**Political Science 142C**

**Comparative Political Development: Democracy**

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**Course Description**

This course focuses on one long-standing theme in comparative politics: democracy. We will discuss the current debates on the conditions that promote democratization and stable democracy. These conditions include: (1) economic structure, (2) cultural values, (3) political institutions, and (4) international forces. Most of the work that we will consider will be cross‑country in nature. We will not focus on any specific countries, although a few will be discussed in brief as cases supporting or deviating from general results. Most of the assigned materials for this course are from academic journals. Students will be taught how to interpret the social scientific findings reported in these materials. By the end of the course, students will also have some of the tools necessary to evaluate claims regarding the conditions that promote democracy as well as other debates in comparative politics.

**Course Requirements**:

Course requirements include a mid-term, a final and two brief assignments that will provide students with the opportunity to engage in original research. The assignments will involve collecting and analyzing data on the conditions that promote democratization or democratic stability. The midterm and final will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam will be worth 30% of your grade. Prompts and a guide to each writing assignment will be provided. The first assignment will be worth 10% of your grade; the second will be worth 30% of your grade. Periodic exercises will be assigned for optional extra credit.

**Course Materials:**

Articles on our SmartSite course webpage labeled by author’s last name

**Week 1:**

1. Introduction/Doing Comparative Politics
2. Defining Democracy

Schmitter and Karl, “What Democracy Is...and Is Not” *Journal of Democracy* 2 (Summer 1991): 75‑88.

Alvarez, Mike, José Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi, and Adam Przeworski.1996. Classifying Political Regimes. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 31:3‑36.

**Week 2:**

1. Defining Democracy (Continued)

Freedom House (Read: Introduction, Methodology, Checklist) http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom‑world‑2012/methodology

Jaggers, Keith and Ted Robert Gurr. 1995. Tracking Democracy's Third Wave with the Polity III Data. *Journal of Peace Research* 32:469‑482.

Vanhanen, Tatu. 2000a. A New Dataset for Measuring Democracy, 1810-1998. Journal of Peace Research 37:251-265.

1. Handout Assignment 1: Comparing Political Regimes/Introduction to Data on Democracy

**Week 3:**

1. Measuring Democracy
2. The Global and Regional Pictures of Democracy

Democratization Chapter 4: Long Waves and Conjunctures of Democratization

Democratization Chapter 5: The Global Wave of Democratization

**Week 4:**

1. Economic Conditions and Democracy: Capitalism

Gabriel Almond “Capitalism and Democracy” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 24, 3 (Sept 1991): 467‑474

Charles Lindblom. *Politics and Markets*. Chapters 13‑14.

 Video: Robert Reich on Supercapitalism

1. Economic Conditions and Democracy: Development (Assignment 1 due)

Amartya Sen, “Development as Freedom”

Julian Wucherpfennig and Franziska Deutsch “Modernization and Democracy: Theories and Evidence Revisited” *Living Reviews in Democracy* 1(Sept 2009):1-9.

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi. ‘Modernization: Theories and Facts *World Politics*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (Jan., 1997), pp. 155‑167.

**Week 5:**

1. Economic Conditions and Democracy: Inequality

Edward Muller “Economic Determinants of Democracy” *American Sociological Review* 60, 6 (Dec 1995): 966-981.

1. Economic Conditions and Democracy: Economic Crisis and Economic Reform

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi. ‘Modernization: Theories and Facts *World Politics*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (Jan., 1997), pp. 167-169.

Larry Diamond “The Impact of the Economic Crisis: Why democracies survive” *Journal of Democracy* 22,1 (January 2011):17-30

**Week 6:**

**A. Midterm (May 8)**

B.Economic Conditions and Democracy: Natural Resource Rents

Michael L. Ross “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53, 3 (April 2001): 325‑

Handout Assignment 2: Research on the Determinants of Democracy (Due on day of final exam).

**Week 7:**

A/B. Cultural Values and Democracy: Political Culture and the Role of Religion

 Welzel and Inglehart, “Political Culture, Mass Beliefs, and Value Change”

**Week 8:**

A. Institutions and Democracy: Presidential vs Parliamentary Systems

Juan J. Linz “The Perils of Presidentialism” Journal of Democracy 1,1 (Winter 1990):51-69

Donald L. Horowitz “Comparing Democratic Systems” Journal of Democracy 1,4 (Fall 1990):73-79

A. Institutions and Democracy: Unitary vs Federal Systems

Nancy G. Bermeo “The Import of Institutions” Journal of Democracy 13,2 (April 2002): pp. 96-110

**Week 9:**

A. Memorial Day (No Class)

B. Institutions and Democracy: Electoral Systems

Pippa Norris “Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems” *International Political Science Review* 1997 18: 297

**Week 10:**

A. International Forces and Democracy: Global Networks and Diffusion

Guobin Yang “Online Activism” Journal of Democracy (July 2009)

Evgeny Morozov, Smart Dictators Don't Quash the Internet, The Wall Street Journal, February 19, 2011 (http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704657704576150653606688990.html)

B. International Forces and Democracy: Foreign Aid and Political Conditionality

Thomas Carothers “Democracy assistance: The question of strategy” *Democratization* 4: 3, 109-132

**FINAL EXAM**: **Friday, June 09 at 3:30 pm.** **No earlier or later exams will be given.**