POL SCI 4KC3: COMPARATIVE DEMOCRATIZATION
Term 2, Winter 2020

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Lecture: Mondays, 11:30am-2:20pm
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Office: KTH 541
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00pm-11:20pm

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Course Description
The “third wave” of democratization has stalled in the recent years. The rise of illiberal populism and nostalgia for authoritarianism have sparked theoretical and empirical debates in the field of comparative and global politics. This course builds on the democratization literature to examine why and how democracies emerge, persist and breakdown. We begin by considering the theoretical debates in defining and measuring democracy before examining the challenges in the rise, survival and breakdown of democracies, especially in the Middle-East, Asia and Africa.

Course Objectives
This is a reading and discussion intensive 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. *N.B. This course will be especially helpful for students interested in pursuing graduate studies in Comparative Politics.*

**Required Materials and Texts**

**Required Text**

**Recommended Texts**

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

**Course Evaluation – Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class discussion and participation</td>
<td>/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 1 page outline</td>
<td>/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Group presentation</td>
<td>/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Short Argumentative Essay</td>
<td>/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final Exam</td>
<td>/30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Grade</strong></td>
<td>/100</td>
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**Course Evaluation – Details**

1) **Class Discussion and Participation (20%)**

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 discussion. You are welcome to bring current and relevant news items into class. 5% of the participation grade will be based on self-evaluation while the other 10% will be derived from your class attendance, active participation and quality of in-class contributions.

Note: students are only eligible for self-evaluation if they do not miss more than 2 classes throughout the term. You cannot earn participation grade if you are absent, regardless of illness or MSAF etc.
2) A One-Page Outline (5%) and Group Presentation (15%)

The class will be divided into groups of two members. You will sign up for your group presentation on the first day of class. Each group will present one of the nine themes covered in this course. You can use poster; power-point slides or any kind of presentation aid that help your classmates learn about your selected topic related to origins, types, resilience or breakdown of democracy. You can feature any country from any part of the world. On the day of your presentation, your team will upload a 1-page case study of your presentation topic. Refer to Avenue to find out what you need to include for your 1-page outline.

A successful presentation will have a clear causal explanation (identify a key problem, leader, economic, cultural factor etc) that leads to an explanatory outcome (democratization or breakdown). You are encouraged to use the course readings or other print and media sources. You will be graded based on the creativity, content of the presentation and clarity of your oral presentation (no more than 10 mins). [Note: If you’re absent on the day of the presentation, you will stand to lose 15 percent of your total grade].

3) Short Argumentative Essay (30%): Due 24 Feb

You will write a 2,000 words argumentative paper (no more than 4 pages, single-spaced) based on the list of topics enclosed. In your essay, you will state your thesis, explain your interpretation of the question and explain why you agree or disagree with the statement. In this exercise, you will provide at least 3 key sources (which identifies key scholars/theoretical approaches/literature in the debate) and 2 empirical examples/case studies to support your position. Your bibliography should include at least 7 academic sources (excluding magazine/news articles).

Topics (pick one of the following):

1. Democracy emerges as a result of economic development.
2. Democracy is a universal value.
3. “No bourgeoisie, no democracy.”
4. “No state, no democracy.”
5. Diversity hurts democracy.
6. Oil and natural resources hinder democracy.
7. Gender equality is necessary for democracy.
8. Digital technology promotes democracy.

If you have any questions with regards to this assignment, please see me during office hours. Past experiences show that students who discuss their research topic/ideas in advance tend to do much better than others who do not. You will submit your essay in soft copy electronically on Avenue. All late submissions will be penalized (see penalty in the Course Policies).
4) **Final Exam (30%): Due 26 Mar**
A 2.5 hours final exam will be conducted in class. This exam will be cumulative and cover all the materials introduced in Weeks 1-12. The final exam will consist of concept definitions, short answers and essays.

**Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>11:30am-2:30pm</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Pair and sign up for group presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13 Jan</td>
<td>What is democracy?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>20 Jan</td>
<td>Theories of democratization</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td>Measuring democracy</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3 Feb</td>
<td>Causes and dimensions of democracy</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>Gender equality and democracy</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Mid-Term Recess</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Mass mobilizations</td>
<td>Short paper due Experiential Education</td>
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<td><strong>Job Search Strategies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>Digital technology and democracy</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9 Mar</td>
<td>Digital Authoritarianism</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>Democratization in Asia</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>Final exam review and discussion</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>30 Mar</td>
<td>Final in-class exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 Apr</td>
<td>Authoritarian Survival and Breakdown? Course Overview</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 1: Introduction (6 Jan)

Week 2: What is Democracy (13 Jan)

Recommended:

Questions: What is a democracy? What is a polyarchy? What is the difference between state and democracy? Is “stateness” a necessary condition for democratization?

