International Relations 408: Global Democratization

Fall 2015

When: M & W 3:30-4:50 pm
Where: VKC 158
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:20 p.m.
or by appointment

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Course Description
This class focuses on the concept of democracy, the history of democracy, and recent efforts by the international community to promote democracy. Section I considers some classic works and current debates on the meaning of democracy. Section II addresses the sweeping trend toward democracy in world history. Section III, following the midterm, focuses on the international promotion of democracy after 1989 and considers four democracy promotion programs in some detail. In short, the course tackles some central questions about politics: What is democracy? What countries have been and are democracies? What is being done internationally in the post-Cold War era to promote democracy?

Requirements
i) Four (4) quizzes (15% of the final grade). With regard to the quizzes, I have included provisional dates in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class. Of the five quizzes, I will drop the lowest one and thus compute grades on the basis of your best four quizzes.

ii) An in-class mid-term (35%), and an in-class final exam (35%).

iii) A research paper (15% of the final grade) on the topic of democracy in some country or countries in the current period, roughly 15 double-spaced pages in length. Right after the midterm, I will hand out guidelines for this paper and discuss how you should go about doing research for the paper. You will need to inform me about the topic you will pick and get my approval on the topic.

Readings and Class Power Points
All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under “Readings.” Below you will see which reading we will discuss, and you are responsible for reading, in each meeting of the class. The full text of each reading is not required; therefore, look at the notes next to the reading to see what pages you should read. In some cases, I also highlight what issues you should focus on in the readings. I will be introducing additional information, especially on most recent developments, in class. The power points of each class will be uploaded to the Blackboard after each class—you will find them under “Power Points”—and you are responsible for mastering the information in these power points that go beyond the readings.
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Introduction

Meeting # 1 (8/24). An Overview of the Course

Meeting # 2 (8/26). A Class Discussion about the Meaning of Democracy

I. What is Modern Democracy?

Meeting # 3 (8/31). Background to the Debate about Modern Democracy


Meeting # 4 (9/2). The Election of Government Office Holders: Schumpeter

- Schumpeter, Joseph, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy (New York: Routledge, 2003; originally published in 1942). Read from the start of the section on “A Mental Experiment” and end where the section on “The Principle Applied” starts (pp. 240-73).

Meeting # 5 (9/7). Labor Day: No Class

Meeting # 6 (9/9). Beyond Elections I: Dahl


Meeting # 7 (9/14). Beyond Elections II: The Quality of Democracy

- Quiz # 1 (9/16)
II. What Countries Have Been and Are Democracies? And Why?

Meeting # 8 (9/16). The Invention of Representative Democracy

Meetings # 9 & 10 (9/21, 9/23). The Spread of Representative Democracy Through 1989

Meeting # 11 (9/28). Doubts About Democracy After 1989

Meeting # 12 (9/30). More Doubts About Democracy After 1989
- Voskressenski, Alexei D. “General Settings, Regional and National Factors, and the Concept of Non-Western Democracy,” pp. 184-211, in Adam Przeworski (ed.), Democracy in a Russian Mirror (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015). Focus on the idea that a Western style democracy may not be best suited to some non-Western countries.

Meeting # 13 (10/5). The Record of Democracy After 1989
- Quiz # 2 (10/5)

Meeting # 14 (10/7). Mid-term Exam
III. What is Being Done to Promote Democracy?

Meetings # 15, 16, 17 & 18 (10/12, 10/14, 10/19, 10/21). The Who, Why, and What of Democracy Promotion

- Research Paper. A brief statement of your intended research topic is due on October 19. We will discuss the research paper during this section of the class.

- Quiz # 3 (10/21)

Meetings # 19 & 20 (10/26, 10/28). Election Monitoring


Meetings # 21 & 22 (11/2, 11/4). International IDEA’s Democracy Assessments

- Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan January - December 2011 (2012). Only skim so as to gain a sense of what concepts are discussed and what kind of information is used.
- The State of Democracy in Zambia (2011). Only skim so as to gain a sense of what concepts are discussed and what kind of information is used.

- Quiz # 4 (11/4)
Meetings # 23 & 24 (11/9, 11/11). The U.S. MCA Foreign Assistance Program

- For the specifics of the MCA, go to the MCA website (www.mcc.gov) and look, under “Selection Criteria” (on the right hand side of the site, at the following three documents:
  iii) Report on Countries that are Candidates for Millennium Challenge Account Eligibility for Fiscal Year 2015 and Countries that would be Candidates but for Legal Prohibitions.
- Finally, to gain a sense of how data are used to develop scorecards, look, under “Selection Criteria” and then under “Country Scorecards” (then click on any scorecard).

Meetings # 25, 26 & 27 (11/16, 11/18, 11/23). The Open Government Partnership (OGP)

- For the specifics of the OGP, go to the OGP website (http://www.opengovpartnership.org) and look at the following documents:
  - i) Open Government Declaration, which is under “About.”
  - ii) How to Join, which is under “How It Works.”
  - iii) Eligibility Criteria, which is under “How It Works.”
  - iv) Requirements, which is under “How It Works.”
- Finally, look under “About” for the Independent Reporting Mechanism, and within this section of the site, scroll down, and browse a couple of Reports to gain a sense of what is involved in an Action Plan. Also, read and find a couple of commitments you find interesting and come to class prepared to discuss these commitments.

Meeting # 28 (11/25). Thanksgiving Break: No Class

IV. Conclusions

Meetings # 29 & 30 (11/30, 12/2). An Overview of Democracy Promotion

- Quiz # 5 (11/30)
- The research paper is due in class

*** Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m ***
Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.