

MA in Public and Cultural Diplomacy
University of Siena
Academic Year 2016-2017

Course
Global Comparative Politics

Instructor:

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Venue:

Polo Mattioli, Università di Siena

Lecture Hours and Room:

Wednesday, 6 p.m. 8 p.m., Aula 3b

Thursday, 6 p.m. 8 p.m., Aula 3a

Friday, 4 p.m - 6 p.m., Aula 3a

The course starts on November 22, 2016 and ends on January 30, 2017

Content

This course provides a general overview on the state of current political regimes, focusing in particular on the dynamics of democratization, on the state of democracy in different areas of the world, and on the most relevant challenges to contemporary democracy.

A number of issues and questions will be raised. For instance, what are the key elements of today's democracy? What kind of non-democratic regimes or semi-democratic regimes can be considered as relevant features of the current scenario?

The course covers these and many other issues by utilizing the recent literature of comparative politics. That is to say, the findings of the discipline of political science applied to the empirical comparative analysis of contemporary political systems. More in details, the course will be built on the bases of four teaching blocs:

- The nature of comparative politics and the comparative study of democracy
- The shape of democracy in the classic Western hemisphere
- The current democratic experiences in other world areas
- The challenges to current democracies: mediatisation, populism, Globalization and immigration

Although this is not a specialist course in political science, a basic knowledge of the discipline is required. The course will provide skills and information for anyone looking for a robust knowledge of the major issues in contemporary comparative politics and some practical abilities in analyzing the data and the trends concerning the changes within the current political systems today. In times of deep social and political transformations, these skills are important not only for perspective scholars but, also, for an increasing number of public servants and professionals who want to pursue a career in media, national and supranational GOs, international agencies, governmental and multilateral organizations, non-profit organizations and international corporations.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Students are expected to keep up with the required readings and to attend all the classes. Absences will have to be justified. Starting with the second week of the course, at least one student will have to introduce the topic of each lesson, reporting on one or more readings.

Students' evaluation will be based as follows:

- for about 20% on attendance and participation in class.
- For about 40% on the presentations and on the final exercise performed in class, based on the concepts and issues discussed by the core readings used during the courses.
- for about 40% on a term paper of about 6500/7000 words to be delivered by the end of the term. The term paper will have to be prepared on one of the general questions discussed during the course. Either an empirical country-case paper (an analysis of one case study or a limited comparative analysis in a given geo-political area) or a review-based paper will be accepted. The abstract of the proposed papers will be discussed during the last meetings in class.

Non attending students will be admitted to an oral exam. They will have to contact the instructor well in advance to agree on a adequate bibliography. The use of at least one introductory text book (see *background readings*, below) will be compulsory for these students. Moreover, they will have to report on one or two volumes from the list of the *recommended readings for non attending students* in order to pass the exam.

Web site

<http://lucaverzichelli.weebly.com/global-comparative-politics.html>

Readings

Three classes of readings are proposed in this syllabus. A first class concerns the *background readings*. These are pieces from general introductions to comparative politics (handbooks, international encyclopaediae, basic readings, etc.) suggested in particular to the students who are not familiar with the discipline.

The *core readings*, circulated on a weekly basis, will have to be studied and analysed by the students in order to introduce the discussion in class. Each week 3 to 6 core readings (articles, short essays or chapters from handbooks and volumes) will be discussed.

