

# Using V-Dem to Achieve SLOS

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# Comparative Democracy

## □ Buff State PSPAP Program Overview/Strategic Plan & 5yr External Review

- ❖ Methods/Stats Core
- ❖ Distribution Courses
- ❖ Capstone
- ❖ Brief history of course

## □ 2024 APSA Presidential Task Force on Rethinking Political Science Education – SLO suggestions

1. Content
2. Skill
3. Value

## □ “Two Stage” Course

### □ PSC101/HON202 – GE23 Social Science SLOs – ‘detuned’ PSC344

1. Describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences; and
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena.

### □ PSC344 – PSPAP Distribution – Comparative Government

- Democracy: Competing Theories & Citizenship
- Global View – dem as global phenomenon
- Analysis
- Writing

## □ Pick country, assess democracy & compare to world average, regions, etc ...

## APSA 2024 SLOs

### □ Content

- Key concepts
- Diverse Theories
- Explain, apply, and evaluate approaches and theories that address political phenomena

### □ Skills

1. Analyze political phenomena and critique arguments in a theoretically and empirically informed manner.
2. Engage as citizens through problem solving, collective action, and collaborative decision making at all levels from local to global.
3. Identify, evaluate, properly use, and cite verifiable sources of evidence.
4. Engage thoughtfully and respectfully with competing values and perspectives.
5. Use qualitative and quantitative methods effectively and appropriately.
6. Communicate effectively in written and verbal modes to a variety of audiences.

### □ Value

- Demonstrate an understanding of civic dispositions conducive to democratic involvement.

# SLOs

## Buffalo State PSPAP SLOs 2024-2029

1. Be able critically evaluate existing literature in a given topic area of political science and how the major historical schools of thought explain that topic.
2. Demonstrate the rudimentary skills to generate and test a scientific hypothesis in a given area of political science
3. Apply appropriate statistical techniques for a given research design.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply valid conclusions based on topic area, literature review, theory, hypothesis, statistical analysis, and study outcomes.
5. Demonstrate effective research report writing.
6. Demonstrate global awareness and engagement skills.

# Comparative Democracy

## Lower/Upper Division

### PSC101/HON202

#### Focus – Theory & Correlation

- Content
  - ❖ Theory comparison
- Skills
  - ❖ Engage; Analyze; Use – poster/*light* data analysis
- Value
  - ❖ Demonstrate values conducive to democracy
- Resources
  - Tilly v Dahl – Theory
  - Yacobucci – Lit Grid
  - V-Dem Graphing Tool - online
  - PowerPoint Poster Template

### PSC344

#### Focus – Design and Data Analysis

- Content
  - ❖ Research Design (reinforce methods/stats course- prep for capstone)
- Skills
  - ❖ Analyze; Engage; Identify; Use; Communicate
- Value
  - ❖ Demonstrate values conducive to democracy
- Resources
  - Tilly, Dahl, et al. – Theory
  - Yacobucci – Lit Grid and Review
  - V-Dem Data Set – SPSS or R
  - 12–15-page Research Paper & PowerPoint Poster Templates

# SLO – Content: Competing Theories

It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind.



The **First** approached the Elephant,  
And happening to fall  
Against his broad and sturdy side,  
At once began to bawl:  
"God bless me!—but the Elephant  
Is very much like a wall!"

The **Second**, feeling of the tusk,  
Cried: "Ho!—what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me 't is mighty clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very much like a spear!" ...



And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was **partly** in the right,  
all were (**wholly**) in the wrong!

**MORAL:** So, oft in theologic wars  
The disputants, I ween,  
Rail on in utter ignorance  
Of what each other mean,  
And prate about an Elephant  
Not one of them has ever seen!

