International Relations 408: Global Democratization

Fall 2014

When: M & W 5:00-6:30 pm
Where: VKC 209
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:20 p.m.
or by appointment

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1. 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 three 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?

2. Requirements

i) Four 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 four quizzes, I will drop the lowest one and thus compute grades on the basis of your best three quizzes.

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

iii) A research paper (15% of the final grade) offering a democracy assessment of a country of the student’s choice, roughly 15 double-spaced pages in length, to be presented in class at the end of the class. Right after the midterm, I will hand out guidelines for this paper and discuss how you should go about doing research for the paper.

3. Readings

All the readings are available, in electronic form, and can be accessed through the USC Blackboard. For the readings, look for this course on the Blackboard and then look under “Course Documents.”
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Introduction

Meeting 1 (August 25): An Overview of the Course

Meeting 2 (August 27): A Class Discussion about the Meaning of Democracy

*** Labor Day: No class on Monday, September 1 ***

I. What is Modern Democracy?

Meeting 3 (September 3): Background to the Debate about Modern Democracy


Meeting 4 (September 8): The Election of Decision Makers: 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 (September 10): Class Cancelled

Meeting 6 (September 15): Beyond Elections I: Dahl


Meeting 7 (September 17): Beyond Elections II: The Quality of Democracy


-Quiz # 1 (9/22)
II. What Countries Have Been and Are Democracies? And Why?

Meeting 8 (September 22): The Invention of Representative Democracy

Dahl, Robert A. “Democracy,” Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite (Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2011). Read from page 1, the beginning of the article, up to the beginning of the section on “New Answers to Old Questions” on page 11.

Meetings 9 & 10 (September 24 & 29): The Spread of Representative Democracy


Meetings 11, 12 & 13 (October 1, 6 & 8): After the Collapse of Communism


-Quiz # 2 (10/8)

Meeting 14 (October 13): Mid-term Exam
III. What is Being Done to Promote Democracy?

Meetings 15, 16 & 17 (October 15, 20 & 22): The Who, Why, and What of Democracy Promotion


-Quiz # 3 (10/27)

Meetings 18 & 19 (October 27 & 29): Monitoring and Evaluation in Democracy Promotion


Meetings 20 & 21 (November 3 & 5): International IDEA’s Democracy Assessments


Landman, Todd, Marco Larizza, Claire McEvoy and Edzia Carvalho, State of Democracy in Central Asia. A Comparative Study (Essex, United Kingdom: Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, February 2006). This is a long document too. So only skim it, but do pay attention to the data sources used to measure different concepts.
Meetings 22 & 23 (November 10 & 12): Election Monitoring


-Quiz # 4 (11/12)

Meetings 24 & 25 (November 17 & 19): 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,” at the following three documents:

i) Report on the Criteria and Methodology for Determining the Eligibility of Candidate Countries for Millennium Challenge Account Assistance in Fiscal Year 2014;


iii) Candidate Country Report, FY 2014 (Report on Countries that are Candidates for Millennium Challenge Account Eligibility for Fiscal Year 2014 and Countries that would be Candidates but for Legal Prohibitions).

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).

Meeting 26 (November 24): An Overview of Democracy Promotion

*** Thanksgiving Break: November 26-28 ***

IV. Presentations

Meetings 27 & 28 (December 1 & 3): Student Presentations of Democracy Assessments

*** Final Exam: Wednesday, December 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m ***