

**SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**  
**DEMOCRACY & DEMOCRATIZATION**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45 pm  
Tydings Hall 1118

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### **Course Description**

This course surveys the big debates about the nature of democracy and democratization. The course is organized around five broad themes: 1) core concepts and definitions of democracies and non-democratic regimes, 2) the nature and causes of democratization, 3) democratic principles, 4) democratic forms and institutional variation, and 5) contemporary issues in democratic politics. Throughout the course, we will be exploring how these different elements of democracy and democratization exist around the world by using cases from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the United States.

### **Learning Objectives**

The learning objectives for this course include the ability to 1) define and discuss different definitions and concepts of democratic and nondemocratic regimes, 2) identify and critique the major theories of democratization, 3) identify core democratic principles and evaluate how these principles are implemented in at least two different democratic countries, and 4) compare and contrast the trade-offs of different democratic forms and institutional variations.

### **Summary of Assignments**

- Class Participation (10%)
- Weekly Discussions (12%)
- Two Reflection Papers (15% each for a total of 30%)
- Final Paper (25 percent)
- Final Quiz (18 percent)
- Final Presentation (5 percent)

### **Class Participation**

Participation includes coming to each class prepared to discuss readings, pose questions, and make evaluative comments. Please bring the readings with you to class every day. Please let me know if you are going to miss class by sending me an email beforehand. Missing three or more classes will impact your participation grade.

### **Short Reflection Papers and Final Paper**

For the two short reflection papers and the final paper, you may use your notes, the books, or outside materials for these essays, but please include citations and references for all the materials you use, including assigned texts for the class. All papers can be submitted to the course page on the ELMS website: <https://myelms.umd.edu>

## Quiz

There will be one online quiz during finals week. The quiz is expected to take about one hour and includes a short multiple-choice section and a short answer question.

## Final Presentation

The final presentation entails a short (approximately 3-4 minutes) presentation about your final paper. Students can use PowerPoint (PPT) slides for their presentations, but they are not required.

## Grading

Grades will be calculated according to a standard scale, in which 98 and above is an A+, 93-97 is an A, 90-92 is an A-, 87-89 is a B+, 83-86 is a B, 80-82 is a B-, 77-79 is a C+, 73-76 is a C, 70-72 is a C-, 67-69 is a D+, 63-66 is a D, 60-62 is a D-, and below 60 is a F. Grades are not curved.

## Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a cornerstone of the values and practices in higher education and the conduct of research. As an academic community, responsibility for maintaining this atmosphere at the University of Maryland lies with the students, faculty and administration. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating; plagiarism; providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the professor; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; attempting to influence one academic evaluation by means other than academic merit; submitting the same paper in two different courses; and assisting other students in misconduct.

Plagiarism involves failing to document one's sources. This can happen due to a motive of cheating, but it can also happen by accident. It does not have to be committed with a dishonest intention. Plagiarism can include quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or utilizing the published or unpublished work of others without proper acknowledgment. If there is any doubt about a particular case, always cite, and if you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism and how to avoid it, please ask me. Please review the University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity and Honor Pledge available here:

<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct-codes/>

## Policies and Resources for Undergraduate Courses

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit [www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

### **Recommended Reading**

Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).

Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016).

→ There are no required books for this course. All readings for the course will be made available on the ELMS website: <https://myelms.umd.edu>. The two books listed above are recommended. Both have the same name, but they can be distinguished by the different editors.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

#### **Tuesday, August 29: Introduction to the Course**

Syllabus & Course Introduction

#### **Thursday, August 31: Democracies in Practice – What do they look like?**

Please watch the following short videos before Thursday's class available on ELMS, we will discuss in class these four democratic countries: Great Britain, India, South Korea, and Tunisia

1. Great Britain: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qj2vpp9Wf4>
2. India: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_EPCunGCto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_EPCunGCto)
3. South Korea: (two short videos) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCYD2MF3yAM>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh3wRBQIV00>
4. Tunisia: 1 video, 1 news story): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52LsduEGjos>  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-07-15/timeline-tunisias-rocky-road-from-revolution-to-democracy>

### **Week 2**

#### **Tuesday, September 5: What does a Non-Democracy look like?**

What does it look and feel like to live in a country without democracy? It is hard to know without experiencing it, but we can get some sense through seeing a non-democracy portrayed in film.

