International Relations 555:
Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Perspective

Fall 2017

When: W 5:00-7:50 p.m.  Professor Gerardo Munck
Where: VKC 104  E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office Hours: M 3:00-4:50 p.m.  Office: VKC 326A
or by appointment

Course Description
This seminar explores research that builds and tests theories of democratization and the
endurance of democracy. After considering the concept of democracy, we start by
considering some of the classics, published in the second half of the twentieth century,
which still largely set the terms of the debate. Then we turn to the literature published
after 2000 and consider how this literature has revised and built on ideas from the
classics. We will discuss research that offers economic, cultural, political and
international explanations of democratization and the endurance of democracy. And we
will identify different schools of research: modernization theory and three alternatives to
modernization theory (power structure theory, political institutional theory, and political
economy theory). We conclude with an overall assessment of the evolution and state of
knowledge about democratization and the endurance of democracy.

Requirements
i) Five analytical essays (each essay is worth 10% of the final grade). These short essays
(5 to 7 double-spaced pages) on the readings for one week will be due, at the latest, by
Wednesday at 4 p.m. in my mailbox in VKC 330.

ii) Class participation (25% of the final grade) on the basis of the required readings, each
and every week.

iii) A take-home final exam (25% of the final grade). As a final assignment, students will
be asked to write, as a sort of take-home exam, a roughly 10 page, double-spaced, paper,
on a question to be assigned.

Readings
I have posted the readings for which I have electronic copies on the USC Blackboard,
under course “Readings.” The readings are in folders organized by the number of each
meeting.

When doing the readings, it makes sense to read them in the order they are presented in
this syllabus. Also, the full text of each reading is frequently not required; therefore, look
at the notes next to the reading in this syllabus to see what pages you should read.
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Meeting 1: Introduction (August 23)
No readings. We will discuss the contents and requirements of the course, and how to approach the readings and prepare analytical essays.

Meeting 2 (August 30): APSA convention, No class

On Democracy

Meeting 3: The Nature of Democracy (September 6)
Schumpeter, Joseph. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. New York: Harper. [Read only pages 240-73, starting with the section on “A Mental Experiment” and ending where the section on “The Principle Applied” begins.]


On Democratization I.
Setting the Terms of the Debate

Meeting 4: Modernization Theory I: Economic Development and Mass Culture (September 13)
Meeting 5: Power Structure Theory: Class, State and the State System (September 20)


Meeting 6: Political Institutional Theory I: Political Actors and Strategic Choices (September 27)


Meeting 7: Political Institutional Theory II: Elites, Culture and Non-democratic Institutions (October 4)


On Democratization II.
Revisiting, and Building on, the Classics

Meeting 8: Modernization Theory II: Economic Development (October 11)


Meeting 9: Modernization Theory III. Mass Culture (October 18)


Meeting 10: Political Economy Theory I: Economic Inequality and Redistribution (October 25)

Boix, Carles. 2003. *Democracy and Redistribution.* New York: Cambridge University Press. [Read only pages 1-16 of the “Introduction,” and focus on the argument about economic equality and capital mobility.]

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006 *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy.* New York: Cambridge University Press. [Read only Chapter 2, “Our Argument,” and sections 6 and 7 of Chapter 3 (to see how these authors locate their work in the context of the broader literature).]


Meeting 11: Political Economy Theory II: Natural Resources and Rentier States (November 1)


Meeting 12: Political Institutional Theory III: Elites, State and Nation (November 8)


Meeting 13: Political Institutional Theory IV: Elites, Non-democratic Institutions, and International Factors (November 15)


Haggard, Stephan, Terence Teo and Robert Kaufman. 2016. “Distributive Conflict and Regime Change: A Qualitative Dataset.” [Review a few cases so as to understand the data that is used in Haggard and Kaufman 2016]

Meeting 14: Wednesday, November 22: Thanksgiving Week, No class
Summing Up

Meeting 15: The State of Knowledge: What Do We Know? What Do We Not Know? (November 29)


A Comprehensive Bibliography

Classic and Recent Works on the Concept of Democracy


**Classic and Recent Works on the Explanation of Democracy**


**Overviews and Critical Assessments**


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.