International Relations 599:
Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Perspective

Fall 2010

When: W 5:00-7:50 pm
Where: SOS B40
Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00

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1. Course Description

This seminar explores efforts to conceptualize democracy, and to generate and test theories of democratization and democracy. Some of the key works that have shaped the field will be read and various new lines of research will be explored. Much of what we will read reflects this literature’s focus on Europe, Latin America, and post-Soviet Eurasia. But some African and Asian cases, and several global quantitative analyses, will be discussed. Emphasis will be put on the core theoretical and methodological aspects of this literature and less so on the historical facts they discuss.

2. 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 3 p.m. in my mailbox in VKC 330. I will ask that at least one student write an essay each week.

ii) Class participation (20% of the final grade) on the basis of the required readings, each and every week.

iii) A research paper (30% 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.
The following required books can be purchased at the university bookstore:


I have posted the readings for which I have electronic copies on the USC blackboard. To access them, go to https://blackboard.usc.edu/; log in with your username and password, go to IR 599, and then go to the course “Contents.” The readings are in folders organized by the number of each meeting.

As background material for the class, it is strongly suggested that you read some brief overviews of theories and history of democracy. Some useful texts include:


I. Framing the Research Field

Meeting 1. Introduction

Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007); excerpts on democracy from interviews with Dahl (pp. 129-34), Linz (pp. 161-72), O'Donnell (pp. 288-96), Schmitter (pp. 322-31), and Przeworski (pp. 465-73, 475-77. [With each author, cover the indicated pages, starting with the first section heading and ending where a new section begins.]

Meeting 2. What is Democracy and Why Should it be Valued?

Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy* (New York: Harper, 1942), pp. 240-73. [Start with the section on “A Mental Experiment” and end where the section on “The Principle Applied” begins.]


Meeting 3. Typologies and Measures of Regimes and Democracy I


Meeting 4. Typologies and Measures of Regimes and Democracy II


II. Setting the Terms of the Debate

Meeting 5. Economic Modernization, Class Structure and State Formation


Meeting 6. Actors and Strategic Choices


Meeting 7. Old Regimes and the State


III. Revisiting Lipset and Moore

Meeting 8: Economic Modernization


Meeting 9: Capitalist Development and Social Class


Meeting 10. Unpacking Economic Wealth

III. Beyond Domestic Economic and Social Conditions

Meeting 11. State Formation and State Capacity


Meeting 12. Identities and Institutions


Meeting 13. The New International Arena I. Political Dimensions


If you are so inclined, there is a growing, largely quantitative literature on the topic of international influences on democratization and democracy you could consult:
Meeting 14. The New International Arena II. Economic Dimensions


IV. Summing Up and Looking Forward

Meeting 15. Accomplishments and Challenges

Valerie Bunce, “Comparative Democratization: Big and Bounded Generalizations,” *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 33, N° 6-7 (August-September 2000): 703-34.