COMPARATIVE DEMOCRATIZATION
Winter 2019

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Lecture: Thursdays, 7:00-10:00 pm
Location: TSH/B129

Office: Kenneth Taylor Hall 521
Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5pm or by appointment.

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Course Description
The “Third Wave” of democratization has sparked theoretical questions, such as “Why do countries enter democratic transitions”? “Under what conditions are new democracies consolidated”? “Does democracy improve economic development”? “Are we witnessing a global regression of democracy”? and more. Whereas democratic transition processes of some countries have led to consolidated democracies, other democratization processes have given birth to hybrid regimes, mixing authoritarianism with democracy. As a result of unsuccessful democratic transitions, cases of democratic regression are increasingly present.
This course builds on the democratization literature to examine why and how democracies emerge, persist and breakdown. The course focuses on transitions to democratic rules in countries, hitherto, ruled by authoritarian regimes and attempts at democratization from the beginning of the “Third Wave”. We begin by considering the theoretical debates in defining and measuring democracy and go on to examine the challenges in the rise, survival and breakdown of democracies. A special attention will be paid to cases of democratization in Asia and Africa.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students should be able to understand:

- Concepts, theories and issues in democratization
- The conditions for success and failure of democratic processes
- The actors and institutions that play significant roles in the consolidation of democracy

Required Materials and Texts

These books are available for purchase in the bookstore and on Course Reserve at Mill’s library.

Class Format
This is an intensive reading and discussion course designed to equip senior undergraduate students with a solid background in the study of democratization in the post-Cold War era. The aim is to familiarize students with the key concepts and
theoretical debates in democratization studies. Students are encouraged to bring their empirical case knowledge of any country or region to class discussions and written assignments.

**Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Class Participation – 10%, Ongoing
2. Reading Leadership – 15%, Ongoing
3. Research Proposal – 10%, due February 14
4. Mid-Term Take Home Exam – 30%, due March 7
5. Final Research Paper – 35%, due April 11

**Course Evaluation – Details**

**Class participation (10%), Ongoing**

Your attendance and active participation are central to succeeding in this course. Students are expected to complete all the reading assignments for each week and contribute actively to class discussions. You should reflect on the readings and have at least one question ready to advance the discussion. You are welcome to bring current and relevant news items into class. The participation grade will be derived from your class attendance, active participation and quality of in-class contributions. *Note: You cannot earn participation grade if you are absent, regardless of illness or MSAF etc.*

**Leadership Readings (15%), Ongoing**

You will lead a class discussion, based on one required reading, once in the course. You will sign up for your leadership roles and readings in the first class. You will upload your outline onto Avenue before the presentation so that the class can access it. During your leadership, you will highlight three (3) key points in the article and raise at least two (2) questions for discussion. Each reading discussion should be no more than 15 mins. You will be evaluated based on the quality of your discussion points and the degree to which your questions advance the discussion or lead to fresh insights. You are welcome to share hard copies of your outline in class.

**Research Paper Proposal (10%), due Thursday, February 14, 2019**

This assignment is done in preparation for the final research paper that should be on some aspects of democratization considered in the course. You will be required to choose two (2) countries that have experienced democratic transition in the “Third Wave” democratization process and explain how the process unfolded, as well as the conditions conducive to the success or failure of the process. You will be expected to use the theoretical and empirical aspects that are reflected in the course readings in your proposals. The topic should be developed in consultation with the instructor. First, you will identify a specific country and check with the instructor on its suitability. Each
The student will be expected to schedule a 10-15-minute meeting with the course instructor during the week of January 28, 2019, to discuss ideas for the essay and agree on a suitable topic. Following that meeting, you will prepare a draft research proposal; you may discuss the development of the proposal with the instructor, either in person or by email. The formal Research Proposal and annotated bibliography, including five (5) academic sources will be due for submission in class on Thursday February 14, 2019. It should contain: a page title, a description of the topic or question to be investigated; the two cases studied; the main theoretical issues raised by the research topic or question; a preliminary thesis statement; a very short literature review; an identification of types of evidence to be used, all in 2-3 pages, single space. Note: Final essay will not be accepted unless a previous research proposal has been handed in. There are NO exceptions to this requirement.

