**Democratic Institutional Design I**

Nick Sitter, CEU Department of Public Policy

Thursdays 10:50-12:30.

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to political institutions of democratic regimes, including questions about the concept of liberal democracy, different types of political regimes, the trade-off or dilemmas the democracy entails, and some of the problems of contemporary liberal democracies. The course focuses on the key institutions of liberal democracy, including civil society and the rule of law, federal and unitary arrangements, types of electoral systems and party systems; and questions about the relationship between democracy and social structures, nationalism, capitalism, political violence and extremism. Much of the empirical material is centered on central Europe and the European Union, with cases drawn from Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Polish, German and Italian politics. Differences and similarities across states are analyzed and explained along with the origins and consequences of institutional variation. The written exam is in the form of a country political risk evaluation.

**COURSE LITERATURE**

* Lijphart, A. (2012). *Patterns of democracy*. New Haven (Conn).: Yale University Press, [320.3 LIJ]
* Caramani, D. (2011) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [320.3 CARA]
* Shepsle, K. A. (2010) *Analyzing politics: rationality, behavior, and institutions*, New York: W. W. Norton, [320./072 SHE]
* See the week-by-week reading list for additional journal articles and book chapters.

**LEARNING GOALS**

This course provides an introduction to the political institutions of liberal democracies. By the end of the course, students should be able to (1) acquire knowledge of a range of core political institutions and classify existing political regimes according to their institutional setup, and to analyze political regimes and reflect on the academic and policy debates about democratization, crises of democracy and democratic backsliding; (2) reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of different types of democratic arrangements, assess threats to the stability of democracies, and engage in discussions on how institutions could be designed to foster desirable outcomes; (3) write a short country political risk report.

**EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION**

* Written Exam (country risk analysis paper): 100%

**WEEK 1**

**The is no seminar on Thursday 23 September. Please listen to series of 10-minute podcast-style mini-lectures prepared for the course.**

**WEEK 2**

**Thursday 30 September 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Liberal democracy and its critics (seminar discussion)***

What are the most pertinent critiques of liberal democratic theory in today’s world, e.g. elitism, Marxism, New right, nationalism, populism, feminism, green etc.?

**Core reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 1, 17

**Further reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 5
* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 1, 2, 17
* Dunleavy, P. and B. O’Leary (1987) *Theories of the State* [320.1 DUN]
* Dahl, R. (1998) *On Democracy* [321.8 DAH] – see also 2015 edition, with new chapters by Ian Shapiro
* Held, D. (2006) *Models of Democracy* [321.8/09 HEL]

**WEEK 3**

**Thursday 7 October 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Democratization and democratic design***

What are the most important dilemmas and trade-offs in designing democratic institutions? Why and how does context matter? Which factors matter, e.g. time, international order, ethnic homogeneity etc.?

**Core reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 4, 10
* Lijphart, A. (1992) “Democratization and Constitutional Choices in Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland 1989-91”, *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 4:2, 207–23 [https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/pdf/1992/iii92-203.pdf]

**Further reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 2, 3,
* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 1, 2 ,3 , 17
* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 11
* O'Donnell, G., P. C. Schmitter and L. Whitehead (1986) *Transitions from authoritarian rule* [321./09 ODO]
* Putnam. R. D. (1993) *Making Democracy Work*  [306.2/09/45 PUT]

**WEEK 4**

**Thursday 14 October 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Parliaments and Executive Power***

What are the most important dilemmas and trade-offs involved in designing the balance between parliamentary and executive power? Does context matter, is so what and how?

**Core reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy*, chapter 7
* Lieven, D. C. B (2001), Empire: the Russian Empire and its rivals [947 LIE], Ch. 5
* Schöpflin, G. (1992) *Politics in Eastern Europe*, [942./055 SCHO], Ch. 1

**Further reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 6, 11, 15, 16
* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 7, 8, 11
* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 12, 14, 16
* Downs, A. (1956) An *Economic Theory of Democracy* [324./6 DOW]
* Persson, T and G. Tabellini (2003), *The economic effects of constitutions* [K3165.P474 2003]

**WEEK 5**

**Thursday 21 October 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Parties and elections***

Are well-organised and internally democratic political parties that reflect social divisions a pre-requisite for liberal democracy? Why are some parties and party systems more stable than others?

