Since the fall of the Berlin Wall more than two decades ago, numerous public opinion surveys have been conducted to monitor and compare how ordinary citizenries have reacted to the democratization taking place around them. These surveys have revealed that a large majority of the global mass publics sees democracy as valuable and prefers it to autocratic regimes. On the basis of their findings, an increasing number of scholars and policymakers have recently begun to advocate the thesis that the entire world is becoming democratic. This course is designed to evaluate this thesis of global democratization by analyzing and comparing citizen views of democracy across regions in democratic transitions, including Africa, the Middle East, East Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Conceptually, the course builds on the notion that democratization is a dynamic phenomenon that has multiple dimensions and levels, and it thus takes place in individual citizens as well as their political institutions. Theoretically, it is grounded in the perspective that to operate properly, a democratic political system requires “software” congruent with the various components of its institutional hardware, and citizen orientations to democracy and their favorable reactions to its institutions are key components of the software required for democracy to work.

Objectives: I have three objectives in teaching this course. The first is to review recent developments in the study of democratic culture. The second is to introduce regional and global public opinion surveys recently conducted to monitor citizen reactions to democratization. The third is to encourage students to develop the skills of evaluating theoretical and empirical claims.

Requirements:

Students should note that this is not a lecture course; it is a seminar featuring discussion of the debates and issues raised in the daily assigned readings. As a seminar, class will be conducted in a “conference” style. In each session, students will take turns in presenting the assigned readings. As discussion leaders, they should draw the class into identifying the core questions (or issues) examined and overlooked in the assigned readings, and evaluating the answers and claims presented in those readings. All students should bring a short list of pertinent issues or questions (one paragraph) from the assigned readings and/or other sources. They should also note that this seminar is a “thinking” course, not a “fact” or “quantitative analysis” course. What matters most in research on political life always includes organizing concepts to sort out competing ideas and theoretical claims, and perform logical analyses on those.

Because of the short period of the course, I do not require students to prepare a research paper. Instead, I ask them to prepare and present a short (2-3 pages) research proposal (or design) for the study of a conceptual, theoretical, or empirical issue, which concerns the emergence of democratic political culture in the non-Western world. Because of limited time between classes, I do not use any of the books recommended below as a required reading. For each class session, I will assign a few relatively short journal articles.
Grading:

Grading will be made according to the following weights:

- Class attendance and participation, 40%,
- Two short written assignments, 20%; and
- One written research proposal, 40%.

Recommended Books:


Resources

Journals:

-Journal of Democracy
-Democratization
-Taiwan Journal of Democracy
-Comparative Political Studies
-Comparative Politics

International Public Opinion Surveys:

Afrobarometer: [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)
Datasets on Democracy and Democratization:

**Freedom House: Freedom in the World Reports:**
http://www.freedomhouse.org
Ratings on the guarantee of political rights and civil rights in all countries worldwide. Data available from 1972 onward and yearly updated.

**BTI - Bertelsmann Transformations Index:**
http://www.bertelsmann-transformation-index.de
Index developed by the Bertelsmann Foundation on the political and economic development status of 120 countries in transition (2003-2012).

**Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index:**
http://www.eiu.com
Democracy index developed on the basis of expert evaluations of 60 factors from five areas (election process, civil rights, government capability, participation and political culture) in 167 countries in the years 2006, 2008 and 2010, 2012).

**Transparencies International: Global Corruption Barometer**
http://www.transparency.org/research/gcb/overview
Corruption perception index as evidence of corruption in 107 countries.

**Global Democracy Ranking**
Annual ranking of the quality of democracy

**Polity:**
http://www.systemicpeace.org/polity/polity4.htm
Classification of political systems on a scale between the two extremes autocracy and democracy. Yearly updated data available for 167 countries over the period 1800-2012.

**World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators:**
Indices for six governance dimensions based on the combination of data from a broad array of data sources. Available for 213 countries in the time span 1996-2009.
Course Schedule and Readings

Readings listed below for each session are divided into two groups. All the items in the first group are mandatory readings, that is, everyone is required to read. Those in the second group are optional ones, which will be assigned to individual students who volunteer to make extra contributions to class discussion and earn “bonus points”.