Mid-Term Take Home Exam (30%), due Thursday, March 7, 2019
You will write a short mid-term examination (about 1000 - 1500 words, excluding bibliography). You will choose one of three research questions that will be circulated electronically on March 4, 2019. The questions will be based on the readings covered in the course. You will email an electronic copy (in Word format) of your work to the instructor at nyirakac@mcmaster.ca and hand in a hardcopy at the beginning of class on March 7, 2019. Only hard copy submissions will be graded.

Final Research Paper (30%), due Thursday, April 11, 2019
You must submit a fully edited final version of your research paper on Thursday, April 11, 2019 in the classroom, at the beginning of the regular class. An electronic copy of your paper (in Word format) must be submitted to the instructor at nyirakac@mcmaster.ca on the same day. Your research paper should have between 15 to 20 pages double space, excluding title and bibliographical references pages. The content of the final research paper should reflect the content of the research proposal and the feedback received from the instructor. Follow the APA or the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for writing academic papers. The paper must be typed and have a title page. All pages must be numbered and lines - double-spaced. All late submissions will be penalized (see penalty in the Course Policies).
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (January 10)

Introduction

Required Readings

Recommended Reading

Week 2 (January 17)

Measuring Democracy

Required Readings
Recommended Readings:

Week 3 (January 24)
Theories of Democracy: Structural Factors

Required Readings

Recommended Readings


Week 4 (January 31)

Political Culture and Mass Beliefs

Required Readings

Recommended Readings
Week 5 (February 7)

**International Factors: Democracy Promotion**

**Required Readings**

**Recommended Readings:**

Week 6 (February 14)

**Institutional Design in New Democracies**

**Required Readings**
Notes: Research Paper Outline due in class on **February 14, 2019**.

**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 7 (February 21) – Mid-term recess. No class held this week**

**Week 8 (February 28)**

**Electoral Systems, Political Parties and Elections in New Democracies**

**Required Readings**
3. Morlino, Leonardo “Political parties”, in the Textbook pp. 201-218

Notes: Distribution of Take-Home Mid-Term Exam Questions **on March 4, 2019**
Recommended Readings

Week 9 (March 7)

Democracy: Gender and Ethnic Representation

Required Readings

Notes: Take Home Exam due in class on Thursday, March 7, 2019

Recommended Readings

Week 10 (March 14)
Democratization Experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa

Required Readings

Recommended Readings

Week 11 (March 21)

Democratization Experiences in Asia

Required Readings

Recommended Readings

Week 12 (March 28)

Civil Society, Media and Social Movements

Required Readings

**Recommended Readings**


**Week 13 (April 4)**

**Failed Democratization and Course Review**

**Required Readings**

1. Fish, Steven M. and Jason Witternbert “Failed Democratization”, in the Textbook, pp.249-263

**Recommended Readings**


Notes: Final Research paper due on Thursday 11, 2019.

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due dates.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARK</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MARK** | **GRADE**
---|---
77-79 | B+  
73-76 | B  
70-72 | B-  
67-69 | C+  
63-66 | C  
60-62 | C-  
57-59 | D+  
53-56 | D  
50-52 | D-  
0-49 | F

**Late Assignments**
Assignments turned in after the beginning of the class will not earn full credit. **10 percent of the total grade will be deducted each day after the submission deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted 48 hours after the original deadline.** To avoid late penalties and ensure fairness, a MSAF or medical certification that has been presented to the Social Sciences Faculty Office is required. If you anticipate having problems meeting the deadlines, please contact me before the assignment is due to discuss your situation. It is YOUR responsibility to email or meet with me to discuss alternative arrangements for late assignments.

**Absences, Missed Work, Illness**
This is an online, self-reporting tool for students to report absences that last up to three (3) days, and to request accommodation for any missed academic work that is worth less than 25 percent of the final grade. This tool cannot be used during any final examination period. It is the prerogative of the instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed work. Students may submit a maximum of one request per term. The form should be filled out immediately when the student is about to return to class after an absence. It is the student’s responsibility to follow up in person with the instructor immediately (within two working days) about the nature of the accommodation. Students who have been absent for more than three (3) days, have missed academic work worth 25 percent, or more, or exceed one request per term must see their Faculty Academic Advisor. Students will be required to provide supporting documentation.

**Avenue to Learn**
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be
deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

**Turnitin.com**
In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity Statement**
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**
Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail
sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.