

Introduction to Political Economy

Instructor: Ahmed Ezzeldin Mohamed

Time: 9:30am-11:00 am

Location: MC203

Office Hours: Wednesday (11:00 am- 1:00 pm) or by appointment.

This course provides an overview of the field of political science. It is divided into two main parts. The first focuses on the study of institutions to understand the most fundamental components of any polity. It addresses questions on: the origins of the modern state, the causes of state failure, the triggers of civil conflict, the implications of civil wars, classifications of regime types, the drivers of democratization, the returns from democracy, and the management of authoritarian regimes.

The second part of the class integrates the study of institutions with that of individuals' political behavior. It covers a variety of topics to understand how citizens make their political decisions and how political and non-political institutions reflect on individuals' interaction with the political sphere. In this part, we will examine why individuals turn out to vote, how ethnic identities get politicized, whether ethnic diversity is good for economic growth and political stability, how religion shapes individuals' electoral choices and political attitudes, why women are politically marginalized in some places more than others, the implications of gender quotas, and whether social media could threaten political and social welfare.

This class is designed for students with no background in the study of political science. For some weeks, we will rely on a textbook to provide a general overview of the fundamental topics. This should help students to understand the basic concepts. Besides that, students are required to read a set of research papers every week. Each paper focuses on a particular question to provide a closer perspective on a certain issue and introduce students to research methods in political science. You are not required to understand all the details of the paper, but you should be able to extract the argument, understand how the evidence is generated, and critically assess the credibility of the authors' claims. Some papers might contain sophisticated statistical analyses. Don't worry, you are not asked to understand such technical details. However, the goal is to be able to read research papers and understand their arguments, despite such technical details.

The lecture will cover the outline of the week's readings and start a discussion around the week's theme. I will also highlight a particular concept or research methodology every week.

Evaluation

- (1) Participation (30%): Attending the weekly lectures and engaging in classroom discussions
- (2) Midterm exam (35%): The exam will cover lectures (1-5)
- (3) Literature review (35%): Students are required to choose a particular research question of interest to write a literature review (3k-4k words). All students must get their research question approved beforehand.

Course Material

Clark, William R., Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics* 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 CQ Press.

Outline

Lecture (0): Introduction

Lecture (1): The Rise and Fall of States

Principles, Ch.4, the Origins of the Modern State

Rotberg, Robert I. "Failed states, collapsed states, weak states: Causes and indicators." *State failure and state weakness in a time of terror* 1 (2003): 25.<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror_chapter.pdf>

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. "Beyond war and contracts: The medieval and religious roots of the European state." *Annual Review of Political Science* 23 (2020): 19-36.

Recommended Readings

Blaydes, Lisa. "State building in the Middle East." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 487-504.

Mesfin, Seyoum, and Abdeta Dribssa Beyene. "The Practicalities of Living with Failed States." *Dædalus* 147.1 (2018): 128-140.

Mares, Isabela, and Didac Queralt. "The non-democratic origins of income taxation." *Comparative Political Studies* 48.14 (2015): 1974-2009.

Salamey, Imad. "Failing consociationalism in Lebanon and integrative options." *International Journal of Peace Studies* (2009): 83-105.

Lecture (2): Civil Conflict

Blattman, Christopher, and Edward Miguel. "Civil war." *Journal of Economic literature* 48.1 (2010): 3-57.

Walter, Barbara F. "The new new civil wars." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 469-486.

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war." *American Political Science Review* 97.1 (2003): 75-90.

Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. "Who fights? The determinants of participation in civil war." *American Journal of Political Science* 52.2 (2008): 436-455.

Recommended Readings

Stewart, Megan A. "Civil war as state-making: Strategic governance in civil war." *International Organization* 72.1 (2018): 205-226.

Collier, Paul, and Marguerite Duponchel. "The economic legacy of civil war: firm-level evidence from Sierra Leone." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57.1 (2013): 65-88.

Hartzell, Caroline A., and Matthew Hoddie. "The art of the possible: Power sharing and post—civil war democracy." *World politics* 67.1 (2015): 37-71.

Collier, Paul. "On the economic consequences of civil war." *Oxford economic papers* 51.1 (1999): 168-183.

