

POLITICAL CHANGE

POLS 4520 / POLS 5520

Fall 2018
Thursday: 4:15 pm – 7:00 pm
McGannon Hall #122

Professor- J.D. Bowen
Office- McGannon #149
Email- jbowen5@slu.edu
Phone- 314.977.4239

Office hours- Tuesday (2:00-3:00pm) and Wednesday (12:00-1:00pm) or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to familiarize students with major theoretical approaches to understanding and explaining periods of political change. A course on political change runs the risk of over-reaching. Politics is rarely static and, therefore, almost any topic in Political Science could fall under the title “Political Change.” Political change involves understanding both long-term causal processes and their consequences as well as the more immediate causes and consequences of change. Sometimes change is rapid and momentous (e.g., violent revolutions) and sometimes it is slow and barely perceptible (e.g., the impact of economic development on political change). Sometimes it seems inevitable, and sometimes it seems impossible.

In this course we will start by thinking conceptually, theoretically, and methodologically about what it is we’re looking for when we study “change” and how we can study it. Then we will move on to a series of empirical studies on a wide range of topics, both in the US and around the world, that illustrate the possibilities and challenges for political change. I make no assumption that change is synonymous with progress or improvement, and so we will study types of change that most of us will find normatively appealing (e.g., democratization and steps toward gender equality) as well as changes that are more normatively concerning (e.g., war and economic decline).

My goals for the course are the following:

- 1) Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the historical roots of contemporary politics in a variety of countries, including the United States.
- 2) Students will master the major theoretical perspectives used to explain political and economic change.
- 3) Students will acquire specific knowledge about different countries and political systems.
- 4) Students will hone their critical reasoning skills through careful reading and discussion of competing arguments.
- 5) Students will develop their abilities to write short, focused analytical essays.
- 6) Students will strengthen their skills in independent research and writing.
- 7) Students will leave the course with the ability to make informed and reasoned judgements about a wide variety of issues facing scholars and practitioners of contemporary politics.

Welcome!

Required texts:

All required and optional texts are available for purchase at the Saint Louis University Bookstore in the Busch Student Center. Readings that are NOT in the required books are available through the library's online e-journals website (go to libraries.slu.edu and click on "research" then on "e-journals portal" and follow the instructions for searching for journal articles), or will be sent to you via email as PDF files.

The **required** books for the course are:

Cohen, Stephen and J. Bradford DeLong. 2010. *The End of Influence: What Happens When Other Countries Have the Money*. New York: Basic Books.

Eichengreen, Barry. 2018. *The Populist Temptation: Economic Grievance and Political Reaction in the Modern Era*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Kaufman, David. 2018. *The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Lynch, Marc. 2017. *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East*. New York: Public Affairs.

Naím, Moisés. 2014. *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What it Used to Be*. New York: Basic Books

Ruben, Jeffrey and Vivienne Bennett, eds. 2015. *Enduring Reform: Progressive Activism and Private Sector Responses in Latin America's Democracies*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Shambaugh, David. 2016. *China's Future*. New York: Polity Press.

Tripp, Aili. 2015. *Women and Power in Postconflict Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Course requirements and grading:

1-page papers: 15 points

These papers should be *no more than one page* (single or double-spaced) and are due by 11:59 pm the day *before* class. These papers should be brief, critical reflections on the readings. They should not be summaries of the readings. The purpose of this assignment is twofold: (1) it forces you to read and think critically about the readings before coming to class, and (2) it gives me the chance to see what issues were of particular interest or concern to you and tailor our class discussions around those issues. For this reason it is absolutely crucial that these papers be submitted to me via email (james.bowen5@slu.edu) and on time (by 11:59 pm the day before class).

*****UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LATE PAPERS BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.**

*NOTE TO POLS 4520 STUDENTS: You must turn in 5 papers (out of 10 classes where we have assigned readings).

*NOTE TO POLS 5520 STUDENTS: You must turn in 9 papers (out of 10 classes where we have assigned readings).

Research question, methodology. and annotated bibliography: 10 points

All students will be completing a research paper for this course. After you choose a topic in consultation with the professor, you will write a short (2-3 pages) proposal which explains your research question and methodology. In addition you will submit an annotated bibliography that should consist of *no fewer than* 4 sources, and should be primarily theoretical in nature. You might think of these as brief versions of the 1-page papers described above. Each source listed in the bibliography should be accompanied by a short paragraph explaining the theoretical insights that the source provides and how it is applicable to your research question.

Due: Monday, Oct. 8th @ 4pm

Final exam: 25 points

The final exam will be essay in nature. It will be a take-home exam. It will be sent to you via email at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 14th and will be due on Thursday, Nov. 15th by 7:00 pm. Please bring a HARD COPY to my office.

Research presentation: 10 points

Before students hand in the final version of their research papers everyone will present their work to the class. This is an opportunity to get feedback on your work from your classmates which will help you revise your paper for final submission. Research presentations will be during class on Nov. 29th and Dec. 2nd. Attendance at both of these classes is absolutely mandatory- NO EXCEPTIONS!