Finally, some further *recommended readings* will be communicated in order to provide the students with a list of complementary pieces of researches devoted to the issues covered by the seminars. These recommended readings will be the main references for the term papers which will have to be prepared by the students after the end of the teaching programme. Those students who cannot attend the course will have to select one or two volumes from a list of recommended readings (see below)

Background readings

- B. Badie, D. Berg_Schlosser & L. Morlino (eds.) *International encyclopedia of political science*, Sage, 2011. chapters: *Political systems* (Keman), *Government* (von Beyme), *Representation* (Mastropaolo), *Leadership* (Verzichelli), *Executive* (Blondel), *Parties* (Seiler), *Party Systems* (Markowski).
- C. Boix e S. Stokes (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford, OUP, 2007.
- D. Caramani (ed.) *Comparative Politics*, Oxford, OUP, 2014 (third edition).
- Almond, Gabriel G. Bingham Powell, Russell Dalton, and Kaare Strom. Eds. 2010. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 9th Edition. New York: Longman/Pearson

In Italian

- S. Vassallo (a cura di), *Sistemi politici comparati*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2016 (Seconda edizione).

Recommended readings for not attending students

- Kriesi, H.P. et al. (2016), *Democracy in the Age of Globalization and Mediatization*, Palgrave.
- Tormey, S. (2015) *The end of representative democracy*, Wiley
- Teorell, J. (2010), *Determinants of Democratization*, Cambridge
- Norris, P. *Making Democratic Governance Work*, Cambridge, 2012
- Brooker, P. (2013), *Non democratic regimes*, Palgrave
- Muller, I.W. (2016), *What is populism?*, University of Pennsylvania Press
- Kriesi, H.P and T. Pappas (eds.) (2015), *European Populism in the Shadow of the Great Recession*, ECPR Press.
- Diamond, L., M. Plattner and Chu Yun-han (2013), *democracy in East Asia*, Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Bates, Robert H., (2009), *When Things Fall Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*, Cambridge University Press

Global Comparative Politics

Outline

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|--------------------|---|
| Class 1, 23/11/16 | Course presentation: topics, goals, methods. |
| Class 2, 24/11/16 | Comparative Politics Today |
| Class 3, 25/11/16 | Democracy in historical perspective |
| Class 4, 30/12/16 | Variety of democracy today. Areas of democracy |
| Class 5, 01/12/16 | The study of current democratic systems |
| Class 6, 02/12/16 | Workshop on empirical data. The state of contemporary political regimes |
| Class 7, 07/12/16 | Crisis of parties, crisis of participation, crisis of representative democracy? |
| 08 and 09/12/16 | No Class |
| Class 8, 14/12/16 | Democracy in the Western hemisphere I. Case study: United Kingdom |
| Class 9, 15/12/16 | Democracy in the Western hemisphere II. Case study: Italy |
| Class 10, 16/12/16 | Democracy in the Western hemisphere. Lijphart revisited |
| Class 11, 21/12/16 | Democracy in Asia. Case study: Japan |
| Class 12, 11/01/17 | Democracy in Latin America. Case study: Brazil |
| Class 13, 12/01/17 | Democracy in Africa. Case study: South Africa |
| Class 14, 13/01/17 | Non democratic regimes today: definitions and approaches |
| Class 15, 18/01/17 | Non democratic regimes today: case studies |
| Class 16, 19/01/17 | Challenges to contemporary democracies: Mediatization |
| Class 17, 20/01/17 | Challenges to contemporary democracies: Populism |
| Class 18, 25/01/17 | Challenges to contemporary democracies: Globalization |
| Class 19, 26/01/17 | Challenges to contemporary democracies: Immigration |
| Class 20, 27/01/17 | Recap and organization of papers |
| 03/02/17 | Exercise in class |

Exercise in class (3 February 2017)

Each students will have to select two topics (one conceptual topic and one topic related contemporary politics around the world) from a short list, and elaborate on them (two short essays of about one page each)

Possible topics to be included in the exercise in class

| <i>Conceptual topics</i> | <i>Contemporary politics around the world</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| What is comparative politics | Variety of political Regimes in Europe |
| Definitions of Democracy | United Kindgdom |
| Measures of democratization | Italy |
| Variety of Democracy | Variety of contemporary political Regimes in Asia |
| Consensual Democracy | Japan |
| Westminster Democracy | Variety of contemporary political Regimes in Latin America |
| Authoritarianism | Brazil |
| Totalitarianism | Variety of contemporary political Regimes in the MENA area |
| Hybrid regimes | Variety of contemporary political Regimes in Sub-saharian Africa |
| Mediatization | Nigeria |
| Populism | South Africa |
| Globalization and Democracy | Variety of contemporary non democratic Regimes |
| The challenge of immigration | |

Detailed syllabus

I Course presentation: topics and methods

Core readings (No students presentations this week)

Caramani, 2014, Ch. 1, OR Powell et al., 2014, Ch. 1, OR Vassallo, 2016, Cap. 1.

