Syllabus

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Lectures: Thursdays: 1:30-4:00pm, Van Munching Hall 1101

The course, offered on the 600 level, will be open to undergraduate seniors (with permission of instructor) and both M.A. and Ph.D. students throughout the university.

1. Aims of the Course:
This course will focus on the theory and practice of democracy and democratization as well as related themes of civil society and civic engagement. In Part I, we will consider various theories that seek to understand and defend democratic governance. What is nature of democracy in contrast to other forms of government such as bureaucratic elitism, theocracy, and authoritarianism and can democracy be defended against these other governmental arrangements? What are the strengths and weaknesses of various forms of democratic theory, for example, minimalist democracy (Schumpeter), liberal-representative democracy (Dahl-polyarchy), and deliberative democracy? What does each theory consider to be the causes, consequences, limits, and threats to democracy?

In Part II, the course will examine and evaluate the practice of democracy and especially institutional experiments in deepening and broadening democracy. Part III will assess theories that explain and justify transitions from authoritarianism to democracy as well as various approaches to democracy promotion.

2. Recommended Books (University Book Store, Internet):


3. Class Website:
   http://www.wam.umd.edu/~dcrocker/Courses/PUAF698Q.html

Our class website has been constructed and will be managed by Soumya Chattopadhyay (soumya218[at]yahoo.com). The syllabus, class roster, theoretical paper guidelines, and some readings are available on the website.

4. Requirements:

a. Consistent Attendance and Participation (10%): Students will come to class having read carefully the assigned reading. You should be prepared to summarize the reading's main arguments, raise at least one question of interpretation, identify at least one positive feature, and make at least one criticism of the reading. Participation in class discussion will be evaluated in relation to both quality and quantity (not too much nor too little).

b. Course Examination (30 %): The examination will cover the readings and class discussions during first 10 weeks of the course. In your preparation emphasize what we have stressed in class discussion.

c. Theoretical Paper(s):

   • Option I: Long (20-25 page) Final Term Paper (with option to revise) (60 % of final grade).
     
     o Topic Proposal: A one-page sketch of proposed topic (10/23).
     o Detailed three-page outline of paper plus bibliography (11/13).
     o Paper due (12/4), if you have chosen to revise.
     o Paper due (12/18), if you have not chosen to revise.
     o (Optional) revision of paper due (12/18). (If you chose to revise, the grade on the revision will replace the original paper’s grade).

   • Option II: Four Short (5-6 page) Papers (15% each of final grade). Each short paper should interpret and assess some narrow topic, position, problem, or
argument in the reading assigned for the appropriate two-week or three-week period. Each paper may be revised on the basis of instructor's comments and criticisms. (If you choose to revise, the grade on the revision will replace the grade on the original paper). All papers should be submitted electronically at no later than 9 a.m. on the due date. Papers should be double-spaced in 12-point font with consistent foot or end-noting.

Short Paper #1: Due: 9/11 (optional revision due: 9/18)  
Short Paper #2: Due: 10/9 (optional revision due: 10/16)  
Short Paper #3: Due: 10/30 (optional revision due: 11/6)  
Short Paper #4: Due: 12/4 (optional revision due: 12/18)

5. Course Outline:
Part I: Theories of Democracy

Week 1 (8/31): Introduction (Guest Lecturer: Dr. Steven G. Schwenke)
- Course Aims, Books, Requirements, Outline
- Challenges to Democracy and Democratization: Theory and Practice

Week 2 (9/7): Sources and Definitions of Democracy
- Robert A. Dahl, Democracy and Its Critics, 1-33
- Larry Diamond, Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation, Ch. 1

Week 3 (9/14): Critics of Democracy (Guest Lecturer: Dr. Steven G. Schwenke)
- Robert A. Dahl, Democracy and Its Critics, 1-33

Short Paper #1 Due 9/11

Week 4 (9/21): Competitive Electoralism or Democratic Minimalism (Schumpeter)
- Joseph Schumpeter, “Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy,” Ch. IV
- Tom Bottomore, “Introduction” to Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, ix-xiv.

Short Short Paper #1 Revision Due, 9/25

Week 5 (9/28): Liberal Democracy or Polyarchy (Dahl) I
- Robert A. Dahl, Democracy and Its Critics, 83-209
Week 6 (10/5): Liberal Democracy or Polyarchy (Dahl) II
- Robert A. Dahl, Democracy and Its Critics, 213-341

Short Paper #2 Due 10/9

Week 7 (10/12): Deliberative Democracy (Gutmann and Thomspson) I
- Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, Why Deliberative Democracy, Preface and Ch. 1-2

Short Paper #2 Revision Due 10/16

Week 8 (10/19): Deliberative Democracy (Gutmann and Thomspson) II
- Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, Why Deliberative Democracy, Ch. 3-4

Long Paper Topic Proposal Due 10/23

Part II: Democratic Practice

Week 9 (10/26): The Capability Approach and Deliberative Democracy
- David A. Crocker, “Sen and Deliberative Democracy.”
- David A. Crocker, “Deliberative Participation in Local Development.”

Short Paper #3 Due 10/30

Week 10 (11/2): Empowered Participatory Governance (Fung and Wright)
- Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright, “Thinking about Empowered. Participatory Governance,” in Deepening Democracy, Ch. 1.
- Gianpaolo Baiocchi, “Participation, Activism, and Politics: The Porto Alegre Experiment” in Deepening Democracy, Ch. 2.
- Archon Fung, “Deliberative Democracy, Chicago Style: Grass-roots Governance in Policing and Public Education” in Deepening Democracy, Ch. 4
- Jane Mansbridge, “Practice-Thought-Practice,” in Deepening Democracy, Ch. 6.

Short Paper # 3 Revision due, 11/6

Week 11 (11/9): Course Examination
Part III: Democratic Transitions and Democracy Promotion

Long Paper Outline and Working Bibliography Due 11/13

Week 12 (11/16): Transitions to Democracy
• Larry Diamond, Developing Democracy, 2-3, 5, 7

Week 13 (11/30): The End of the Transition Paradigm?
• Thomas Carothers, Critical Mission, Ch. 14, “The End of the Transition Paradigm,” and Ch. 15, “Debating the Transition Paradigm.” Website

Short Paper # 4 Due, 12/4
Long Paper Due, 12/4 (with option to revise)

Week 14 (12/7): Promoting Democracy in the Middle East
• Thomas Carothers and Marina Ottaway, ed. Uncharted Journey: Promoting Democracy in the Middle East, chaps. 1-3, 9-11, 13

Week 15 (12/13): Promoting Democracy in Iraq?
• Larry Diamond, Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq, chaps. Intro, 1-2, 5-6, 9-11

December 18
Short Paper # 4 Revision Due
Optional Revision of Long Paper Due
Long Paper Due (with no option to revise)