

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI 7971: Revolution and Democratization

Tu 5:00-7:50 pm
Syllabus

Benjamin Acosta
bacosta@lsu.edu
www.benjaminacosta.com
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-5:00 pm
Room: Stubbs-208B

Spring 2016

The purpose of this seminar is to provide students with an overview of the literature on revolution and democratization. I expect students to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the leading theories on democratization processes and revolutionary outcomes, ways to test such theories, and policy implications of the current literature. Along with weekly class presentations (15% of the overall grade), tests (15% of the overall grade), and a network analysis assignment (10% of the overall grade), I will grade students on a 20-30 page research paper (50% of the overall grade) that addresses a specific issue related to revolution and democratization, as well as a presentation of the paper (10% of the overall grade).

Question of the semester: Can social science predict the onset of revolutions?

Required Texts:

King, Gary et al. (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0691034713

Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. (2005) *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521609715

Teorell, Jan. (2010) *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521139687

Scott, James C. (2010) *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0300169171

Ginsberg, Benjamin. (2013) *The Value of Violence*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus. ISBN: 978-1616148317

Recommended Software:

UCINET, available at <https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/home>

Network Assignment:

As noted above, 10% of the overall grade will involve a network assignment. Each student will map a network of a particular nonviolent resistance movement. Students can draw on recent nonviolent resistance movements from the “Arab Spring,” the democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe (1989-1991), the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979), or any other approved movement.

One: Approaches to Comparative Politics

Discussion Questions: What are the core concerns and methodological approaches of comparative politics? How does comparative politics differ from area studies? What are the major differences between qualitative and quantitative methodologies? What are the strengths and weaknesses of large-*n* and small-*n* studies? What is a unit of analysis?

Readings:

King, Gary et al. (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*.

Bennett, Andrew. (2010) “Process Tracing and Causal Inference.” In Brady, Henry and David Collier (eds.) *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, 2nd Edition.

Munck, Gerardo L. (2006) “The Past and Present of Comparative Politics,” working paper.

Two: Violence and the State

Discussion Question: What is the role of violence in establishing and preserving the state?

Readings:

Olson, Mancur. (1993) “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development.” *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567-576.

Cohen, Youssef, Brian R. Brown, and A.F.K. Organski. (1981) “The Paradoxical Nature of State Making: The Violent Creation of Order.” *American Political Science Review* 75 (4): 901-910.

Scott, James C. (1999) *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Selected readings

Ginsberg, Benjamin. (2013) *The Value of Violence*.

Three: Defining Democracy, Democratization, and Revolution

Discussion Questions: How can one measure democracy? What is democratization? What are the major differences between democracy and autocracy? Are all autocracies the same? Do elections equate “democracy?” What is revolution?

Readings:

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

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

Huntington, Samuel P. (1991) *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Ch. 1-2 and Ch. 6

Goldstone, Jack A. (2001) “Toward a Fourth Generation of Revolutionary Theory.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 4: 139-187.

Four: Modernization Theory

Discussion Questions: Why do some nation-states succeed in economic and political development when others fail? How does culture affect politics? Are poverty and autocracy the result of cultural characteristics? What roles do economic development and culture have on the potential for democratization? Why do some democratic movements succeed when seemingly similar movements fail? Is the “human development sequence” a convincing theory, and do the empirics support the “sequence?”

Readings:

Banfield, Edward C. (1958) *Moral Basis of a Backward Society*.

Lipset, Seymour Martin. (1959). “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy.” *American Political Science Review* 53 (1): 69-105.

Przeworski, Adam et al. (2000) *Democracy and Development*. Ch. 1-2

Acemoglu, Daron et al. (2008) “Income and Democracy.” *American Economic Review* 98 (3): 808-842.

Boix, Carles and Susan C. Stokes. (2003) “Endogenous Democratization.” *World Politics* 55 (4): 517-549.

Teorell, Jan. (2010) *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction, Ch. 1-4

Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. (2005) *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*.

Abdollahian, Mark A., Travis G. Coan, Hana Oh, and Birol A. Yesilada. (2012) "Dynamics of Cultural Change: The Human Development Perspective." *International Studies Quarterly* 56 (4): 827-842.