II. Comparative Politics Today

Core readings (No students presentations this week)

Caramani, 2014, Ch. 2,3 OR Powell et al., 2014, Ch. 2

III Democracy in historical perspective

Core readings (No students presentations this week)

Caramani, 2014, Chapter 1,2,3

IV Variety of democracy today - Areas of democracy

Core readings

Powell et al. 2014 chapters 3,5.

Main discussion topic: The debate on Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Recommended readings

Linz. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69.

Linz. 1990. "The Virtues of Parliamentarism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(4): 84-91

V The study of current democracy

Core readings

Powell et al. 2014 chapters 6,7

Main discussion topic: Is democracy in decline?

Recommended readings

Plattner (2015), *Is Democracy in Decline?* *Journal of democracy*

Levitsky & Way (2015), *The Myth of Democratic recession*, *Journal of democracy*

Tormey (2015) *The end of representative democracy*, Chapter 6: *Democracy after representation*

Warren (2003), *a second transformation of democracy* in Cain, Dalton & Scarrow (eds.) *democracy transformed? Expanding political opportunities in advanced democracies*

VI Workshop on empirical data. The state of contemporary democracies

Tools:

- Freedom House *Freedom in the world* (<https://freedomhouse.org/>)

- V-Dem. Varieties of democracy (<https://www.v-dem.net>)

Main discussion topic: Is democracy a measurable phenomenon?

Recommended readings

Elkins, Zachary. 2000. Gradations of Democracy? Empirical tests of alternative conceptualizations. *American Journal Of Political Science*, 44 (2): 293 - 300.

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

VII Crisis of parties, crisis of participation, crisis of representative democracy? *Core readings*

Core readings

Powell et al. 2014 chapters 3-7

Main Discussion topic: Links between democratic stability and economic performance

Recommended readings

Norris, Pippa. 2012. *Making democratic Governance Work*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press., Chapters 1-3.

VIII Democracy in the Western hemisphere I – Case study: United Kingdom

Core readings

Powell et al., 2014, Ch. 8

Recommended readings

Main Discussion Topic: The notion of Westminster democracy

Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, Yale University Press, 2012, Ch. 2

IX Democracy in the Western hemisphere II – Case study: Italy

Core readings

Cotta, M. and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford University Press, 2007, Ch. 3-5.

Main Discussion Topic: The notion of Consensus democracy

Recommended readings

Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, Yale University Press, 2012, Ch. 3

X Democracy in the Western hemisphere. Lijphart revisited

Core readings

Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, Yale University Press, 2012, Ch. 15

Main Discussion Topic: Evolution of Consensus and Majoritarian Democracies

Recommended readings

Bormann, N. C. Patterns of Democracy and Its Critics, *Living Reviews In Democracy*, 2010

Vatter, A., Lijphart expanded: three dimensions of democracy in advanced OECD countries?, *European Political Science Review*, 2009

XI Democracy in Asia - Case study: Japan

Powell et. Al. (2014), ch. 11

Main Discussion Topic: Elite circles and political stability in Japan

Recommended readings

Schmidt, C. (2005), Japan's Circle of Power: Legitimacy and Integration of a National Elite, *Asien*