**Core reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 5, 8
* Katz A. & P. Mair, “Changing Models of Party Organisation and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party”, *Party Politics*, 1:1 (1995), 5-28
* Bakke, E. and N. Sitter (2005) “Patterns of Stability: Party Competition and Strategy in Central Europe since 1989”, *Party Politics* 11:2, 243-263

**Further reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 10, 12, 13, 19
* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 3 – 7
* Lijphart, A. (1994) Electoral Systems and Party Systems: A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies, 1945–1990. Oxford: Oxford University Press, [324./63 LIJ]
* Mair, P. (1997) Party System Change [ 324./2/4 MAI]
* Lipset, S. M. & S. Rokkan (1967) ‘Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments: an Introduction’, in S. M. Lipset & S. Rokkan (eds.), Party Systems and Voter Alignments, (New York, The Free Press) [324./9 LIP]

**WEEK 6**

**Thursday 28 October 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: The Rule of Law and Bureaucracy***

Does liberal democracy require an independent bureaucracy and judiciary (along the lines of Max Weber’s model)? What are the most important trade-offs or dilemmas linked to the power and independence of the judiciary and bureaucracy?

**Core reading:**

* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 13, 15
* Dunleavy, P. (1991) *Democracy, Bureaucracy and Public Choice* [338.9 DUN], Ch. 6
* Kelemen, D. (2012), “The Political Foundations of Judicial Independence in the European Union”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 19:1, 43-58.

**Further reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 12, 13
* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 9
* Dunleavy, P. (1991) *Democracy, Bureaucracy and Public Choice* [338.9 DUN]

**WEEK 7**

**Thursday 4 November 2021 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Democracy and Nationalism***

If nationalism is a political doctrine that holds that the state and the nation should be congruent (Ernst Gellner), what is the relationship between nationalism and liberal democracy (complementary, trade-off, or dilemma)? To what extent, and why, is populism a challenge for liberal democracy?

**Core reading:**

* Rothschild, J., (1989) *Return to Diversity* [942./055 ROT], Ch. 1
* Kissane, B. and N. Sitter (2010) “The Marriage of State and Nation in European Constitutions”, *Nations and Nationalism*, 19:1, 49-67
* Mudde, C. (2004), “The populist zeitgeist”, Government and opposition, 39:4, 541-563

**Further reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 3
* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 4, 15
* Gellner, E. (1983) *Nations and Nationalism* [320.5/4 GEL]
* Taggart. P. (2000) *Populism* [303.4/84 TAG]
* Dahl, R. (1956) *A Preface to Democratic Theory* [321.8 DAH]

**WEEK 8**

**Thursday 11 November 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Democracy and Capitalism***

What is the relationship between capitalism and liberal democracy (complementary, trade-off, or dilemma)? Historically? Today?

**Core reading:**

* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 8, 9
* Olson, M. (1993) “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development”, *The American Political Science Review*, 87:3, 567-576
* Gerber, D. J. (1998), Law and competition in twentieth century Europe [KJC6456.G47 1998], ch. 3.

**Further reading:**

* Lijphart (2012) *Patterns of democracy* [320.3 LIJ], Ch. 9
* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 14, 20, 21, 22
* Dahl, R. (1982) *Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy* [321.8 DAH]
* Olson, M. (2000) *Power and prosperity* [338.9 OLS]
* Picketty, T. (2013) Capital in the Twenty-First Century[332./041 PIK]

**WEEK 9**

**Thursday 18 November 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Democracy and Political Violence***

Can democracy wok in deeply divided societies? In societies divided by political violence, civil war or terrorism?