Five: Collective Identity, Democracy, and Revolution

Discussion Questions: How does ethnicity contribute to the construction of collective identity in general, and nationality in particular? Do heterogeneous societies face greater challenges in instituting democracy than homogeneous societies? Do primordial identities affect electoral outcomes? How does collective identity affect revolution?

Readings:

Chandra, Kanchan. (2006) "What Is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 397-424.

Horowitz, Donald. (1985) *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Ch. 1 and 3

Posner, Daniel N. (2004) "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4): 529-545.

Acosta, Benjamin. (2014) "The Dynamics of Israel's Democratic Tribalism." *Middle East Journal* 68 (2): 268-286.

Barreto, Matt A. (2007) "Si Se Puede! Latino Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters." *American Political Science Review* 101 (3): 425-441.

Sambanis, Nicholas. (2000) "Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature." *World Politics* 52: 437-483.

Acosta, Benjamin. (2016) "Exclusionary Politics and the Organizational Adoption of Violent Resistance," working paper.

Six: Organizational Strategies, Structures, and the Outcomes of Revolutionary Campaigns

Discussion Questions: What sparks revolutions? Do non-violent movements require a "radical" flank in order to achieve success? What role do revolutionaries play in democratization? Is non-violent resistance more effective than political violence in revolutionary campaigns? How do participation levels affect the outcomes of resistance campaigns? What are the key differences between active and passive forms of resistance? Is political violence effective for achieving political goals? How does credibility affect a resistance organization's ability to gain concessions? Do empirical studies on political violence support political bargaining theories? When violent resistance organizations do succeed, in what ways do they usually win? What factors contribute the most to organizational success?

Readings:

- DeFronzo, James. (1996) *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. Ch. 1 and 9
- Stephan, Maria J. and Erica Chenoweth. (2008) "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict." *International Security* 33 (1): 7-44.
- Celestino, Mauricio Rivera and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. (2013) "Fresh Carnations or All Thorn, No Rose? Nonviolent Campaigns and Transitions in Autocracies." *Journal of Peace Research* 50 (3): 385-40.
- Carey, Sabine. (2006) "The Dynamic Relationship between Protest and Repression." *Political Research Quarterly* 59 (1): 1-11.
- Scott, James C. (1985) *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. Ch. 2
- DeRouen, Karl R. and David Sobek. (2004) "The Dynamics of Civil War Duration and Outcome." *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (3): 303-320.
- Abrahms, Max. (2012) "The Political Effectiveness of Terrorism Revisited." *Comparative Political Studies* 45 (3): 366-393.
- Fortna, Page. 2015. "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." *International Organization* 69 (3): 519-556.
- Acosta, Benjamin. (2016) "Political Capacity and the Success of Contemporary Resistance Organizations," working paper.

Network Assignment Due

Seven: From Revolutionaries to Governors

Discussion Questions: Under what conditions do violent resistance organizations transition to mainstream political parties? When do resistance organizations precipitate a state's democratization? How does armed conflict shape post-conflict political landscapes?

Readings:

- De Zeeuw, Jeroen. (2008) "Understanding the Political Transformation of Rebel Movements." In *From Soldiers to Politicians: Transforming Rebel Movements after Civil War*, edited by Jeroen De Zeeuw.
- Acosta, Benjamin. (2014) "From Bombs to Ballots: When Militant Organizations Transition to Political Parties." *Journal of Politics* 76 (3): 666-683.
- Allison, Michael E. (2006) "The Transition from Armed Opposition to Electoral Opposition in Central America." *Latin American Politics and Society* 48 (4): 137-162.

Blattman, Christopher. (2009) "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda." *American Political Science Review* 103 (2): 231-247.

Teorell, Jan. (2010) *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*. Ch. 5-7

Acosta, Benjamin. (2016) "From Revolutionaries to Governors," working paper.

Eight: Anarchy and Resisting the State

Discussion Questions: Are all states, including democracies, inherently oppressive? Is anarchy a viable way of political life?

Readings:

Scott, James C. (2010) *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*.

****Final Papers Due****

Words to the Wise

I will dock late assignments one-letter grade per day. IMPORTANT: I will not tolerate plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

I do not allow recordings of any type without permission.

Grades are earned not given.