Professor Subhasish Ray  
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Office Hours: Fridays 2-4

Course description: This course offers a survey of the leading literature in comparative politics on democratization in Non-Western societies. The central questions we will address are: Why have some countries made a successful transition to democracy, but not others? Why are some democracies more stable than others? Should the United States use its military power to promote democracies or should democracies be allowed to emerge endogenously? Why have political protests in Egypt succeeded in triggering a democratic transition, but not in Syria?

Readings: All reading materials for this class will be made available electronically through Blackboard. I keep the right to make changes to the syllabus, but you will be notified of any changes well in advance.

Requirements: This class is structured as a seminar course. Although I will occasionally lecture on some topics, much of our class time will be spent on discussing and critiquing the assigned readings. To facilitate discussions, you will be called upon to lead discussions in small groups each week. In addition, at the beginning of each week, the discussion leading group selected for that week will submit a 3-4 page (double-spaced) critical summary of the assigned readings, which will be circulated to the rest of the class (these should be sent to me by no later than Monday noon) . Beyond leading discussions, you are also expected to participate actively in the discussions and I will be free to call upon you to participate even if you do not volunteer. Active participation implies not only doing the required reading, but also thinking about it enough to form some original opinions to share with other seminar participants.

Please note, given the structure of the course, regular attendance is expected. More than 2 unexcused absences might affect your class participation grade by half a letter grade. More than 5 accumulated absences will result in 0% for the class participation portion of your overall grade. Excused absences require documentation such as a note from your advisor or the UHS.
The writing assignments for the course will include two mid-semester examinations and a 12-15 page (double-spaced) final paper. For the paper, students will choose a country that is formally democratic but not yet fully consolidated or one that has not yet made the transition to democracy and analyze the problems democracy faces, the potential solutions to those problems, and offer recommendations as to whether the U.S. should try to promote democracy in that country, and if so, how. The country to be analyzed should be decided by you in consultation with me prior to the spring break. The paper will be due on May 9. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE GIVEN A LOWER GRADE: one/third letter grade per day late. Example: An “A” paper two days late will drop to a “B+”. Incompletes are not allowed.

Academic Honesty: A plagiarized paper will not receive any points. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions determined by the University’s Academic Honesty board.

Grading:
Class Participation - 10%
Discussion Groups – 10%
First Mid-Semester Exam – 20%
Second Mid-Semester Exam – 20%
Final paper – 40%

Classroom Etiquette: You deserve a Professor who does not read his newspaper, listen to his I-pod, answer his cell-phone, use his laptop to access Facebook or otherwise demonstrate a lack of respect for you during class discussion and lectures. Your Professor deserves students who demonstrate the same level of respect.

Course Calendar:

January 19: Introduction

Democracy: Definition and Measurement

January 24:
Read:

January 26:
Read:
The Western Route to Democracy

January 31:
Read:

February 2:
Read:

Strategic Choices and Democratization

February 7:
Read:

February 9:
Read:

Breakdown of Authoritarian Rule and Democratization

February 14:
Read:

February 16:
Read:
Economic Reforms and Democratization

**February 21:**
Read:

**February 23:**
Read:

**February 28: Review**

**March 2: First Mid-Term**

**Diffusion and Democratization**

**March 7:**
Read:

**March 9:**
Read:

**March 14: Spring Break**

**March 16: Spring Break**

**Democracy without Preconditions?**

**March 21:**
Read:

**March 23:**
Read:
Democratic Consolidation: Definition and Measurement

March 28:
Read:

March 30:
Read:

Ethnicity and Democratic Consolidation

April 3:
Read:

April 5:
Read:

April 10: Review

April 12: Second Mid-Term

Exporting Democracy

April 17:
Read:
April 19:
Read:

Arab Spring

April 24:
Read:

April 26:
Read:

May 1: Review