Politics of Developing Nations: Democratization in Comparative Perspective  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Fall 2013  
Political Science 952  
Tuesday 4:00-6:45  
BOL 262

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(*NOTE SPELLING OF ADDRESS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an overview of the literature in comparative politics on democratization. We will address longstanding conceptual questions including definitions of democracy, democratic transitions, and consolidation. The seminar will also tackle debates related to the preconditions for democratization and as well as different accounts for democratic successes and failures. Readings will draw on case studies from around the world, including: Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America, and the former Soviet Republics. Throughout the semester we will examine a variety of analytic approaches and methodologies scholars employ in the subfield of comparative politics.

This course draws on several types of readings: classics in democratic theory and democratization, as well as contemporary analysis of current political processes. Thus, we will read works that are varied in length and style. As the field of comparative politics includes scholarship that appears in full-length monographs, the syllabus includes some books to be read in their entirety. Other readings appear in the form of articles and book chapters.

Books to Purchase:  
The following books are available for purchase at the UWM bookstore in the Union.

Required:

Optional:
ASSIGNMENTS

I) In-Class Participation (20%)
This is a discussion-based course that requires regular and active participation on a weekly basis. All class members should come to the weekly seminar with comments, questions, and having completed all the course readings thoroughly.

II) Weekly Short Papers (60%)
Students will submit weekly short papers (3-4 pages). Each paper will address the entirety of the week’s assigned reading. The papers should go beyond summary to critically analyze the core themes, debates, methods, and approaches employed the authors. Short papers are due in hard copy on the day the readings are to be discussed in class. The lowest paper grade will be dropped.

III) Final Exam (20%)
The exam will be comprehensive in scope (i.e. include all course reading materials) and questions will be similar in vein to the doctoral prelim exams in political science, which includes broad themes on theories of democratization, democracy-building, and democratic governance. This take home exam will simulate a doctoral preliminary exam. I.e. students will complete the exam in one day (6 hours) and answer two questions. One important difference however, is that students will be able to refer to their course notes and materials. No other materials (e.g. classmates, friends, Internet searches, book reviews, etc.) will be allowed for consultation. The window to take the exam as well as further instructions on its administration will be provided at the end of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Misconduct: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and disciplinary sanctions by the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic misconduct will be strictly enforced. For more information, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

Disability Accommodations: At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Student Accessibility Center (SAC). To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations are provided, students should contact the SAC Office. For more information, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

Religious Beliefs Accommodation: On occasion, students may find it necessary to miss class in order to observe a religious holiday. In order to ensure reasonable accommodation, students should inform the instructor of the conflict prior to the holiday. Any conflicts with assignments, tests, or other coursework must be addressed before the due date. For more information, see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Incompletes: For more information on UWM’s policy on incompletes, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Military Duty: Students called up for active military duty should contact the instructor for accommodation. For more information on the university’s policies, see: http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm
Discriminatory Conduct: For information on definitions of discrimination, harassment, abuse of power, and the reporting requirements of discriminatory conduct, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf


SEMINAR MEETING CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 3rd  
Introduction to the Course  
No readings

Tuesday, September 10th  
Concepts: Democracy, Democratization, and Consolidation


Recommended further reading:


Tuesday, September 17th  
Historical Approaches


Recommended further reading:


**Tuesday, September 24th**

*Modernization Theory and Democratization*


Recommended further reading:

**Tuesday, October 1st**

*Processes-Oriented Approaches*


**Tuesday, October 8th**

*Social Classes: Elites vs. Workers*

** Note: I will be giving a lecture at UW-WC the evening of October 8th. We will need to reschedule our session. **


** Tuesday, October 15th **

Social Movements

** Note: I will be giving a talk in London for an ODI meeting this week. We will need to reschedule our session. **


Recommended:

** Tuesday, October 22nd **

Social Capital and Trust


** Tuesday, October 29th **

Political Culture


Recommended further reading:
Tuesday, November 8th Race, Ethnicity & Democratization


Recommended further reading:

Tuesday, November 15th Economic Reform & Democratization


Recommended

Tuesday, November 22nd Persistent Authoritarianism


Tuesday, November 29th

**Institutional Design**

*Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism*


**Electoral Systems**


Recommended further reading:


Tuesday, December 6th

**International Pressures & Democracy**

Diffusion:


Democracy Assistance:


Recommended:

**Tuesday, December 13th**


