Democracy, Dictatorship, and Regime Change
PS 549D, Spring 2013

Instructor: Milan Svolik, Department of Political Science
Class Meetings: Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:50 p.m., David Kinley Hall, Room TBD
Office Hours: Fridays 3-5pm, 311 DKH, or by appointment
Email: msvolik@illinois.edu
Course Web Page: http://compass2g.illinois.edu

Description: This research seminar examines key topics, major contributions, and recent advances in the study of democracy, dictatorship, and regime change.

Course Requirements:

Email summaries: I will ask you to post on Compass and bring to class a summary/discussion (one-paragraphs per reading) of the readings assigned for each class. The post should appear on Compass by noon of the day of the class.

Presentations of readings: An important part of your participation will be to present one or several (depending on enrollment) readings of your choice (with the exception of my writings, which I will present.) (*) denotes readings available for presentation. The presentation should first summarize the key points of the reading, then critically evaluate it, and finally raise some questions for class discussion. It should be brief, preferably under 15 minutes.

Presentation of a non-assigned reading: I will ask you to present your “favorite” research paper that is somehow related to one of the class topics but not on the syllabus. This should preferably be an unpublished or recently published piece. Please submit your choice early so that we can schedule for it to present under the most appropriate topic.
A referee report: A two-page referee report of the first draft of one of your classmates’s final paper. A first draft of the final paper (around 5 pages) will be due two weeks before the end of the semester so that we can spend the last meeting of the semester going over your referee reports on the drafts.

A final research paper: A 15-20 page paper that either i) develops an original theoretical or empirical approach to a topic chosen by the instructor, or ii) critically reviews a literature on a topic chosen by the instructor.

The final grade will be composed as follows: class participation 30%, final research paper 70%.

Readings: Some of the course readings are available electronically via link on Compass; other are on reserve at the library. Students are expected to read all the assigned material before class.

Course Outline:

Organizational Meeting

Democracy v. Dictatorship: Conceptual issues


Recommended:

Transitions to Democracy – Explanations


Recommended:

Chapters 7-9 and epilogue in Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press (the rest is strongly recommended).


Transitions to Democracy – Correlates


**Recommended:**


Ross, Michael. 2009. Oil and democracy revisited.


**Democratic Breakdowns and Consolidation**


**Recommended:**


**Manipulation, Protest, and Democracy**


Chapters 1, and 3-5 from Simpser, Alberto. 2012. More than winning: Why governments and parties manipulate elections.

Recommended:


**Election Administration, Forensics, and Monitoring**


**Non-democratic Regimes: Concepts and Theories**


**Institutions in Dictatorships**


Dictatorship, Accountability, and Development


**Final Paper/Referee Report Meeting**