Democracy and Democratization  
[PSCI 332-Democ & Democratization]  
Fall 2012  
Wednesdays (5:30pm-8:15pm)  
Social Science Building 141

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:45pm-3:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description:  
Welcome to Democracy and Democratization! In this course, we will study the major theories concerning cultural, social, economic and political conditions that are favorable to the development of democracy (as well as those conditions that inhibit the development of democracy). The course will have a regional focus on the transitions to democracy in Latin America and Eastern Europe. We will have ample discussions on the transitions from military rule to democracy in Latin America in addition to discussions about the transitions from one-party Communist rule to democracy in the Former Soviet Union and its satellite states.

We will begin the course with an overview of democratic theories, measurements of democracy, and an examination of historical “waves” of democratization. Then, we will explore concepts that relate to democracy and democratization such as: economics, security issues, nationalism, gender, ethnicity, the media, and globalization. We will conclude the class by examining democratic transition case studies from the former Soviet Union in addition to an examination of the effects of Leftist politics on the consolidation of democracy in Latin America.

Format:  
Each student will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings on a rotating basis (see Requirements/Assignments). Each class will involve intense discussions about the assigned readings. In addition, we will use videos and invite guest speakers to further our understanding of democracy and democratization. Please note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor’s discretion.

NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME. THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):  
CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPADS, iPODS, MP3 Players/Recorders,  
VIDEO CAMERAS OR ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND  

IF ANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE PRESENT IN CLASS YOU WILL BE ASKED TO STORE THEM OR LEAVE THE CLASS IMMEDIATELY.
Learning Outcome:

Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to explain democracy and democratization.

Requirements/Assignments:

Examinations:

In this course, all students are required to take TWO exams that will be in a short answer/identification format. Each response will be graded by evaluating the accuracy and level of knowledge that you demonstrate in your answers. Together, these exams will comprise 60% of your grade. There is not a final exam in this course.

If you miss an exam, you will receive 0% for that exam.

If you have a legitimate reason for missing an exam (e.g. severe illness or injury requiring professional medical care, emergencies in your immediate family, participation in official university activities, legal obligations) AND you have supporting documentation for your absence, then you may request taking the make-up exam, which will be a comprehensive examination given during finals week.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be submitted in writing and include documentation explaining and substantiating why the absence was legitimate. An approval to take the make-up exam will be based solely upon the professor’s evaluation of your request and supporting documentation. Your grade on the make-up exam may only be used to substitute one missed exam. Any other missed exams will receive 0% scores, irrespective of the circumstances.

Attendance: 10% of your grade is based on your class attendance. Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken at the end of each class session using a sign-in sheet. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they have signed in. Arriving late and/or leaving early will negatively impact your attendance grade. Attendance is critical, discussions are irreplaceable, and course sessions cannot be “made up.” I will not be managing any excuses for absences. You can miss ONE class session without penalty for any reason (excused or unexcused). More than one absence will result in a reduction in your grade, REGARDLESS of the reason (excused OR unexcused).

The attendance grade scale appears below.

- 0 absences = you will get a bonus of 2% added to your grade
- 1 absence = no penalty
- 2 absences = -2% from your grade
- 3 absences = -4% from your grade
- 4 absences = -6% from your grade
- 5 or more absences = -10% from your grade
Participation: Your participation in this course is worth 5% of your grade. Positive participation includes responding to my questions, asking your own questions, and contributing to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced if you use personal electronic devices in class, misbehave in class, or disrupt class in any way.

Readings Presentations: Each student will be assigned to present readings and help lead the discussions throughout the semester on an equitable and rotating basis. These presentations must be accompanied by a summary handout to be distributed to all of the students in the class. Your presentations are worth 20% of your grade.

Short writing assignments and/or pop quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. These will count for a total of 3% of your grade.

Global Class Project: All students in this class will be required to participate in a university sponsored global research project, or complete an alternative assignment on global studies. The easiest way to fulfill this requirement is to complete two online surveys (one at the beginning of the fall semester and a second survey at the end of the fall semester). Each survey should take less than 20 minutes to complete. I will email you the link to the survey at the beginning and at the end of the semester with dates/times of the deadlines to complete each survey.

If you would not like to participate in this research project you must complete an alternative assignment: Choose a film that focuses on an international political theme (or themes) and write a four-page research paper that focuses your evaluation of how the film depicts the political or historical reality of the case it is based upon. Legitimate Internet sources for citations are acceptable; academic journals and books are preferred. At least five sources must be cited in your paper. Papers must be submitted in electronic form (as an email attachment) AND as a hard (printed) copy on or before December 5, 2012.

Alternative assignment papers must be FOUR pages of text, not more, not less: typed 12-point Times New Roman font; double spaced; 1in. margins all around; and bibliographies are not included in that page count. Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason. (email me if you would like to do the alternative assignment).