Lecture (3): Democratic Regimes

Principles, Ch.5, Democracy and Dictatorship: Conceptualization and Measurement

Principles, Ch.6, the Economic determinants of democracy and dictatorship

Carothers, Thomas, and Press, Benjamin. "Understanding and Responding to Global Democratic Backsliding," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. (2022)
<<https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/10/20/understanding-and-responding-to-global-democratic-backsliding-pub-88173>>

Recommended Readings

Principles, Ch.7, the Cultural determinants of democracy and dictatorship

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. "Modernization: Theories and facts." *World Politics* 49.2 (1997): 155-183.

Acemoglu, Daron, et al. "Democracy does cause growth." *Journal of political economy* 127.1 (2019): 47-100.

Encarnación, Omar G. "Gay rights: Why democracy matters." *J. Democracy* 25 (2014): 90.v

Gibler, Douglas M., and Kirk A. Randazzo. "Testing the effects of independent judiciaries on the likelihood of democratic backsliding." *American Journal of Political Science* 55.3 (2011): 696-709.

Waldner, David, and Ellen Lust. "Unwelcome change: Coming to terms with democratic backsliding." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21 (2018): 93-113.

Epstein, David L., et al. "Democratic transitions." *American Journal of Political Science* 50.3 (2006): 551-569.

Murtin, Fabrice, and Romain Wacziarg. "The democratic transition." *Journal of Economic Growth* 19 (2014): 141-181.

Acemoglu, Daron, et al. "Income and democracy." *American Economic Review* 98.3 (2008): 808-842.

Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. "Democratization during the third wave." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19 (2016): 125-144.

Bermeo, Nancy. "On democratic backsliding." *J. Democracy* 27 (2016): 5.

Lecture (4): Authoritarian Regimes

Principles, Ch.10, Varieties of Dictatorships

Principles, Ch.9, Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it make a difference?

Stephen Haber, "Authoritarian Government," in Barry Weingast and Donald Wittman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*. (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Magaloni, Beatriz. "Credible power-sharing and the longevity of authoritarian rule." *Comparative Political Studies* 41.4-5 (2008): 715-741.

Recommended Readings

Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, democracy, and development." *American political science review* 87.3 (1993): 567-576.

Sachs, Jeffrey D., and Wing Thye Woo. "Understanding China's economic performance." *The Journal of Policy Reform* 4.1 (2001): 1-50.

Wintrobe, Ronald. "How to understand, and deal with dictatorship: an economist's view." *Economics of Governance* 2 (2001): 35-58.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, *The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics*. (Public Affairs, 2011).

Gallagher, Mary E., and Jonathan K. Hanson. "Power tool or dull blade? Selectorate theory for autocracies." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (2015): 367-385.

Malesky, Edmund, and Jonathan London. "The political economy of development in China and Vietnam." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17 (2014): 395-419.

Stasavage, David. "Democracy, autocracy, and emergency threats: Lessons for COVID-19 from the last thousand years." *International organization* 74.S1 (2020): E1-E17.

De Mesquita, Bruce Bueno, et al. "Political institutions, policy choice and the survival of leaders." *British Journal of Political Science* 32.4 (2002): 559-590.

Lecture (5): Electoral Participation

Blais, André. "What affects voter turnout?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006): 111-125.

Kasara, Kimuli, and Pavithra Suryanarayan. "When do the rich vote less than the poor and why? Explaining turnout inequality across the world." *American Journal of Political Science* 59.3 (2015): 613-627.

Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. "The effect of canvassing, direct mail, and telephone contact on turnout: a field experiment." *American Political Science Review* 94 (2000): 653-63.

Rauschenbach, Mascha, and Katrin Paula. "Intimidating voters with violence and mobilizing them with clientelism." *Journal of Peace Research* 56.5 (2019): 682-696.

Croke, Kevin, et al. "Deliberate disengagement: How education can decrease political participation in electoral authoritarian regimes." *American Political Science Review* 110.3 (2016): 579-600.

Recommended Readings

Cancela, João, and Benny Geys. "Explaining voter turnout: A meta-analysis of national and subnational elections." *Electoral Studies* 42 (2016): 264-275.

