In this seminar we will tackle the oldest—and some of the most important—questions in comparative politics. What explains variation in modes of governance across space and time? What makes some regimes durable while others are fragile, whether democratic or authoritarian? How can we best explain processes and outcomes of regime change? Scholars offer a seemingly endless supply of answers to such questions. We will encounter writings from the major approaches to explaining the dynamics of political regimes. These are selected for their broader theoretical and conceptual import; the seminar has no area studies focus. Rather, the seminar will help equip us with a set of tools to tackle key questions about regimes and regime change in the past, present, and future.

The seminar will not focus much attention on the consequences of different regime types; there are many large literatures on this question that range from economic development to the ‘democratic peace’ debate in IR. Instead, we will limit our attention to thinking through such issues as: typologies of regimes; the sources of stable democratic and authoritarian rule; processes of regime decay and collapse; the consolidation of democracy; the recent development of ‘hybrid’ regimes; and the possibilities for examining subnational regime outcomes.

### Course Requirements

Besides their physical attendance and their vigorous, respectful, and good-humored participation (25% of the final grade), students must write over the course of the semester six 2-3 page essays that critically evaluate writings on a week’s major theme. These will comprise 25% of the final grade. Finally, students must complete a research paper of at least 25 pages (50% of the final grade). The reading load for this seminar is demanding, and the readings themselves are often difficult. Your grade in the course—and, more to the point, your learning—depend on a serious commitment to keep up.
Readings

Several books will be made available for purchase at Shaman Drum bookstore. Those already ordered include:

Timur Kuran, *Private Truths, Public Lies*

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*

Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market*

Dietrich Reuschemeyer, Evelyn Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy*

Most articles are accessible via MIRLYN; copies of others will be circulated.

Course Outline

Part One: Introduction

Wednesday, September 8  Opening Remarks

Sept. 15  “Regime” and “State”: Definitions and Concepts


Theda Skocpol, “Bringing the State Back In,” in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 3-37. [handout]

Stephanie Lawson, "Conceptual Issues in the Comparative Study of Regime Change and Democratization," *Comparative Politics* 25 (1993), 183-205. [MIRLYN]

Sept. 22  Regime Types and Their Scholarly Utility

Juan J. Linz, *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2000), 49-143 and 159-261. [handout]


**Part Two: Developmental Approaches**

Sept. 29  Economic Development and Regime Outcomes

Barbara Geddes, “What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999), 115-44. [MIRLYN]


Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, “Endogenous Democratization,” *World Politics* 55 (2003), 517-49. [MIRLYN]

October 6  
Economic Development and Regime Outcomes, Continued


*economic development and transitions to democracy*


*economic development and transitions to authoritarian rule?*


Oct. 13  
State-Building and Early Political Development


Oct. 20  

20th Century State-Building and Regime Change


Mark Kesellman, “Order or Movement? The Literature of Political Development as Ideology,” *World Politics* 26:1 (1973), 139-154. [MIRLYN]


Part III: Coalitional Approaches

Oct. 27  

Classes, States, and Regime Outcomes in Europe

Barrington Moore, Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Read the chapters on Britain, France, and the US; then read *either* the chapter on China *or* the chapter on Japan; then read the three concluding chapters, VII to IX.


November 3  

Labor Incorporation in Modern Latin America and Western Europe


Nov. 10  

Rural Incorporation

review Barrington Moore

David Waldner, “Democracy and Dictatorship in the Post-Colonial World” (unpublished manuscript), selections
Part IV: Elite-Centered Approaches

Nov. 17    Rational-Choice Regime Change


Nov. 24    ‘Transitology’


December 1  Mass Preferences and Regime Change


December 8  Combining Structure and Agency


Richard Snyder, “Paths out of Sultanistic Regimes: Combining Structural and Voluntarist Perspectives,” in H. E. Chehabi and Juan Linz, eds., Sultanistic Regimes, 49-81.


review last two sections of Waldner manuscript

Dec. 15  Presentation of Students’ Research and Closing Remarks