GOV 365N: The Politics of New Democracies, Fall 2011

Instructor: Professor Robert Moser
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Office Hours: M 12-1:30, W 10-11:30
Class Time/Place: MWF 2-3, Mezes B0.306Unique #: 38818

Description:

One of the most important developments in the last quarter century has been the expansion of democracy around the world. The most dramatic events of the late 20th century and the early 21st century — the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of apartheid, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, and the “Arab Spring” — have all been associated with what scholars have called the “third (and now fourth) wave” of democratization, in which authoritarian regimes around the world collapsed in favor of varying degrees of democratic governance. With the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the threat of international terrorism, the spread of democracy, particularly in the Middle East, has become a central tenet of U.S. foreign policy and the “war on terror.” International terrorism has presented consolidated and emergent democracies with their greatest challenge to date. Democracy is seen as a primary antidote to this threat but also its chief target.

This course will examine the process of democratization in an attempt to determine which factors make the consolidation of democracy in a formerly authoritarian system more likely. The course will be organized thematically rather than regionally, meaning that we will deal primarily with broad issues that (conceivably) can be generalized to all cases. The examples of democratization used in the course will be drawn from many geopolitical regions including Latin America, post-communist states (Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union), the Middle East, Asia and Africa. After a survey of the central concepts surrounding democratization, the class will focus on specific factors related to successful democratization including: modernization, political culture, institutional design, civil society, and globalization.

Requirements:

The written requirements of the course will consist of two take-home essays and three multiple choice exams. Please note the date of all assignments. Make-up exams will be granted only for medical emergencies. Late assignments will be severely penalized. Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously and will be dealt with according to University rules. All written work is to be done individually. Grades will be assigned as follows:

First Take-Home Essay 25%
Second Take-Home Essay 25%
First Multiple Choice Exam 20%
Second Multiple Choice Exam 20%
Participation (based on in-class quizzes) 10%
Readings:


These books have been ordered at University Coop. Readings marked by an asterisk are available on Blackboard.

Grading Policy Percentage

I will be using the new +/- grading scale. Letter grades for the course will be based on the following scale.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B</td>
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Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

Academic Integrity

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs). Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.
Lecture Schedule and Readings

Students should complete the readings in preparation for the lectures on that issue. The reading load is relatively heavy averaging 100 pages of material per week. An attempt has been made to balance the reading load evenly across weeks but some topics necessarily required more readings. Students should also keep track of current events by following a major national newspaper such as the New York Times or Washington Post. Freedom House and its website (www.freedomhouse.org) is also a very helpful website on issues related to the state of democracy around the world.

Please arrive to class on time. You may use laptops during class to take notes but please refrain from activities not pertaining to class so as not to distract other students.

Part I: Debating Democracy

Week 1 (Aug. 24-26): Introduction: What is Democracy?

*R. Dahl, On Democracy, Ch. 4.

Week 2 (Aug. 29-Sept. 2): Hybrid Regimes and Democracy as a Continuum

Zakaria, Future of Freedom, Ch. 3.
** Film shown in class, Friday, Sept. 2nd: The Walls Came Tumbling Down. **

Week 3 (Sept. 5-9): Is Democracy the Best System and Should it be Spread?

Zakaria, Future of Freedom, Chs. 5-6.
Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Ch. 1.
*R. Dahl, On Democracy, Ch. 5.
** No class on Labor Day, Sept. 5th **

Week 4 (Sept. 12-16): Exporting Democracy: Democratic Peace, Fighting Terrorism

Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Chs. 9, 10 and conclusion.
*F.G. Gause III, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" Foreign Affairs, Vol. 84 (2005), pp. 62-.
Part II: Theories of Democratization

Week 5 (Sept. 19-23): Modernization and Macrohistorical Approaches

** First Essay Due in class on Sept. 21st **


Week 6 (Sept. 26-30): Political Culture

Zakaria, Future of Freedom, Ch. 4.
Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Ch. 3.
*M. Steven Fish, Are Muslims Distinctive?, Ch. 7.

Week 7 (Oct. 3-7): Institutional Design - Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Ch. 7 (Ch. 8 recommended).
*J. Linz, “Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does It Make a Difference?” in J. Linz and A. Valenzuela (eds.), The Failure of Presidential Democracy: Comparative Perspectives, pp. 3-75.

Week 8 (Oct. 10-14): Review and First Mid-Term Multiple Choice Exam

** First Multiple Choice Exam on Oct. 14th taken in class. **

Week 9 (Oct. 17-21): Institutional Design - Electoral System Effects

Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Ch. 6.

Week 10 (Oct. 24-28): Democratization and Ethnic Conflict

Barany and Moser, Is Democracy Exportable?, Ch. 4.

Week 11 (Oct. 31-Nov. 4): Elites

** Second Essay Due in class on Nov. 2nd **


Week 12 (Nov. 7-11): Civil Society

Barany and Moser, *Is Democracy Exportable?*, Ch. 2 (Ch. 3 recommended)

Week 13 (Nov. 14-18): Economic Reform and Democratization


Week 14 (Nov. 21-25): International Factors


** No Class on Friday, Nov. 25th, Thanksgiving Break **

Week 15 (Nov. 28-Dec. 2): Conclusions and Review


** Second Multiple Choice Exam taken in class on Dec. 2nd **