Observing the trend towards democratic governance that occurred in Southern Europe and Latin America, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and parts of Asia and Africa during the end of the twentieth century, one famous social scientist described democracy simply as-- the “only game in town.” Yet, despite initial optimism, in many of these countries progress towards establishing and consolidating democracy has been stalled or reversed; elsewhere democracy was never established at all. Why have some countries made a successful transition to democracy, while others have not? Why are some democracies more stable than others? Are some forms of democratic governance better than others at promoting stability or good government? What are the tradeoffs that different choices of democratic institutions entail? And, how can countries that are already democratic, improve the quality and effectiveness of their institutions?

To answer these questions, this course offers a survey of the leading literature in comparative politics centered on the topic of democratization. The first part of the course will be devoted primarily to examining competing theories about the conditions and causes of the emergence and consolidation of democracy. The second part of the course examines theories about why different democratic institutions are chosen and how, once chosen, these institutions function. The topics addressed include: the role of culture, the rule of law, constitution-making, and representation and accountability. Throughout the course, these themes will be examined in a variety of empirical settings ranging from 17th century Western Europe to late 20th and 21st century Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

ORGANIZATION AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades for students not taking the course for a “W” will be based on the following assignments:

- Participation: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 40%
- Final Exam: 45%
Participation
Students are expected to attend class and sections and to participate in discussions in both venues. In order to do this, students must complete the assigned reading each and every week and show up to class ready to discuss the readings. Note that some of the readings are difficult and may require you to read the assignment more than once. Sections will be assigned in the first week or so of class.

Exams
There will be two in-class midterms. Both will contain identification terms, short questions, and essays. A list of identification terms will be distributed prior to the exam. The essays and short questions will ask students to synthesize the readings and lectures.

Make-up Policy for Exams
Make-up exams and assignments will be given only under the most exceptional circumstances. Exams will not be re-scheduled to accommodate other courses. The dates of the exams are clearly listed in the syllabus, so plan ahead. Missed exams due to illness require a doctor’s note.

Research Paper (for students receiving a “W”)
Each student taking the course for a writing credit will choose a country and topic on which they will write a 10-12 page research paper. A list of general topics based on the themes of the course will be provided early in the semester. Students are expected to choose a topic by Week 5 of class. Annotated bibliographies are due no later than Week 10. Drafts are optional, but strongly encouraged. They can be turned in anytime before Week 13. **Final Papers are due in class by Week 15, Thursday, April 24th. Late papers will not be accepted. No exceptions!**

Note: For students taking the class for a “W,” grades will be based on the following assignments:

- Participation: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Research Paper: 30%

Required Books

The following books are available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore:

- Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*
- Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in 36 Countries*

All other assigned readings will be available on-line via Blackboard.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction and Syllabus
(Jan. 17)

No assigned readings the first week of class

Week 2: Defining and Measuring Democracy
(Jan. 22 & 24)


Week 3: Democracy and Development
(Jan. 29 & 31)


Week 4: Early Transitions to Democracy
(Feb 5 & 7)


Week 5: Regime Transitions and Strategic Choices
(Feb 12 & 14)

*W Student Paper Topics Due 2/14*


Geddes, Barbara. “What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?” *AR*

**Week 6: Regime Transitions and Violence**  
(Feb 19 & 21)


*Paper Topics Due for W students*

**Week 7: Democracy, Diffusion, and Consolidation**  
(Feb 26 & 28)


Midterm Review

**Week 8: Midterm**  
(March 4 & 6)

Midterm 3/4  
Documentary 3/6

**Week 9: Spring Break**  
(March 11 &13)

**Week 10: Democracy and Culture**  
(March 18 & 20)

*W Student Annotated Bibliographies Due 3/20*


11: Crafting Democratic Institutions  
(March 25, 27)


**Week 12: Constitutions and The Rule of Law**  
(April 1st; Class Cancelled April 3rd)


**Week 13: Democracy and Anarchy in Iraq**  
(April 8&10)

*W Students Rough Draft Deadline 4/10*

Constitution of Iraq


**Week 14: Representation and Accountability**  
(April 15&17)


**Week 15: Does Democracy Matter?**  
(April 22 and 24)

*W Students Final Paper Due 4/24*


Midterm Review

**Week 16: 2nd Midterm**  
(April 29th)

2nd Midterm