

POLI 2053-section 4, Fall 2015  
10:30 ± 11:50 am Tuesday and Thursday, 116 Stubbs Hall

# Introduction to Comparative Politics

*Politics is the art of the possible.*

Otto von Bismarck (11 August 1867)

Professor Wonik Kim, wkim@lsu.edu

Office Hours: 12:20 ± 1:20 pm Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment

Office: 229 Stubbs Hall, Department of Political Science

In this General Education course, we study the fundamentals of politics. Understanding politics is a sine qua non of leading a good life, for politics affects our everyday life. As such, political science is a Practical Science. LQ WKH ZRUG V RI \$ubas W R R A chivty Purpose of This course is to 53F





READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS  
(subject to change)

PART I: POWER, IDEOLOGY, AND THE CAPITAL-NATION-STATE

Week 1(08/25, 08/27)

PART II: DEMOCRACIES, DICTATORSHIPS, AND PEOPLE

Week 7 (10/06) What Is Democracy? Which Countries Are Democratic?  
Competition and participation. Minimalist vs. maximalist definitions. Institutionalization of uncertainty.  
Trends and Katerol World all regions and the world.

Shively Chapter 7

Przeworski Adam, et al. 2000. Democracy and Development: Political Regimes and Material Well-being in the World, 1950 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 7 (10/08) Conference  
No class meeting.

Week 8 (10/13, 10/15, 10/20) Why and How Do Democracies Emerge and Endure?  
Modernization theory Structure vs. agency. Strategic interaction models Top vs bottom-up transitions  
Crisis driven vs. non-crisis transitions. Mobilization curve. Tipping (threshold) del. Year  
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Shively Chapter 7 (continue) and Chapter 13.

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Week 9 (10/22) Does Culture Matter for Democracy?  
Political socialization. Social capital. Is culture a dependent variable or independent variable?  
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