Research paper: 30 points

Final research papers should be approximately 20 pages.

Due: Thursday, Dec. 13th @ 4pm

Review essay: 20 points (POLS 5520 students ONLY)

This essay should survey major recent works on a particular topic relevant to the course. The topic should be substantially different from the student's research paper topic. The goal of this essay is to analyze the "state of the art" in a particular area of political science scholarship. The essay should review 3 or 4 recent books, which should be selected in consultation with the professor. The essay should be 8-10 pages in length. I will provide examples of what these essays should look like.

Due: Monday, Nov. 12th @ 4pm

Class participation: 10 points

Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of this course. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the

assigned readings. In assigning grades, quality of participation will take precedence over quantity of participation (hence, students who participate frequently but without giving much thought to their comments/questions are not at an advantage compared to the student who offers occasional but insightful analysis and questions).

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|---|----------|
| A | 93-100 | B+ | 87-89 | C+ | 77-79 | D | 60-70 |
| A- | 90-92 | B | 83-86 | C | 73-76 | F | below 60 |
| | | B- | 80-82 | C- | 70-72 | | |

Attendance and participation:

I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. If you must miss class for an approved reason (e.g.; illness, death or medical emergency in the immediate family, University-sponsored activities), please let me know via email as soon as possible. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not. Make-up exams will be given only under the most extraordinary of circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 5 points per day.

Classroom courtesy:

Out of respect for all of those in class, all cell phones, pagers, and any other noisemaking devices must be turned OFF during the entire class period and during exams. Laptop computers may be used in class provided they do not make noise that disturbs those around you. I reserve the right to ask you to turn off and put away your computer if it is creating a disruption.

Students with disabilities:

In an effort to be inclusive of students' learning styles and needs with regard to academic support, the following statement has been developed for use in course syllabi which identifies resources for student support in various areas of learning. Please update your materials to reflect the following language in place of the former statement that had been specific to include resources only for students with disabilities.

"In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [314-977-8885](tel:314-977-8885) or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Academic integrity:

I expect all students to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations will be reported and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts & Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. I encourage you to view official University policy on matters of academic integrity at: <http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

Course schedule:

Aug. 30- Introduction and syllabus

Sep. 6- Theories of change and barriers to change

*Huntington, Samuel. 1965. "Political Development and Political Decay," *World Politics*, Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 386-430.

*Anderson, Charles. 1974. "Toward a Theory of Latin American Politics," in Wiarda, Howard, ed. *Politics and Social Change in Latin America: The Distinct Tradition*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, pp. 249-265.

*Cappocia, Giovanni and R. Daniel Kelemen. 2007. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism," *World Politics* Vol., 59, No. 3 (April), pp. 341-369.

*Kaplan, Robert. 2018. *The Return of Marco Polo's World: War, Strategy, and American interests in the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Random House, pp. 2-45.

Sep. 13- Power and political change in a global perspective

*Naím, Moisés. 2014. *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What it Used to Be*. New York: Basic Books.

Sep. 20- Order, stability, and cycles of change

*Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 5-21.

*Valenzuela, Arturo. 2004. "Latin American Presidencies Interrupted," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15, No. 4, pp. 5-19.

*Bellin, Eva. 2012. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring," *Comparative Politics*, Vol 44, No. 2, pp. 127-149.

*Rossi, Federico. 2015. "The Second Wave of Incorporation in Latin America: A Conceptualization of the Quest for Inclusion Applied to Argentina," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 57, No. 1, pp. 1-28.

Sep. 27- Revolution, reaction, violence, and chaos: The Arab Spring

*Lynch, Marc. 2017. *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East*. New York: Public Affairs.

Oct. 4- From revolution to reformism: Social mobilization in Latin America

*Ruben, Jeffrey and Vivienne Bennett, eds. 2015. *Enduring Reform: Progressive Activism and Private Sector Responses in Latin America's Democracies*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

[Research question, methodology, and annotated bibliography due Monday, Oct. 8 by 4pm]

Oct. 11: The rise and decline (or evolution?) of great powers

*Cohen, Stephen and J. Bradford DeLong. 2010. *The End of Influence: What Happens When Other Countries Have the Money*. New York: Basic Books.

Oct. 18- Manufacturing political change: The "conservatization" of Wisconsin

*Kaufman, David. 2018. *The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Oct. 25- Populism and political change

*Eichengreen, Barry. 2018. *The Populist Temptation: Economic Grievance and Political Reaction in the Modern Era*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nov. 1- Understanding unexpected change: Women and political power in Africa

*Tripp, Aili. 2015. *Women and Power in Postconflict Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Nov. 8- Thinking forward: The future of China

*Shambaugh, David. 2016. *China's Future*. New York: Polity Press.

Nov. 14-15: Final exam

Nov. 29 and Dec. 6- Research presentations

Dec. 13- Final research paper due