Green, Donald P., Mary C. McGrath, and Peter M. Aronow. "Field experiments and the study of voter turnout." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 23.1 (2013): 27-48.

Mares, Isabela, and Lauren Young. "Buying, expropriating, and stealing votes." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19 (2016): 267-288.

Cox, Gary W. "Electoral rules, mobilization, and turnout." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (2015): 49-68.

Geys, Benny. "Explaining voter turnout: A review of aggregate-level research." *Electoral studies* 25.4 (2006): 637-663.

Hicken, Allen. "Clientelism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14 (2011): 289-310.

Gans-Morse, Jordan, Sebastian Mazzuca, and Simeon Nichter. "Varieties of clientelism: Machine politics during elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 58.2 (2014): 415-432.

Harder, Joshua, and Jon A. Krosnick. "Why do people vote? A psychological analysis of the causes of voter turnout." *Journal of Social Issues* 64.3 (2008): 525-549.

Lust-Okar, Ellen. "Elections under authoritarianism: Preliminary lessons from Jordan." *Democratization* 13.3 (2006): 456-471.

Lecture (6): Ethnic Politics

Chandra, Kanchan. "What is ethnic identity and does it matter?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006): 397-424.

Posner, Daniel N. "The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98.4 (2004): 529-545.

Huber, John D. "Measuring ethnic voting: Do proportional electoral laws politicize ethnicity?." *American Journal of Political Science* 56.4 (2012): 986-1001.

Alesina, Alberto, and Eliana La Ferrara. "Ethnic diversity and economic performance." *Journal of Economic Literature* 43.3 (2005): 762-800.

Kasara, Kimuli. "Tax me if you can: Ethnic geography, democracy, and the taxation of agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101.1 (2007): 159-172.

Mousa, Salma. "Building social cohesion between Christians and Muslims through soccer in post-ISIS Iraq." *Science* 369.6505 (2020): 866-870.

Recommended Readings

Michelitch, Kristin. "Does electoral competition exacerbate interethnic or interpartisan economic discrimination? Evidence from a field experiment in market price bargaining." *American Political Science Review* 109.1 (2015): 43-61.

Gören, Erkan. "How ethnic diversity affects economic growth." *World Development* 59 (2014): 275-297.

Montalvo, Jose G., and Marta Reynal-Querol. "Ethnic diversity and economic development." *Journal of Development economics* 76.2 (2005): 293-323.

Ahlerup, Pelle, and Ola Olsson. "The roots of ethnic diversity." *Journal of Economic Growth* 17 (2012): 71-102.

Weiss, Chagai M. "Diversity in health care institutions reduces Israeli patients' prejudice toward Arabs." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118.14 (2021): e2022634118.

Montalvo, Jose G., and Marta Reynal-Querol. "Ethnic diversity and growth: Revisiting the evidence." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 103.3 (2021): 521-532.

Ejdemyr, Simon, Eric Kramon, and Amanda Lea Robinson. "Segregation, ethnic favoritism, and the strategic targeting of local public goods." *Comparative Political Studies* 51.9 (2018): 1111-1143.

Carrell, Scott E., Mark Hoekstra, and James E. West. *The impact of intergroup contact on racial attitudes and revealed preferences*. No. w20940. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2015.

Lecture (7): Religion and Politics

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. "Why comparative politics should take religion (more) seriously." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15 (2012): 421-442.

Scheve, Kenneth, and David Stasavage. "Religion and preferences for social insurance." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 1.3 (2006): 255-286.

De La O, Ana L., and Jonathan A. Rodden. "Does religion distract the poor? Income and issue voting around the world." *Comparative Political Studies* 41.4-5 (2008): 437-476.

McClendon, Gwyneth, and Rachel Beatty Riedl. "Religion as a stimulant of political participation: Experimental evidence from Nairobi, Kenya." *The Journal of Politics* 77.4 (2015): 1045-1057.

Clingingsmith, David, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Michael Kremer. "Estimating the impact of the Hajj: religion and tolerance in Islam's global gathering." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124.3 (2009): 1133-1170.

Recommended Readings

Campante, Filipe, and David Yanagizawa-Drott. "Does religion affect economic growth and happiness? Evidence from Ramadan." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130.2 (2015): 615-658.