- John G. Saxe

# SLO - Content: Theories & Key Concepts

Well-Written  
Script

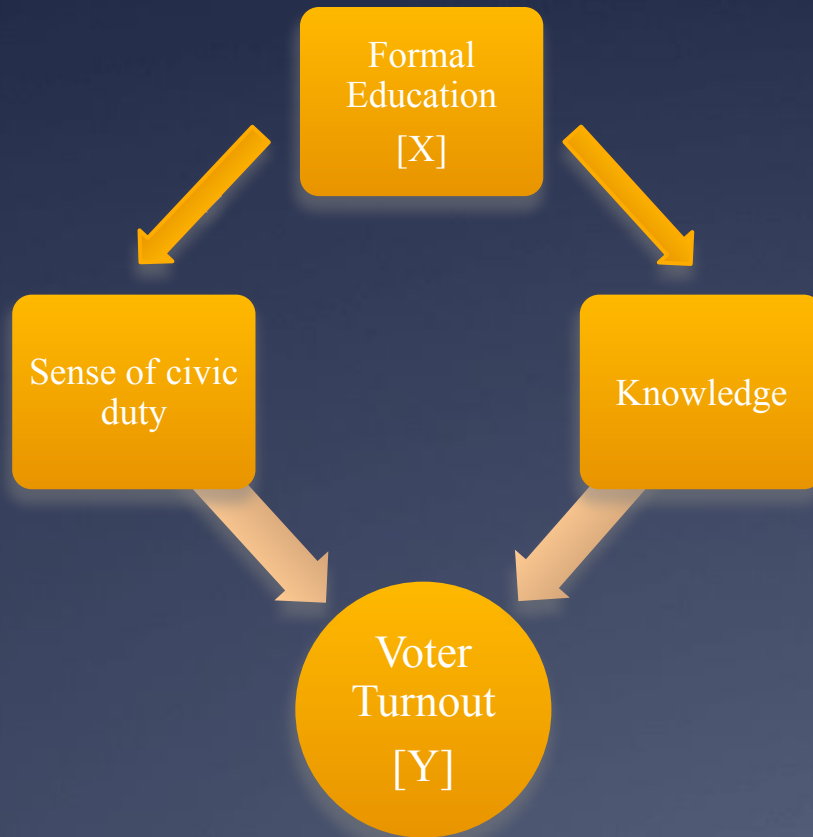


Good  
Movie

- **Theory & Hypothesis**
  1. **Why** does good script help improve movie? Connect to “elephant” poem
  2. **How** variables interact – better script, higher movie rating
- **Variables**
  1. Independent – good script (define)
  2. Dependent – movie rating (scale?)
- **Data**
  1. Nature of the script, writers
  2. Response to movie: thumbs up/down
- Normative – good movies **SHOULD BE** well-written
- Empirical – **I’ve actually watched** 349 movies, those that are well-written get 66% favorable ratings
- We do this all the time – movies, restaurants, clothes, cars, leisure time, etc ...

# SLO - Content: Theories & Key Concepts (2)

Time



- Over time, **formal education** (independent variable [X]) influences
  - A Sense of civic duty
  - Or Knowledge of Candidates Position
  - Each of these impacts
- **Voter Turnout** (**dependent variable** [Y])
- Theory – **Why**; Hypothesis – **How**

# SLO – Content: Theories & Key Concepts (3)

Tilly - *Democracy* (2007) as on-going process (v. interpreting Dahl as 'checklist/ratchet')