Week 3: Theories of Democratization (20 Jan)
5. and “What underlying conditions favour democracy?” 145-165.

Recommended:
Questions: What are the structural preconditions for democratization? Does economic development always go hand in hand with democracy? Is a large middle-class necessary for democratization to emerge? Does oil hinder democracy?

**Week 4: Measuring Democracy (27 Jan)**

**Recommended:**
2. Freedom House
3. Freedom House, “Methodology”
4. Polity IV Project
5. Bertelsman Transformation Index
6. EIU Democracy Index,

Questions: How can democracy be measured? What are the advantages and disadvantages of minimalist concept of democracy? What are hybrid regimes? Are some qualities of democracy more important than others?

**Week 5: Causes and Dimensions of Democracy (3 Feb)**

*Islam and Democracy*

Asian Values Debate

Questions: Is democracy universal? Does diversity hurt democracy? Is Islam incompatible with democracy? Are “Asian values” incompatible with democracy? How can we measure political culture and mass values?

Week 6: Gender Equality and Democratization (10 Feb)

Recommended:
Questions: Is gender equality a necessary feature of democracy? What are the benefits and costs of taking descriptive representation seriously? Is substantive representation possible? How might gender equality reduce the risk of democratization failing?

**Week 7: Reading Week (17 Feb)**

**Week 8: Job Search Strategies and Mass Mobilizations (24 Feb)**


Questions: What is the structuralist perspective on the role of mass movement in democratization? Are protests always favourable to democracy? What are the lessons learnt from the Arab Spring in the Middle-East?

**Recommended:**

Week 9: Digital Technology and Democracy (2 Mar)

Recommended:

Week 10: Digital Authoritarianism (9 Mar)
Recommended:

Questions: What is sharp power? How does digital media undermine democracies? What are the ways which authoritarian regimes use digital media to entrench power?

Week 11: Democratization in Asia (16 Mar)

Recommended:

Questions: What structural factors are conducive for democratization in East and Southeast Asia? What are the obstacles to democratization in this region? Should the regimes in this region be considered “low-quality” or “defective”? What factors will push the region to democratize?

**Week 12: Final exam review and group discussions (23 Mar)**

**Week 13: Final in-class exam (30 Mar)**

**Week 14: Authoritarian Survival and Breakdown (6 Apr)**


**Recommended:**


Questions: What is a failed democracy? What factors might support or undermine democracy? What is the difference between a failed democracy and an autocracy?
COURSE POLICIES
Submission of Assignments
The weekly responses are to be submitted on Avenue to Learn every Sunday night before our Monday class. Submit your Case Study electronically on Avenue before class and also the Final Research paper electronically on Avenue.

Citation and Style Guidelines
All written work ought to follow the author-date citation style according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Grades
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

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<th>MARK</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>85-90</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td>50-52</td>
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In-class Behavior
All cell-phones must be turned off and stowed away during class. If you used your cell phones repeatedly for non-course work related business, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness
In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

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 (weekends count as one day). Late assignments will NOT be accepted 48 hours after the original deadline. To avoid late penalties and ensure fairness, a MSAF or medical certification for assignments worth 25% or more that has been presented to your Faculty Office is required. The MSAF or medical certification must be presented to the instructor no later than the day of the assignment due date. If
you anticipate having problems meeting the assignment deadlines, contact me before the due date to discuss your situation.

**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 authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

**Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**
Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

**University Policies**
**Academic Integrity Statement**
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- 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.

**Additional Resources**

**Suggested Journals**

- Comparative Political Studies
- Democratization
- Foreign Affairs
- Journal of Comparative Politics
- Journal of Democracy
- World Politics

**Websites and Datasets**

- Amnesty International
Democracy Web
Economist Democracy Index
Freedom House
Human Rights Quarterly
IDEA Institutional Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
Perceptions of Electoral Integrity Index
Pippa Norris Democratization Index
Bertelsmann Transformation Index
Varieties of Democracy Index
Reporters Without Borders Index
World Values Survey

Advice on Writing
Gerring, John. General Advice on Social Science Writing.
Elkins, Zachary. 2014. “Perspectives on the Craft of Writing.”

Bibliography Citation Guides
Chicago Manual of Style
McMaster Citation and Styles Guide