XII Democracy in Latin America - Case study: Brazil

Core readings

Powell et. Al. (2014), ch. 15

Melo M. A., Crisis and Integrity in Brazil, *Journal of Democracy*, 2016

Main Discussion Topic: Crises and democratic consolidation in Latin America

Recommended readings

Shifter, M., A Surge to the center, *Journal of Democracy*, 2011

Mainwaring, S. A. Perez Li-nan (2013), Lessons from Latin America: Democratic Breakdown and Survival, *Journal of democracy*

XIII Democracy in Africa. Case studies: South Africa, Nigeria

Core readings

Powell et al. (2014), Ch. 18 (Politics in Nigeria)

Booyesen, S. (2015), *Twenty years of South African democracy*, Freedom House

Main Discussion Topic: Leadership and political mobilization in the African Contemporary polities

Recommended readings

Blondel, J. (2015), *The Presidential Republic*, Palgrave, Chapter 8 (Presidential Republics in Africa from Independence to the Second Decade of the Twenty-first Century)

Beall, J., S. Gelb, S. Hassim (2005), Fragile Stability: State and Society in Democratic South Africa, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Volume 31, Number 4

XIV Non democratic regimes today: definitions and approaches

Core readings

Brooker, P. (2013), *Non-democratic Regimes*, Palgrave, Ch. 1-4

Main Discussion Topic: Hybrid regimes, Illiberal democracies, Electoral democracies

Recommended readings

Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. The Rise of Illiberal Democracy *Foreign Affairs*, 76: 22 - 41.

Diamond, L., (2002) 'Thinking about Hybrid Regimes. *Journal of Democracy* 13:21-35

XV Non democratic regimes today: case studies

Core readings

Brooker, P. (2013), *Non-democratic Regimes*, Palgrave, Ch. 8-9

Powell et al. (2014), Ch. 13, Ch. 16

Main Discussion Topic: North Africa. A new wave of democratic breakdown?

Recommended readings

Bellin, E. (2012), Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East, *Comparative Politics*

Brownlee, J. T. Masoud, and A.Reynolds, (2013) Why the Modest Harvest?, *Journal of democracy*.

XVI Challenges to contemporary democracies: Mediatization

Core readings

Kriesi, H.P. et al. (2016), *Democracy in the Age of Globalization and Mediatization*, Palgrave. Ch. 7-8

Main Discussion Topic: Effects and risks of Mediatization in day-by-day democratic processes

Recommended readings

Stromback, J. (2008), Four Phases of Mediatization: An Analysis of the Mediatization of Politics, *Press Politics*, 13(3):228-246

Esser F. and J. Matthes (2016), *Mediatization Effects on Political News, Political Actors, Political Decisions, and Political Audiences*, in Kriesi, H.P. et al., *Democracy in the Age of Globalization and Mediatization*, Palgrave.

XVII Challenges to contemporary democracies: Globalization

Core readings

Kriesi, H.P. et al. (2016), *Democracy in the Age of Globalization and Mediatization*, Palgrave. Ch. 5-6

Main Discussion Topic: The effects of globalization on democratic governance

Recommended readings

Hamilton, Globalization and Democracy, in Robert E. Baldwin and L. Alan Winters (eds.), *Challenges to Globalization: Analyzing the Economics*, University of Chicago Press, 2012.

XVIII Challenges to contemporary democracies: Populism

Core readings

Mudde, C, and C.R. Kaltwasser (2011), *Voices of the peoples: populism in europe and latin america compared*, Kellogg Institute working papers

Main Discussion Topic: the spread of populist parties in Europe

Recommended readings

Mudde, C. (2007), *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*, Cambridge, Ch. 6 and 7.

XIX Challenges to contemporary democracies: Immigration

Core readings

Main Discussion Topic: Evolution of Consensus and Majoritarian Democracies

Recommended readings

Kymlicka, W., *Multiculturalism. Success, Failure and the Future*, mimeo, 2012

Fukuyama, F. (2006), Identity, immigration, and liberal democracy, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 17, n. 2

XX Resume - Organization of papers