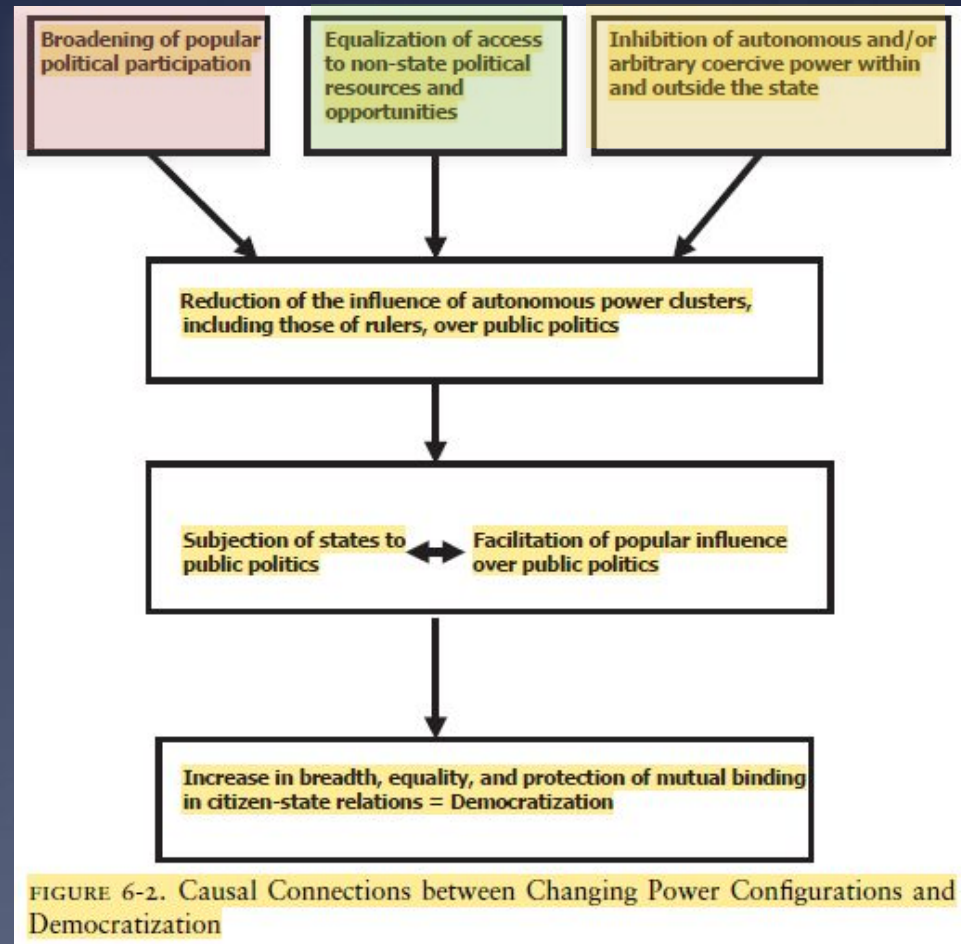
Interaction with state-capacity

1. Expanding trust networks
2. Equalization of access to non-state resources
3. Control autonomous power centers

Theory : a recurrent set of alterations in power configurations both within and without states produces changes in relations among states, citizen, and public politics, which in turn promote democratization.

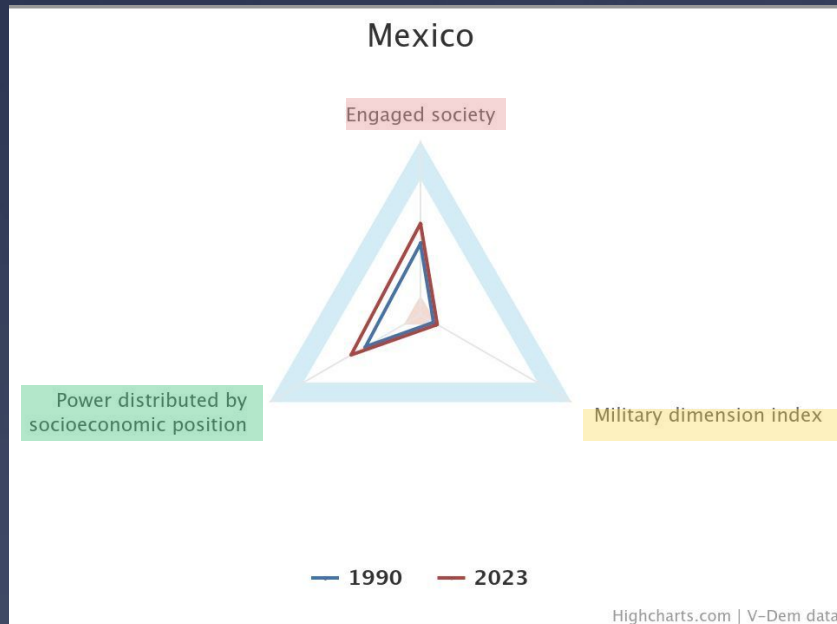
**SLO – Content** - Limits on power; democratization – binding state activities to citizen preferences/consultation

