

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

SII 199Y
Explaining Political Transitions

2013-2014
Mr. Falkenheim

Course Outline

This course explores the dynamics of regime change from a comparative and historical perspective. In particular, it examines the factors that facilitate and inhibit radical political change. Varying modes of change are analyzed including social revolution, radical reform, fundamentalist reaction and restructuring from above. A major focus will be on the post-1970s global 'Third Wave' of democratic transitions as well as the so-called "Fourth Wave" of post-Communist transitions in Eastern Europe and Asia. A secondary goal of the course is to introduce students to concepts and modes of political analysis.

Format

The course is organized as a colloquium/seminar emphasizing class discussion of common themes. Students may be asked to present brief summaries or critiques of the readings as a means to stimulate discussion.

Textbooks:

1. Alan Siaroff, Comparing Political Regimes, 3rd edition (2013)
2. Weekly readings will be available on-line or posted as PDFs on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on four short tests and two writing assignments weighted as follows:

Term tests: 4 @15% each:	60%
Reading Critique:	10%
Research Report:	15%
Participation	15%

Topics and Readings:

Part I: Regime Change: Macro-Historical Perspectives

September 13 **Course Introduction: Comparing Political Systems**

1. Alan Siaroff, Comparing Political Regimes, Chapter 1

September 20 **The ‘End of History’?**

1. Frances Fukuyama, The End of History, Preface, Chapters 1-3. (Bb)

September 27 **Developmental Perspectives**

1. Frances Fukuyama, The Origins of Political Order, Chapters 1-2.

October 4 **Modernization Theory and Political Change**

1. Karl Marx, “The Communist Manifesto: Part I
2. R. Inglehart and C. Welzel, Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy, Chapter 1 (“A Revised Theory of Modernization”), pp. 15-47.
3. Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies, pp. 1-8.

October 11 **Globalization and Political Change**

1. Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. MacWorld,” Atlantic Monthly, March, 1992.
2. Thomas Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, Chapter (“The Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention”)

October 18 **Revolutions and Regime Change**

1. Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies, pp. 264-315.

October 26 **Test # 1**

Part II: Imperialism, Global Capitalism and Political Change: Cases from the Asia-Pacific

November 1

The Meiji Revolution in Japan: Western Challenge: Asian Responses.

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapters 2-3, pp. 23-69.
2. Video (Pacific Century: Part 2: The Meiji Revolution)

November 8

The Japanese Story- Part II: Democracy from Above

1. Thomas Fallows, Looking at the Sun, Chapter 3 (“The American Years”), pp. 117-176.
2. Video (Pacific Century, Part 5: Reinventing Japan)

November 15

The Chinese Revolution

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 4 (“China’s Ignominy”) pp. 70-99.
2. Video (China: Century of Revolution: Part I)

November 22

The Transformation of Southeast Asia

1. Jeff Goodwin, No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991, pp. 72-133.
2. Video (Pacific Century, Part 4)

November 29

Test # 2

Part III:

The ‘Third Wave’ and the Revolutions of 1989

January 10

The Third Wave: An Overview

1. Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave, Chapter 1, pp. 3-46.
2. Frances Fukuyama, The End of History, Chapter 4, pp. 39-51.

January 17

The Communist Extinction

1. Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr. “Revolution Reconsidered,” Journal of Democracy, January, 2007.
2. Daniel Chirot, “What Happened in Eastern Europe in 1989?” in Wasserstrom and Perry, Popular Protest and Political Culture in Modern China, 1992.