

Political Science 134
Global Perspectives on Democracy

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Monday, Wednesday, 12:45-2:00
Funger Hall 221

Introduction: Democracy, an unusual form of government throughout most of history, has recently spread widely, even in regions of the world that have rarely experienced democratic governance. Scholars and political activists have therefore devoted tremendous attention to democracy and democratization over the past decade.

In this course, however, we will begin not with the most recent writings on democracy but instead on some older works that have colored much of our subsequent thinking on the subject. These writings often contain not only the seeds of current assumptions but also long-forgotten insights and cautions that can help us approach more recent thinking with a more critical eye. After considering some of these older writers, we will proceed to some of the newer works, drawing not only on empirical research but also on the writings of participants in democratization efforts. We will conclude with a series of studies on practical efforts to promote democracy.

Organization: The course has six sections:

- First, some we will consider some classic views of democracy and its relationship to other political concepts (such as liberalism and constitutionalism).
- Second, we will examine how democracy has emerged and how it has survived through a series of case studies. In this section we will also consider democracy promotion as a part of American foreign policy.
- Third, we will consider some issues related to the democratization process: whether democracy is a universal value and whether democratization promotes peace.
- Fourth, we will examine some practical questions in designing democratic systems and promoting democracy. In this section, there will be a special focus on elections.
- Fifth, students will examine a particular democracy promoting organization or program and present their findings to the entire class.

Objectives: The course is aimed at developing students' skills and knowledge in four areas:

- Theory—The course is designed to increase sophistication about democracy, its changing meaning, and its prerequisites.
- Practice—Students should also develop practical knowledge about democracy promotion and the design of democratic systems.
- Critical thinking—Students will be exposed to varying points of views and be expected to assess them in light of empirical evidence and synthesize their own understandings and explanations.
- Communication—The course will emphasize both written communication (in short papers) and oral communication (in the form of group presentations to the full class). In both cases, an emphasis will be placed on clear and effective communication of analytical material.

Requirements and grading: The final course grade will be based equally on three components.

- 3 of 5 short papers—Students will be required to write three short papers for designated classes during the semester. Full instructions will be given in class. Because the papers are partly intended to stimulate class discussion, they will be due at the beginning of the class session. No late papers will be accepted without a documented medical excuse.
- Group project—Students will work in teams to develop a presentation explaining and assessing the work of an organization involved in promoting democracy. Additional instructions will be given in class.
- Final examination—Students will complete a final essay examination at the scheduled time.

In addition, students are expected to attend all class sessions. Repeated or prolonged absences without a documented medical excuse may result in a penalty.

Required texts:

- Aristotle, *Politics*
- Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*
- Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
- Samuel Huntington, *The Third Wave*
- Guillermo O'Donnell et al, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule*
- Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*
- Thomas Carothers, *Critical Mission*
- Other readings to be announced

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
1. Jan 17	Introduction to the course	
<i>Part One: Classical Perspectives on Democracy</i>		
2. Jan 22	Aristotle and Athenian Democracy	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book I, Chapters i-vii • Book III, chapters i-xviii • Book IV, chapters ii-xii • Book V, chapter iv and v
3. Jan 24	Discussion of Aristotle	First paper: Aristotle's conception of democracy
4. Jan 29	Locke and Liberalism	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i>
5. Jan 31	Discussion of Locke	Second paper
6. Feb 5	Tocqueville and the American experiment	Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume I, Part I, chapter 3; • Volume I, Part II, chapters 1, 3-9 • Volume II, Part II, chapters 1-5 • Volume II, Part IV, chapter 6
7. Feb 7	Discussion of Tocqueville	Third paper

Part Two: Transitions and Consolidation

8. Feb 12	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Huntington, <i>The Third Wave</i> • Guillermo O'Donnell, <i>Transitions from Authoritarian Rule</i>
9. Feb 14	Germany	
10. Feb 19	Eastern Europe and Latin America	
11. Feb 21	South Africa and East Asia	

Part Three: Issues in Democratization

12. Feb 26	Culture and Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone" • Asian Values debate from <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, April 1997: "Hong Kong, Singapore, and 'Asian Values'" • Nathan J. Brown, Amr Hamzawy, and Marina Ottaway, "Islamist Movements and the Democratic Process in the Arab World: Exploring the Grey Zones," Carnegie Paper, 2006 	
13. Feb 28	Democratic Peace		<p>Democratic Peace debate from <i>International Security</i>, Fall 1994:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," • Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace"
14. Mar 5	American Policy and Democratization (Dunne)		<p>Readings tba</p> <p>Fourth paper</p>
15. Mar 7	Democratization in the Middle East		

Part Four: Making Democracy Work and Promoting it

17. Mar 19	Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism	<p>Brown, "Judicial Review in the Arab World" <i>Journal of Democracy</i></p>
18. Mar 21	Constitutional Courts	
19. Mar 26	Party Systems	<p>Thomas Carothers, <i>Critical Mission</i></p>
20. Mar 28	Introduction to the Democracy Industry	
21. April 2	Class cancelled	
22. Apr 4	Rule of Law	
23. Apr 9	Civil Society Aid	
24. Apr 11	Guest lecture (topic tba)	

25. Apr 16	Electoral Systems and Administration I	Readings tba
26. Apr 18		Fifth paper due
27. Apr 23		
<i>Part Six: Group Projects</i>		
28. Apr 25		Democracy Promotion: Group Presentation I
29. Apr 30		Democracy Promotion: Group Presentation II
30. May 1 (make-up day)		Democracy Promotion: Group Presentation III
31. May 2		Democracy Promotion: Group Presentation IV