PS 505: Challenges of Democratization
Spring 2015
Social Science 6102; Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:15pm

Lecturer: Charlie Taylor
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Office Hours: North Hall 411, Thursday, 1:00pm-3:00pm

TA: Maryanne Schiffman,
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Office Hours: North Hall 122, Monday, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a strong background to the major debates in the field of comparative democratization. We will begin by discussing how we define democracy, what benefits (if any) democracy has over authoritarianism, and what competing theories of democratization exist in the literature. Later, we will consider the challenges of holding elections in new democracies, the contentious issue of transitional justice, how best to design institutions in a new democracy, and the reasons why some democracies breakdown. We will conclude the course with a discussion of how democracy can be deepened in established democracies. The course will cover multiple regions and countries, including the United States, as we consider what lessons particular countries’ experiences with regime change offer to our understanding of the major themes of the course. Students should expect to develop their analytical and academic writing skills, as well as their ability to work successfully in small groups. Both the lecturer and TA will be available during their office hours should students wish to stop by and discuss issues related to the course.

Course Requirements

Attendance:
Students are expected to attend lectures and discussion sections able to discuss the assigned readings for the day. Both attendance and participation count towards the final grade, and the TA will keep track of students’ attendance records. Please turn cell phones off prior to class and be respectful of your fellow students. The course is intended to provoke academic arguments, so please be sure to offer your own thoughts while also respecting the ideas of your colleagues. Laptops are permitted during class, although they should only be used for taking notes.

Exams:
There will be two exams over the course of the semester: a midterm exam on February 25 (in class) and a final exam on May 10 (room TBD). The TA will hold review sessions prior to each of these. Please plan on taking these exams at the scheduled times, including arranging any end-of-semester travel plans around the date of the final exam. Both exams will be short answer/essay format.

Group Project:
For the unit in which we study transitional justice, all students will select a book to present to the class from a pre-approved list of books that will be provided to them. Each group of students who opt to read the same book will write an 8-page review of their selection as well as prepare a brief presentation summarizing what they learned from their book. These presentations will be given in lecture. This is a group assignment and students within each group should expect to receive the same grade. The details of this assignment will be discussed more in class.
Research Paper:
All students will write a research paper of approximately 12 pages in length on a topic of their choosing within the field of democracy and regime change. The paper will be handed in at the beginning of lecture on April 20. Students may choose any analytical question related to the course on which to base their paper, however topics and research questions should be approved by the TA in advance. More information on this assignment will be distributed over the course of the semester.

Grade Breakdown

25% Midterm Exam
15% Transitional Justice Group Project
25% Research Paper
25% Final Exam
10% Attendance and Participation

McBurney Visas

The McBurney Center provides several resources to students with disabilities, and both the lecturer and TA will make every effort to accommodate students’ needs. Students who are in possession of a McBurney Visa should provide a copy of their visa to the TA so that any specific accommodations for exams or lectures may be made as early as possible.

Additional Course Policies

Extensions on the course requirements will not be granted except under circumstances of serious illness or family emergency. If you expect to miss class for religious observance, ROTC commitments, or varsity athletics, please inform the TA and lecturer as soon as possible. Issues of cheating and plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and students should refer the University of Wisconsin’s code of conduct if they have any questions regarding the University’s policies on academic integrity.

Required Books

There are two required books for the course. They are both available for purchase at the university bookstore. I will place copies of each on reserve in College Library. Students should also plan on acquiring (either purchasing or loaning) a book from the pre-approved list of books on transitional justice. All other readings are available on Learn@UW in .pdf format.


**Course Schedule**

**I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus should the need arise.**

**Wednesday, January 21: What is democracy?**

- No Reading

**Monday, January 26: What is democracy cont’d…and why do we care about democracy?**


**Wednesday, January 28: No Class**


**Monday, February 2: The Third Wave of Democracy**

- Samuel Huntington, cont’d.

**Wednesday, February 4: Theories of Democratization I: Economic Factors**


**Monday, February 9: Theories of Democratization II: International Factors**


**Wednesday, February 11: Theories of Democratization III: Cultural Factors**


**Monday, February 16: Theories of Democratization IV: Authoritarian Legacies**

Wednesday, February 18: Movie- Secret State of North Korea


Monday, February 23: How Dictator’s Survive


Wednesday, February 25: **Midterm Exam**

Monday, March 2: Elections and Election Monitoring in New Democracies


Wednesday, March 4: Political Parties in New Democracies


Monday, March 9: Movie- An African Election

- Begin Selected Book on Transitional Justice

Wednesday, March 11: Introduction to Transitional Justice

- Selected Book on Transitional Justice

Monday, March 16: Guest Lecture, Maryanne Schiffman

- Selected Book on Transitional Justice

Wednesday, March 18: Group Presentations

Monday, March 23: Group Presentations [All Group Papers Due]

Wednesday, March 25: Group Presentations
Monday, March 30: Spring Break - No Class

Wednesday, April 1: Spring Break - No Class

Monday, April 6: Democratic Crafting I: Constitutional Design and Federalism


Wednesday, April 8: Democratic Crafting II: Electoral Laws


Monday, April 13: Why do democracies breakdown?


Wednesday, April 15: Promoting Democracy Abroad I


Monday, April 20: Promoting Democracy Abroad II

**Research Paper Due**

Wednesday, April 22: China I: 1989

- Kerry Brown, *Ballot Box China*, entire

Monday, April 27: China II: Guest Lecture, Prof. Ed Friedman

- Kerry Brown, *Ballot Box China*, entire

Wednesday, April 29: Democratic Deepening: Why do elites extend suffrage?


Monday, May 4: Democratic Deepening: Convicted Felons


Wednesday, May 6: Democratic Deepening: LGBT Rights


**Final Exam: May 10, 2015**