**SLO – Content/Value** – consider these limits on power affecting student as national, regional, & global citizen





# SLO – Skills



V-Dem Graphing Tool

## PSC101/HON202

- Skill – Correlation & Analysis
- Resource – [V-Dem Graphing Tools](#)
  - V-Dem proxies for Tilly
    - Engaged Society Index
    - Power Distribution - Equality
    - Military Dimension Index
- Draw conclusions re: health of democracy in given country

## PSC344

- Skill – Correlations; Stats; Interpretation; Report Writing
- Resource – V-Dem Dataset and SPSS and/or R



# SLO Content & Skills

## BSU SLOs

1. Be able critically evaluate existing literature in a given topic area of political science and how the major historical schools of thought explain that topic.
2. Demonstrate the rudimentary skills to generate and test a scientific hypothesis in a given area of political science
3. Apply appropriate statistical techniques for a given research design.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply valid conclusions based on topic area, literature review, theory, hypothesis, statistical analysis, and study outcomes.
5. Demonstrate effective research report writing.
6. Demonstrate global awareness and engagement skills.

## PSC344 Design

- Problem Statement/Motivation – democracy, citizenship, power, global awareness
- Utilize Lit Grid and Lit Review
  - Peer Reviewed Journals
  - Other views democracy
  - Assess via Tilly's Democracy
- Theory & Hypothesis Testing
  - Why state capacity and Tilly's three IVs affect backsliding
  - Main IVs
- Data and Methods
  - Data from V-Dem – SPSS
  - Multivariate linear regression
- Results and Discussion
- Works Cited
- Presented as 12-15 research paper & .ppt poster



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

## Reference/ Misc: Links, etc ...

APSA Pres Taskforce on Ed 2024 -

<https://educate.apsanet.org/apsa-presidential-task-force-on-rethinking-political-science-education>

V-Dem: Report; Graphing tools; Data Sets (SPSS; R) - <https://www.v-dem.net/>

# Content

1. Describe and apply key concepts used to study political institutions, processes, and actors in a variety of settings.
2. Explain and evaluate diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches to the sources, ethical distribution, and uses of power.
3. Explain, apply, and evaluate approaches and theories (such as empirical, normative, critical) that address political phenomena.
4. Explain and evaluate the effectiveness and ethics of different strategies of civic engagement at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

# Misc: PSA 2024 SLOs

## Skills

1. Analyze political phenomena and critique arguments in a theoretically and empirically informed manner.
2. Engage as citizens through problem solving, collective action, and collaborative decision making at all levels from local to global.
3. Identify, evaluate, properly use, and cite verifiable sources of evidence.
4. Engage thoughtfully and respectfully with competing values and perspectives.
5. Use qualitative and quantitative methods effectively and appropriately.
6. Communicate effectively in written and verbal modes to a variety of audiences.

## Value

- Demonstrate an understanding of civic dispositions conducive to democratic involvement.

# Ideal Democracy

FIGURE 4. *What is democracy?*

Democracy provides opportunities for:

1. Effective participation
2. Equality in voting
3. Gaining enlightened understanding
4. Exercising final control over the agenda
5. Inclusion of adults

p. 38

# Institutions

1. *Elected officials.* Control over government decisions about policy is constitutionally vested in officials elected by citizens. Thus modern, large-scale democratic governments are *representative*.
2. *Free, fair, and frequent elections.* Elected officials are chosen in frequent and fairly conducted elections in which coercion is comparatively uncommon.
3. *Freedom of expression.* Citizens have a right to express themselves without danger of severe punishment on political

pp 85-6

# Content: Theory – Dahl On Democracy

matters broadly defined, including criticism of officials, the government, the regime, the socioeconomic order, and the prevailing ideology.

4. *Access to alternative sources of information.* Citizens have a right to seek out alternative and independent sources of information from other citizens, experts, newspapers, magazines, books, telecommunications, and the like. Moreover, alternative sources of information actually exist that are not under the control of the government or any other single political group attempting to influence public political beliefs and attitudes, and these alternative sources are effectively protected by law.
5. *Associational autonomy.* To achieve their various rights, including those required for the effective operation of democratic political institutions, citizens also have a right to form relatively independent associations or organizations, including independent political parties and interest groups.
6. *Inclusive citizenship.* No adult permanently residing in the country and subject to its laws can be denied the rights that are available to others and are necessary to the five political institutions just listed. These include the rights to vote in the election of officials in free and fair elections; to run for elective office; to free expression; to form and participate in independent political organizations; to have access to independent sources of information; and rights to other liberties and opportunities that may be necessary to the effective operation of the political institutions of large-scale democracy.

