IV, V _____, <u>Resurrection</u> , Chpts 1, 2, Epilogue
Weeks Three And Four	Brave New World Read:Huntington, <u>The Clash of Civilizations</u> , 3-5, 9-11 Friedman, <u>The Lexus and the Olive Tree</u> , Part I Fukuyama, <u>The End of History</u> , Intro, Part V Stiglitz, <u>Globalization and Its Discontents</u> , 1, 3-5
Weeks Five And Six	The Nature of Democracy: Classical Variants Read: Held, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 Tocqueville, skim Orum, Chapter 3 Dahl et al., Part 1: Rousseau; Part 3, Madison, Hartz: Part 6, Mill
Week Seven	Modern Versions of Democracy Read: Held, Chapters 5 and 6 Orum, Chapter 3 Dahl et al., Part 1: Schumpeter, Przeworski; Part 7: Truman, Olson
Week Eight	Critiques of Modern Versions Read: Held, Chapters 5 and 6 Dahl, et al., Part 8: Hochschild, Smith
Week Nine	Democracy and Capitalism Read: Held, Chapter 4 Orum, Chapter 2

Class Schedule and Topics (cont.)

Week Ten	Historical Pre-Conditions of Modern Democracies	Read: Dahl et al., Part 2: Lipset, Skocpol, Huber et al. Orum, Chapter 10
Week Eleven	Alternative Routes to Economic Growth in the Contemporary World	Read: Dahl et al., de Schweinitz, Olson, Sen, Przeworski et al., Vogel, <u>The Four Little Dragons</u> , skim
Week Twelve	The Transition to Democracy	Read: Dahl et al., Part 1, Diamond; Part 2: Huntington Diamond and Plattner, editors, 1, 3, 8, 9, 12 And 13 Zakaria, <u>Illiberal Democracy</u> , Intro, 3-5
Week Thirteen	The Civil Order in Old and New Democracies	Read: Orum, Chapters 8 and 9 (skim) Putnam, <u>Making Democracy Work</u> (skim) _____, <u>Bowling Alone</u> (article)
Week Fourteen	Social Movements and Insurgency Across the World	Read: Tarrow, <u>Power of Movement</u> (skim) Held, Chapter 10
Week Fifteen	Democracy Re-Invented: New Variants and Insights	Read: Dahl et al., Part 1: Fishkin, Pateman Barber, <u>Strong Democracy</u> Cohen, “Deliberative Democracy” (article) Held, Chapter 9

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course will differ for undergraduate and graduate students.

Undergraduate

There will be 3 requirements:

A mid-term essay examination (35%)

A final essay examination (35%)

One class presentation (30%) – will be done as a group project

Optional: Students may choose, if they so wish, to write a term paper, of roughly 15 pages in length, including references, instead of taking the final examination.

Graduate

There will be 2 requirements:

A term paper – this should be about 25 pages in length, not including references. The paper should be of such quality that it might either be submitted to a refereed journal in the social sciences, or delivered at a professional meeting of social scientists. (75%)

One class presentation (25%) – will be done as an individual project

About the class presentations

The class presentations will be given in the second half of each class period. They will primarily consist of an oral and/or visual presentation that deals with the specific reading assignments for the day. Those presentations should summarize the main points and arguments of the readings, and then provide a critical review of these arguments. These are the minimum criteria for a good presentation. In addition, students may wish to delve into related readings or topics, presenting additional evidence and arguments. Finally, the student (s) will be expected to handle class questions and discussion for that particular presentation.

Required Textbooks

David Held, Models of Democracy, 2nd Edition

Robert Dahl, On Democracy

Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro and Jose Antonio Cheibub, The Democracy Sourcebook

Anthony M. Orum, Introduction to Political Sociology, 4th Edition

Robert Putnam et al., Making Democracy Work

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (Signet 1 Volume Edition)

All books are available at Chicago Bookstore

Books on Reserve

Benjamin Barber, Strong Democracy

Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, editors, The Global Resurgence of Democracy

Thomas Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree

Francis Fukuyama, The End of History

Samuel Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations

David Remnick, Lenin's Tomb

_____, Resurrection

George Stiglitz, Globalization and Its Discontents

Sidney Tarrow, Power of Movement

Ezra Vogel, Jr., The Four Little Dragons

Fareed Zakaria, Illiberal Democracy