**Core reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 16, 18
* Lijphart, A. (2004) “Constitutional design for divided societies”, Journal of Democracy, 15:2, 96-109.
* Kissane, B. and N. Sitter (2005) “Civil Wars, Party Politics and the Consolidation of Regimes in Twentieth Century Europe”, *Democratization*, 12:2, 183-201

**Further reading:**

* Parker, T. and N. Sitter (2016), “The Four Horsemen of Terrorism – It’s not Waves, it’s Strains”, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 28:2, 197-216
* Collier, P. and Hoeffler, A. (2004), “Greed and Grievance in Civil War”, Oxford Economic Papers, 56, 563-595
* Kalyvas, S. (2006), *The logic of violence in civil war* [303.6/4 KAL]
* Tilly, C. (2004) *Contention and democracy in Europe, 1650-2000* [320.9/4 TIL]
* McEvoy, J and B. O'Leary (2013) Power sharing in deeply divided places [323.1 MCE]
* Kissane, B. (2015) After civil war: division, reconstruction, and reconciliation in contemporary Europe [303.6/609/4 KIS]

**WEEK 10**

**Thursday 25 November 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: The EU and supranational democracy***

Can democracy work at the supranational level? If so, how? Are there trade-offs between supranational governance and democratic legitimacy?

**Core reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 23
* Moravcsik, A. (2002), “In Defence of the ‘Democratic Deficit’: Reassessing Legitimacy in the European Union”, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 40:4, 602-624
* Taggart, P. (1998), “A touchstone of dissent: Euroscepticism in contemporary Western European party systems”, *European Journal of Political Research*, 33, 363-388.

**Further reading:**

* Majone, G. (2002) “The European Commission: The Limits of Centralization and the
* Perils of Parliamentarization”, *Governance*, 15:3, 375–92
* Follesdal, A. and Hix, S. (2006), “Why there is a democratic deficit in the EU: A response to Majone and Moravcsik”, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 44:3, 533-562
* Sitter, N. (2001), “The Politics of Opposition and European Integration in Scandinavia: Is Euro-scepticism a Government-Opposition Dynamic?”, *West European Politics*, 24:4, 22-39

**WEEK 11**

**Thursday 2 December 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Global Public Goods and Democracy***

Do global *public goods* problem (e.g. climate change) require global governance? Can this be democratic?

**Core reading:** .

* Shepsle, (2010) *Analyzing politics* [320./072 SHE] , Ch. 10
* Andreas Goldthau (2012), “A Public Policy Perspective on Global Energy Security”, *International Studies Perspectives*, 31:1, 65-84,
* William Nordhaus (2015), “Climate Clubs: Overcoming Free-Riding in International Climate Policy”, *American Economic Review*, 105:4, 1339-1370,

**Further reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 24
* Held, D. (2010), *Cosmopolitanism* [303.4/82 HEL]
* Goldthau, A. and N. Sitter (2015), *A Liberal Actor in a Realist World* [HD9502.E82G65 2015]

**WEEK 12**

**Thursday 9 December 2021, 10:50-12:30**

***Topic: Democratic Backsliding***

Why is democratic backsliding a more serious threat to liberal democracy in some states than in others? What factors drive, shape or facilitate democratic backsliding in EU member states?

**Core reading:**

* Bermeo, N. (2016) “On Democratic Backsliding”, *Journal of Democracy*, 27:1, 5-19
* Kelemen, D. R. (2017) “Europe’s Other Democratic Deficit: National Authoritarianism in Europe’s Democratic Union”. Journal of European Public Policy, 24:3, 337–351
* Bakke, E. and N. Sitter (2020) “The EU’s Enfants Terribles: Democratic backsliding in Central Europe since 2010”, *Perspectives on Politics*, published online (first view) 24 July 2020

**Further reading:**

* Caramani (2011) *Comparative Politics* [320.3 CARA] , Ch. 6, 25
* Rupnik, J. (2007), “Is Central Europe Backsliding: From Democracy Fatigue to Populist Backlash”, Journal of Democracy, 18:4, 17–25.
* Diamond, L. (2019) *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency* [321.8 DIA]
* Mounk, Y (2018), *The People vs. Democracy: Why Our Freedom Is in Danger and How to Save It* [321.8 MOUN]

**WEEK 13**

**Thursday 16 December 2021, 10:50-12:30**

**Topic:** Exam week