April 20  Introduction and Overview: What, Why, and How

For this first session, students are asked to:

(1) Prepare a short essay (1-page) introducing their educational backgrounds, research experiences and interests, and career goals;
(2) Describe the most intellectually rewarding of all the political science books read;
(3) Browse through the latest issues of *Journal of Democracy*, *Democratization*, and *Taiwan Journal of democracy*.

April 21  Thesis of Global Democratization: Theoretical Debates

Available online from http://wilsonquarterly.com/stories/why-wait-for-democracy/


April 22  Scholarly Definitions of Democracy

Aristotle, “Constitutions and their Classification” (handout).
Abraham Lincoln, “Gettysburg Address” (e-reserve).
Richard Rose, “Choosing Democracy as the Lesser Evil” (e-reserve).
Tony Blair, “For True Democracy, the Right to Vote is not enough,” *New York Times* (December 4, 2014).
Economist Intelligence Unit, “Methodology” (e-reserve).

Adam Przeworski, “Minimalist Conception of Democracy” (e-reserve).


**April 23**  **Democratic Political Culture**


Aaron Wildavsky, “Democracy as a Coalition of Cultures” (e-reserve).


**April 27**  **Public Opinion Research on Democracy**

For this class session, all students are asked to choose one of the regional barometer websites listed above, and report on its main achievements.


April 28  Citizen Views of Democracy in Confucian East Asia

Doh Shin “Confucianism in Principle” (handout).
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, “Asians on Democracy” available from
http://cald.org/site/cald/?page_id=5265 (e-reserve).
Min-Hua Hwang, “Understanding of Democracy in East Asian Societies,” presented at “23rd
World Congress of Political Science,” held in Montreal, July 2014 (e-reserve).
Doh Shin and Jason Wells, “Is Democracy the Only Game in Town?” Journal of Democracy

21 (4): 114-121.
21-40.
Jie Lu and Tianjian Shi, “The Battle of Ideas and Discourses before Democratic
Taiwan Journal of Democracy (July 2013) special issue on “Contending Perspectives on the
Sources of International Trust and Regime Support in East Asia.”

April 29  Citizen Views of Democracy in the Middle East

Mark Tessler, “Mapping and Explaining Attitudes toward Political Islam among Ordinary
Citizens in the Middle East and North Africa,” Economic Research Forum Working
Amaney Jamal and Mark Tessler, “Attitudes in the Arab World,” Journal of Democracy
(January 2008), 97-110.
Sabrina de Regt, “Arabs Want Democracy, but What Kind?” Advances in Applied Sociology
(2013), 37-46.
Ephraim Yuchtman-Ya’ar and Yasmin Alkalay, “Political Attitudes in the Muslim World,”
Journal of Democracy (July 2010), 122-134.
Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, “Islamic Culture and Democracy: Testing the ‘Clash of

David Doherty and Jessica Mcelem, “Conceptions of Democracy in the Arab World.”
(unpublished working paper).
Lindsay J. Benstead, “Why Do Some Arab Citizens See Democracy as Unsuitable for their
Country?” Democratization published on line (September 2014), 1-24.
Alfred Stepan and Grame Robertson, “An ‘Arab’ More than a ‘Muslim’ Democracy Gap,”
Journal of Democracy (2003), 30-44.
Larry Diamond, “Why are there no Arab Democracies?” Journal of Democracy (January 2010),
93-104.
April 30  Citizen Views of Democracy in Africa


May 4  Citizen Views of Democracy in Latin America


Marta Lagos, “Democracy in Latin America” (February 2014).


Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, “The Political Culture of Democracy in the Americas, 2014: Democratic Governance across 10 Years of the AmericasBarometer Executive Summary”


May 5  Citizen Views of Democracy in Europe

Richard Rose, “Advancing into Europe? The Contrasting Goals of Post-Communist Countries.”


Monica Ferrin and Hanspeter Kriesi, ‘Europeans’ Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy.” Available from [http://www.europesocialsurvey.org/permalink/800ea36f-3a8d-11e4-95d4-005056b8065f.pdf](http://www.europesocialsurvey.org/permalink/800ea36f-3a8d-11e4-95d4-005056b8065f.pdf).


Available online from [http://fride.org/blog/support-for-democracy-in-russia-where-next/](http://fride.org/blog/support-for-democracy-in-russia-where-next/)


May 7  Presentations of Research Proposals