

**Political Science 258 (258W)
Democratic Regimes
Spring 2008: T-Th: 12:30-1:45
Gavet 301**

Professor Gretchen Helmke
Email: hlmk@mail.rochester.edu
Phone: 275-5236
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4; 323 Harkness Hall

Teaching Assistants

Christian Houle, choule@mail.rochester.edu, Office Hours: TBA
Patrick Kuhn, pkuhn@mail.rochester.edu Office Hours: TBA

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)

Dahl, Robert. *On Democracy*, 1998. Chapter 4.

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics* 49 (April 1997)

Przeworski, Adam, Michael Alvarez, Jose Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, *Democracy and Development*, 2000. Pages 18-36

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

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy" *American Political Science Review*

Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49: 155-83.

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

North and Weingast. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in 17th Century England," *Journal of Economic History*

Moore, Barrington. 1966. "England and the Contributions of Violence to Gradualism," *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Beacon Press (Chapter 1)

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

W Student Paper Topics Due 2/14

Przeworski, Adam. 1991. "Transitions to Democracy," *Democracy and the Market*. Cambridge University Press (Chapter 2)

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

Karklins, Rasma and Roger Petersen. 1993. "Decision Calculus of Protesters and Regimes: Eastern Europe 1989," *Journal of Politics* 55(3)

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

Wood, Elizabeth. 2000. *Forging Democracy From Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press.

***Paper Topics Due for W students**

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

Huntington, Samuel. 1991. *The Third Wave*. University of Oklahoma Press (Chapter 6).

Brinks, Daniel and Michael Coppedge. 2006. "Diffusion In No Illusion: Neighbor Emulation in the Third Wave of Democracy" *Comparative Political Studies* 39(4): 463-489.

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

Robert Putnam. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Tradition in Modern Italy*. Princeton University Press.

11: Crafting Democratic Institutions
(March 25, 27)

Lipjhart, Arend, *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press.

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

Hardin, Russell. 1989. "Why a Constitution?" in *The Federalist Papers and the New Institutionalism*. Edited by Bernard Grofman and Donald Wittman. Agathon Press.

Weingast, Barry. 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law," *American Political Science Review* 91:245-63.

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

W Students Rough Draft Deadline 4/10

Constitution of Iraq

Diamond, Larry. 2005. "Building Democracy After Conflict: Lessons from Iraq" *Journal of Democracy* 16(1): 9-23.

Fearon, James. 2007. "Iraq's Civil War" *Foreign Affairs* 86/2 (March-April).

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

Stokes, Susan. 2001. *Mandates and Democracies: Neoliberalism By Surprise in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 3)

Powell, Bingham. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*. Yale University Press. (Chapter 3)

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

W Students Final Paper Due 4/24

Sen, Amartya. 1994. "Freedoms and Needs" *The New Republic* (Jan 10-17).

Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. "Both Democracy and Economic Interdependence Reduce Conflict" in *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations* W.W. Norton & Company Press.

Midterm Review

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

2nd Midterm