Huber, John D., and Piero Stanig. "Church-state separation and redistribution." *Journal of Public Economics* 95.7-8 (2011): 828-836.

Huber, John, and Ahmed Ezzeldin Mohamed. "The Decline of Religion and Its Rise in Electoral Politics: Religious Belief, Religious Practice, and the Strength of Religious Voting Cleavages." *Comparative Political Studies* (2021): 00104140231169019.

Hoffman, Michael. "Religion and tolerance of minority sects in the Arab world." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64.2-3 (2020): 432-458.

Condra, Luke N., Mohammad Isaqzadeh, and Sera Linardi. "Clerics and scriptures: Experimentally disentangling the influence of religious authority in Afghanistan." *British Journal of Political Science* 49.2 (2019): 401-419.

Wehrey, Frederic. *Islamic Institutions in Arab States: Mapping the Dynamics of Control, Cooptation, and Contention*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, (2021).

Lecture (8): Women and Politics

Wängnerud, Lena. "Women in parliaments: Descriptive and substantive representation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (2009): 51-69.

Sundström, Aksel, et al. "Women's political empowerment: A new global index, 1900–2012." *World Development* 94 (2017): 321-335.

Abrams, Burton A., and Russell F. Settle. "Women's suffrage and the growth of the welfare state." *Public Choice* 100.3-4 (1999): 289-300.

Clayton, Amanda. "How do electoral gender quotas affect policy?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24 (2021): 235-252.

Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra, and Esther Duflo. "Women as policy makers: Evidence from a randomized policy experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72.5 (2004): 1409-1443.

Recommended Readings

Schwindt-Bayer, Leslie A. "Making quotas work: The effect of gender quota laws on the election of women." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 34.1 (2009): 5-28.

Baltrunaite, Audinga, et al. "Gender quotas and the quality of politicians." *Journal of Public Economics* 118 (2014): 62-74.

Abendschön, Simone, and Stephanie Steinmetz. "The gender gap in voting revisited: Women's party preferences in a European context." *Social Politics* 21.2 (2014): 315-344.

Gilardi, Fabrizio. "The temporary importance of role models for women's political representation." *American Journal of Political Science* 59.4 (2015): 957-970.

Cooray, Arusha, and Niklas Potrafke. "Gender inequality in education: Political institutions or culture and religion?." *European Journal of Political Economy* 27.2 (2011): 268-280.

Rizzo, Helen, Abdel-Hamid Abdel-Latif, and Katherine Meyer. "The relationship between gender equality and democracy: A comparison of Arab versus non-Arab Muslim societies." *Sociology* 41.6 (2007): 1151-1170.

Ross, Michael L. "Oil, Islam, and women." *American political science review* 102.1 (2008): 107-123.

Lecture (9): Social media and Politics

Wolfsfeld, Gadi, Elad Segev, and Tamir Sheafer. "Social media and the Arab Spring: Politics comes first." *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 18.2 (2013): 115-137.

Allcott, Hunt, and Matthew Gentzkow. "Social media and fake news in the 2016 election." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31.2 (2017): 211-236.

Jolley, Daniel, and Karen M. Douglas. "The effects of anti-vaccine conspiracy theories on vaccination intentions." *PloS one* 9.2 (2014): e89177.

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How the Chinese government fabricates social media posts for strategic distraction, not engaged argument." *American Political Science Review* 111.3 (2017): 484-501.

Pan, Jennifer, and Alexandra A. Siegel. "How Saudi crackdowns fail to silence online dissent." *American Political Science Review* 114.1 (2020): 109-125.

Recommended Readings

Allcott, Hunt, Matthew Gentzkow, and Chuan Yu. "Trends in the diffusion of misinformation on social media." *Research & Politics* 6.2 (2019): 2053168019848554.

Motoki, Fabio, Valdemar Pinho Neto, and Victor Rodrigues. "More human than human: Measuring ChatGPT political bias." *Public Choice* (2023): 1-21.

Cantarella, Michele, Nicolò Fraccaroli, and Roberto Volpe. "Does fake news affect voting behaviour?." *Research Policy* 52.1 (2023): 104628.

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "Reverse-engineering censorship in China: Randomized experimentation and participant observation." *Science* 345.6199 (2014): 1251722.