If you do not complete both surveys you will be required to do the alternative assignment. Thus, if you do not complete the first survey you will automatically be required to do the alternative assignment to fulfill this portion of the class. The global class requirement is worth 2% of your grade.
**Grades:** Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. Specifically, the following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Exam #1 (October 17): 30%
- Exam #2 (December 5): 30%
- Readings Presentations: 20%
- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 5%
- Short Writing Assignments/Quizzes: 3%
- Global Studies Survey/Alternative Assignment Paper (December 5): 2%

A  90-100% ; B  80-89.9% ; C  70-79.9% ; D  60-69.9% ; F  Below 60%

In order to maximize your performance in this course, you must:

- **TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO): CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPADS, iPods, MP3 Players/Recorders, VIDÉO CAMERAS, OR ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND**

- **IF ANYONE IS FOUND TO BE TEXTING OR ANSWERS A PHONE CALL DURING CLASS, THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL TAKE A POP QUIZ ON THE SPOT.**

- Attend each class session AND arrive ON TIME (the classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals 15 minutes after class starts; Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early (this may affect your attendance grade);

- Read the assigned material before class;

- Be prepared to discuss the topics presented in class;

- Refrain from reading materials or working on other homework during class;

- Do NOT get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom unless absolutely necessary;

- Be courteous to -and respectful of- your fellow students and professor.
Code of Student Conduct: Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being immediately dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.

Notes on Academic Dishonesty of ANY kind: Any student who is caught committing any kind of academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration. “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material” (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures A13.12). If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

Note to Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Readings:
There are THREE required texts for this course. **MAKE SURE TO PURCHASE THE CORRECT EDITIONS:**

**Required Textbooks**


- **Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy**: Wolchik & Curry, Eds.; **SECOND EDITION**; 2011; Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; paperback; ISBN 978-0-7425-6734-4


**ELECTRONIC BOOKS (e-books) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS COURSE**
Course Schedule:

Week 1  Introduction to Course
August 29
Read:
- *Buy your books*
- *Readings for this session will be distributed in class*

Week 2  Transitions to Democracy (63)
September 5
Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 1 Introduction (7)
- Democratization, Chapter 2 Democratic and Undemocratic States (13)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 1 Democracy, the Market, and the Return to Europe (24)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 1 Introduction (4)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 2 Democratic Consolidation in Latin America? (15)

Week 3  Democratization Theories (54)
September 12
Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 6 Theories of Democratization (16)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 4 Latin American Democracy: How is it Viewed from the North? (19)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 5 Latin American Democracy: The View from the South (19)

Week 4  Waves of Democratization (60)
September 19
Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 4 Long Waves and Conjunctures of Democratization (13)
- Democratization, Chapter 5 The Global Wave of Democratization (18)
- Democratization, Chapter 19 Latin America (18)
- Democratization, Chapter 20 Post-Communist Europe and Post Soviet Russia (11)

Week 5  Measuring Democracy and Democratization (56)
September 26
Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 3 Measuring Democracy and Democratization (16)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 2 The Political Transition (20)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 3 Measuring Democratic Political Culture in Latin America (20)
**Week 6**  
The International Context of Democratization (53)

October 3

Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 7 The International Context (14)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 7 EU Accession and the Role of International Actors (18)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 19 The US Role in Democratization (21)

**Week 7**  
Democracy and Economics (65)

October 10

Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 8 Democracy, Business, and the Economy (18)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 3 Re-Creating the Market (30)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 17 Democracy and Economic Growth in Latin America (17)

**Week 8**  
Exam 1; Film Night

October 17

Read:
- Prepare for Exam 1 and take notes on the film shown in class (the film will be covered on Exam 2).
- Exam #1 will take place at the beginning of class on Wednesday, the 17th of October. You will have one hour to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented from the 29th of August through the 10th of October.

**Week 9**  
Gender and Democracy (51)

October 24

Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 10 Gender and Democratization (13)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 8 Feminism in Latin America (22)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 5 Women’s Participation in Postcommunist Politics (16)

**Week 10**  
The Media and Democracy; Nationalism (56)

October 31

Read:
- Democratization, Chapter 16 The Media (14)
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 12 Latin American Democracy and the Media (16)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 4 Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Expansion of Democracy (26)
Week 11  
**Indigenismo; Security Issues and Democracy; Discuss Implications of US Election Results on Democratization (51)**  
November 7  
Read:  
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 13 Indian Nationalism, Democracy and the Future of the Nation-State in Central and South America (21)  
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 7 Security Issues: NATO and Beyond (18)  
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 10 The State, the Military, and the Citizen: New Security Challenges in Latin America (12)

Week 12  
**Eastern European Case Studies (54)**  
November 14  
Read:  
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 15 Ukraine (34)  
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 11 The Baltic States (20)

Week 13  
**Thanksgiving Break**  
November 21  
Read:  
- No Class. Thanksgiving Break

Week 14  
**The Latin American Left; The Future of Democratization (42)**  
November 28  
Read:  
- Democratization, Chapter 24 Conclusions and Outlook (8)  
- Central and East European Politics, Chapter 17 What Now? (7)  
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 16 The Left in Government: Deepening or Constraining Democracy in Latin America (19)  
- Latin American Democracy, Chapter 20 Conclusion (8)

Week 15  
**Exam 2; Global Class Project; Class Dinner**  
December 5  
Read:  
- Nothing. Prepare for Exam # 2.  
- *Exam #2 will take place at the beginning of class on the 6th of December. You will have one hour to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented from the 6th of November through the 4th of December.*  
- *Global Class Project Survey or Alternative Assignment must be completed by the beginning of class today.*

**Finals Week  
Make-Up Examination**  
December 10-14 (Exam date and time TBA)

*If you have been approved to take the Make-up Exam, it will take place at the scheduled final exam date and time for this course. The make-up exam is comprehensive, covering material presented from August 29-November 28. You will have one hour to complete it.*