Please watch the movie, **The Lives of Others (2006)**, before class on Tuesday so we can discuss what a non-democracy looks like during our class session.

**Thursday, September 7: Authoritarian Regimes**

Reading: Paul Brooker, "Authoritarian Regimes," in Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics*, Third Edition, Oxford, 2014, pages 96-108.

North Korean Government Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGCodBnM2hI>

**Week 3****Tuesday, September 12: What Democracy Is? Definitions and Concepts**

Reading: Terry Lynn Karl and Phillippe C. Schmitter, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," *Journal of Democracy* 2(3), Summer 1991, pp. 75-88. Note that this reading is also available in Diamond and Plattner (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader* (Washington, DC: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), pp. 3-16.

**Thursday, September 14: What Democracy Is? Definitions and Concepts**

Reading: Peter Mair, "Democracies," in Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics*, Third Edition, Oxford, 2014, pages 80-94.

Liberal versus Illiberal Democracies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b62rK4WthE>

→ In weeks 4, 5 and 6 we will be exploring how countries become democratic. In weeks 4 and 5, we will approach democratization from different perspectives: 1) historical, 2) the nature of transitions and hybrid regimes, and 3) modernization theory, which emphasizes the relationship between economic development and political development. In Week 6, we will examine the case of democratization in South Korea and discuss which if any of the theories of democratization best explains the country's transition to democracy.

**Week 4****Tuesday, September 19: How do countries democratize? Historical approach and waves of democracy**

Reading: Samuel P. Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds.), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Second Edition (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 3-25

Reading: Ahmed Aushouk, "The Arab Spring: A fourth wave of democratization?," *Digest of Middle East Studies* 25(1), 2016, pp. 52-69.

**Thursday, September 21: How do countries democratize? Concept of Transitions and the nature of hybrid regimes**

Reading: Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transition Paradigm," *Journal of Democracy* 13 (1), January 2002, pp. 5-21.

Reading: Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," in Diamond and Plattner (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader* (Washington, DC: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), pp. 244-258.

**Week 5**

**Tuesday, September 26: How do countries democratize? Modernization Paradigm**

Reading: Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," *American Political Science Review* 53(1), 1959, pp. 69-105.

Reading: Diamond, Larry, "Why East Asia, Including China, Will Turn Democratic Within a Generation," *The Atlantic*, 2012.

**Thursday September 28: How do countries democratize? Modernization Paradigm**

Reading: Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts," *World Politics* 49 (1), January 1997, pp. 155-83.

Reading: Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, "Endogenous Democratization," *World Politics* 55(4), July 2003, pp. 519-549.

Modernization review and critique: <https://www.thoughtco.com/modernization-theory-3026419>

**Week 6**

**→ First reflection paper due Friday, October 6**

**Tuesday, October 3: Democratization in Practice – South Korea**

For an overview of the events leading up to democratization in South Korea, here is one South Korean reporter's account: Sae-Yoon Kim, "How the June Struggle for Democracy ushered democracy into Korea," *Kookmin University Newspaper Broadcasting Company*, June, 1, 2020:

<https://press.kookmin.ac.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=101508>

Reading: Han Sung-Joo, "South Korea in 1987-The Politics of Democratization," *Asian Survey* 28(1), January 1988, pp. 52-61.

Reading: Hahm Chaibong, "South Korea's Miraculous Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* 19(3), July 2008, pp. 128-142.

### **Thursday, October 5: Democratization in Practice – South Korea**

For today's class, please watch the movie, **1987: When the Day Comes (2017)**. The movie portrays the events leading up to South Korea's democratization in 1987. Please watch the film before class so we can discuss it during our class session.