#### BOX 4-2. Signs of Trust Networks' Integration into Public Politics

In the contemporary world, we would be observing integration of trust networks into public politics if we saw many people in a given regime doing a number of the following things:

- Creating publicly recognized associations, mutual aid societies, parties, unions, congregations, and communities or seeking recognition for similar organizations that have existed underground
- Pursuing friendship, kinship, shared belief, security, and high-risk enterprises within such organizations
- Permitting family members to serve in national military and police forces
- Enrolling children in state-run educational institutions
- Promoting careers of family members in public service, including government office
- Seeking (or at least tolerating) government registration of vital events such as births, deaths, and marriages and then using the registration to validate legal transactions
- Providing private information to public organizations and authorities through censuses, surveys, and applications for services
- Entrusting private contracts to governmental enforcement
- Asking government agents to punish or protect members of their own kin groups, religious sects, or other social categories
- Using government-issued legal tender for inter-personal savings
- Purchasing government securities with funds from the maintenance of interpersonal ties
- Relying on political actors and/or government for long-term security

#### BOX 5-2. Mechanisms Insulating Public Politics from Categorical Inequality

1. Dissolution of state controls (e.g., legal restrictions on property-holding) that support current unequal relations among social categories (e.g., wholesale confiscation and sale of church property weakens established ecclesiastical power)
2. Equalization of assets and/or well-being across categories within the population at large (e.g., booming demand for the products of peasant agriculture increases number of middle peasants)
3. Reduction or state containment of privately controlled armed force (e.g., disbanding of magnates' personal armies weakens noble control over commoners, thereby diminishing nobles' capacity to translate noble-commoner differences directly into public politics)
4. Adoption of procedural devices that insulate public politics from categorical inequalities (e.g., secret ballots; payment of officeholders; and free, equal access of candidates to media forward the formation of cross-category coalitions)
5. Formation of politically active coalitions and associations for cross-cutting categorical inequality (e.g., creation of region-wide mobilizations against state property seizures crosses categorical lines)
6. Wholesale increases of political participation, rights, or obligations that cut across social categories (e.g., state annexation of socially heterogeneous territories promotes categorically mixed politics)

#### BOX 6-1. Mechanisms Subjecting States to Public Politics and/or Facilitating Popular Influence over Public Politics

1. Coalition formation between segments of ruling classes and constituted political actors that are currently excluded from power (e.g., dissident bourgeois recruit backing from disfranchised workers, thus promoting political participation of those workers)
2. Central co-optation or elimination of previously autonomous political intermediaries (e.g., regional strongmen join governing coalitions, thus becoming committed to governmental programs)
3. Dissolution or transformation of non-state patron-client networks (e.g., great landlords become commercial farmers, expelling tenants and bond workers from the land)
4. Brokerage of coalitions across unequal categories, distinct trust networks, and/or previously autonomous power centers (e.g., regional alliances form against governmental seizure of local assets, thus promoting employment of those alliances in other political struggles)
5. Expansion of state activities for which sustaining resources are only available through negotiation with citizens (e.g., a war-making state creates a national army through military conscription)

mobilization-repression-bargaining cycles during which currently excluded actors act collectively in ways that threaten survival of the regime and/or its ruling classes, governmental repression fails, struggles ensue, and settlements concede political standing and/or rights to mobilized actors (e.g., negotiated settlement of resistance to governmental expropriation of land establishes agreements concerning property rights)

imposition of uniform governmental structures and practices through the state's jurisdiction (e.g., creation of uniform nationwide taxes increases visibility of equity, visibility, and conformity)

centralized bureaucratic containment of previously autonomous military forces (e.g., incorporation of mercenaries into national armies reduces their independence and leverage as political actors)