→ In week 7 we will turn to explore and discuss some of the underlying principles and values of democracy in more detail. We will be reading from a variety of authors on topics including representation, liberty, sovereignty, equality and majority rule. In week 8, we will look at the ways in which these democratic principles are put into practice in two countries (Germany and India) along with the real-world challenges that arise when principles and practice intersect.

## **Week 7**

### **Tuesday, October 10: Democratic Principles and Values – Sovereignty, Representation, Liberty**

Reading: John Stuart Mill, "Representative Government," in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 58-66.

Reading: Thomas Paine, "Rights of Man," in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 83-86.

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The Social Contract," in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 100-101.

Reading: Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty" in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 111-114.

### **Thursday, October 12: Democratic Principles and Values – Equality, Majority Rule**

Reading: "Equality Introduction," in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 118-119.

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “A Discourse on the Origins of Inequality,” in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 126-129.

Reading: “Majority Rule Introduction,” in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 172-173.

Reading: John Stuart Mill, “Representative Government,” in Ricardo Blaug and John Schwarzmantel (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader*, Second Edition (New York: Colombia University Press, 2016), pp. 179-182.

## Week 8

### Tuesday, October 17: Democratic Principles and Values in Practice – Freedom of Expression in Germany

Readings: Jochen Bittner, “Is there freedom of speech in Germany?” *The New York Times*, October 1, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/01/opinion/freedom-of-speech-germany.html>

Benjamin Restle, “Freedom of speech under attack in Germany? Hardly.” *DW*, February 2, 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-freedom-of-speech-under-attack-in-germany-hardly/a-51492898>

Angela Merkel, “Free Speech has its limits,” video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfej-OWie0w>

→ To turn on the English translation, click on the settings button on bottom right, then click subtitles (it will likely be selected onto German), then click Auto-translate, and select English. It should translate Merkel’s speech in German into English subtitles.

### Thursday, October 19: Democratic Principles and Values in Practice – Equality, Caste, and Reservations (a form of affirmative action) in India

Readings: Is India’s Caste System Still Alive?, *Now This World*, April 19, 2015. Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyCQDIwHIXY>

History of Reservations in India: <https://sheroes.com/articles/reservation-in-india/MTI1NzE=>

Students Protest Caste-Based Job Quotas, *UPI Archives*, November 20, 1992. <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1992/11/20/Student-set-himself-afire-to-protest-caste-based-job-quotas/2480722235600/>

Reservations should only be for the poor, protesters say, *Times of India*, August 5, 2019.  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/reservations-should-only-be-for-poor-say-protesters/articleshow/70527484.cms>

→ In weeks 9 and 10 we will look at the different forms that democracy can take. In particular, we will look at the differences between a unitary and a federal state, types of executive-legislative relations, electoral systems, and party systems. Then in week 11 we will try our hands at creating a new democratic system for a fictional country “Syrianna,” which has come out of a civil war to see how these different institutional forms of democracy interact.

## Week 9

### **Tuesday, October 24: Democratic Forms and Institutional Variations – Federalism versus a Unitary State**

Readings: Alfred Stepan, “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model,” in Diamond and Plattner (eds.), *Democracy: A Reader* (Washington, DC: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), pp. 153-167.

Examples of federalism (short videos): Federalism in Switzerland:

[https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/democracy-lab\\_what-is-federalism-/44374058](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/democracy-lab_what-is-federalism-/44374058)

Federalism in Ethiopia: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/ethiopia/ethiopia-ethnic-federalism-and-its-discontents>

### **Thursday, October 26: Democratic Forms and Institutional Variations – Executive-Legislative Relations**

Reading: Jonathan Eastwood et al., “Executives,” *Comparative Politics*, Second Edition, Oxford, 2016, pages 227-249.

Reading: Juan J. Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism,” *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1), Winter 1990, pp. 51-69.

## Week 10

### **Tuesday, October 31: Democratic Forms and Institutional Variations – Electoral Systems**

Reading: Jonathan Eastwood et al., “Electoral Systems,” *Comparative Politics*, Second Edition, Oxford, 2016, pages 205-224.

Reading: Donald Horowitz, “A Primer for Decision Makers,” in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner (eds.), *Electoral Systems and Democracy*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), pp. 3-15.

**Thursday, November 2: Democratic Forms and Institutional Variations – Parties and Party Systems**

Reading: Diamond, Larry and Richard Gunther, “Types and Functions of Parties,” in Diamond and Gunther (eds.), *Political Parties and Democracy* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), Chapter 1, pp. 3-39.

Why the U.S. doesn’t have a multi-party system (short video):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wnju7zOH\\_Zs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wnju7zOH_Zs)

Duverger’s Law and the two-party system explained (short video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpBRGXK-QNs>

**Week 11**

**→ *Second reflection paper due Friday, November 10***

**Tuesday, November 7: Democratic Forms and Institutional Variations – Creating a New Democratic System for “Syrianna”**

We will put into practice what we have learned in the past two weeks to imagine what a new democratic system might look like for Syrianna, a fictional country with qualities similar to several real-life countries. Information and instructions will be provided in class.

**Thursday, November 9: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Social Media, Collective Action and Political Participation – Arab Spring**

How the Arab Spring Started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgcd5ZcxDys>

Reading: Merlyna Lim, “Clicks, Cabs, and Coffee Houses: Social Media and Oppositional Movements in Egypt, 2004-2011,” *Journal of Communication* 62, 2012, pp. 231-248.

**Week 12****Tuesday, November 14: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Social Media, Collective Action and Political Participation – Logic of Connective Action, Hong Kong**

Reading: W. Lance Bennett and Alexandra Segerberg, “The Logic of Connective Action,” *Information, Communication & Society* 15(2), 2012, pp. 739-768.

Reading: Tin-yuet, Ting, “From “be water” to “be fire”: nascent smart mob and networked protests in Hong Kong,” *Social Movement Studies* 19(3), 2020, pp. 362-368.

Hong Kong protests and the role of social media: Three short videos, these links will also be put up on ELMs:

- <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/social-media-has-become-a-battleground-in-hong-kong-protests.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2015/09/16/social-media-key-to-hong-kong-occupy-central-fight-for-democracy.html>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/hk-activists-disband-delete-social-posts-china-pass-security-law-2020-6>

### **Thursday, November 16: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Populism**

What is Populism? (Short video) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_uA1GBzXzr4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uA1GBzXzr4)

Reading: Yascha Mounk, *The People’s Democracy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018), pp. 2-21 and 23-52, skim 53-64.

Recommended but not required: To better understand the difference between populism and nationalism, please see the following: “Nationalism And Populism: What Is The Difference? How Are They Connected?” *Civil Liberties Union for Europe*, August 12, 2021, available at <https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/nationalism-and-populism/43717>.

## **Week 13**

### **Tuesday, November 21: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Populism**

Reading: Yascha Mounk, *The People’s Democracy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018), pp.137-181.

Reading: Cas Mudde, “Europe’s Populist Surge: A Long Time in the Making,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2016, pp. 25-30.

Recommended but not required: If you are interested to read more about populism and possible solutions, see Yascha Mounk, *The People’s Democracy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018), pp.184-236.

### **Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving, no class**

## **Week 14**

### **Tuesday, November 28: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Democratic Backsliding**

Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky, *How Democracies Die* (New York, NY: Crown Publishing, 2018), Introduction and chapter 1, pages, 1-32.

**Thursday, November 30: Contemporary Issues in Democratic Politics – Democratic Backsliding**

Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky, *How Democracies Die* (New York, NY: Crown Publishing, 2018), chapter 2, pages 33-52.

Schlefer, Jonathan, “The Real Guardrails of Democracy are its Citizens,” *Foreign Affairs*, March 15, 2021. pp. 1-10.

**→ *Final Paper Due Sunday, December 3***

**Week 15**

**Tuesday, December 5: Student Presentations**

**Thursday, December 7: Student Presentations**