

GOVT 434-002
Democracy—Global Perspective
Fall 2022
Email: tghosh@gmu.edu

Class Hours: 10:30-11:45 PM (TR)
(Van Metre Hall 477)
Office Hrs: By Appointment.

Democracy has emerged as the most enduring value in the last hundred years. It is undoubtedly a complex and a challenging phenomenon with many ramifications. The overarching purpose of this class would be to examine the many facets of democratization in a comparative fashion. The aim will be threefold: to gain a theoretical perspective by asking the questions why, when and how; to gain an empirical understanding of democracy by focusing on the studies that have been undertaken to analyze democratization globally and finally to develop a critical perspective by applying these concepts to events on the ground as they unfold sometimes with mesmerizing speed and sometimes slowly. In this class we will explore, for instance, the notion of democratic waves, the relationship between democratization and culture, economic development and democracy, role of external actors in aiding and abetting democracy, gender and democracy, impact of media and technology in democratic transformations and why democratization fails or succeeds. Students are expected to be aware of developments that are taking place around the world to fully appreciate the nuances of global democratization.

Required Readings:

1. Christian W. Haerpfer, Patrick Bernhagen, Ronald F. Inglehart and Christian Welzel Democratization Oxford University Press USA, 2019.

2. Democracy's Next Wave. Current History : A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs v110 Issue 739 November 2011. Articles available under the course content tab on Blackboard.

3. Short articles on topical events will be given out as needed.

Resources :

- 4. www.freedomhouse.org;
- 5. www.owl.edu.

Evaluations:

In class quizzes (2) 25% TBA

Midterm 25%

Short Papers (3) 15%

Final Exam 30%

Attendance and Participation 5%

You can earn extra credit (2 pts) by presenting a relevant news story or article to the class. Notify me in advance, if you are planning to do the presentation.

Technology Requirements:

Computer with a camera and a microphone.

Browsers compatible with Blackboard: Firefox, Chrome and Safari.

Please get familiar with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra for the online classes. Visit **Blackboard Collaborate Ultra** <https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant> for more information.

Download Respondus Lockdown Browser for exams. <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/how-to-install-and-use-the-respondus-lockdown-browser/>

*A hand out will specify the requirements for the short papers. Delayed submissions will be graded down.

** One make-up exam is allowed per student on medical grounds, for which proper documentation must be provided. No early finals !

*** In class computer use is strictly restricted to class work only.

Grading Scale:

A+ (100) B+ (86-89) C+ (75-79) D (60-69)

A (94-99) B (83-85) C (73-74) F (59 or less)

A- (90-93) B- (80-82) C- (70-72)

Important Dates:

Last Day to add class: August 29, 2022

Midterm: October 13, 2022.

Final: December 13, 2022. 10:30 AM -12:30 PM.

Paper Proposals due on Blackboard: September 8, October 6, November 3.

Papers Due on: September 29, October 27, November 29.

The Instructor can change the announced dates, if needed.

Consult me on all matters and use gmu email accounts for communication.

Blackboard Site may be found at: <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Access this class by clicking the courses tab and then the appropriate course in the Blackboard Learning 9.1 section of the page.

Course Outline:

Week 1. August 23 and 25. Democratization. Ch 1 Introduction.

Ch 3 Democratic and Undemocratic States.

Francis Fukuyama, "Is there a proper sequence in Democratic Transitions?" Current History v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 308-310.

Week 2. August 30 and September 1. Democratization. Ch 4 Measuring Democracy and Democratization.

Ch 5 Long Waves and Conjunctions.

Larry Diamond, "Democracy's Third Wave," Current History v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 299-307.

Larry Diamond, "The Global Crisis of Democracy" *The Wall Street Journal* 18 May 2019: C1.

Week 3. September 6 and 8. Democratization. Ch 6 The Global Wave of Democratization.

Ch 2 Theories of Democratization.

Fareed Zakaria, The Indian Spring, *The Washington Post*, January 2013 A21.

Week 4. September 13 and 15. Democratization. Ch 2 Theories of Democratization

Ch 7 The International Context.

Lincoln Mitchell, "The New World of Democracy Promotion," Current History v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 311-316.

Week 5. September 20 and 22. Democratization.

Ch 8 The Political Economy of Democracy

Ch 9 Political Culture Mass Beliefs and Value Changes.

Week 6. September 27 and September 29. Democratization.

Ch 10 Gender and Democratization.

Ch 11 Social Capital and Civil Society.

Nasredeen Abdulbari, "Why women led the uprising in Sudan," *The Washington Post* April 12, 2019.

"Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet set powerful example"

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/north-africa/tunisia/tunisia-s-national-dialogue-quartet-set-powerful-exampl>

Week 7. October 4 and 6. Democratization.

Ch 12 Social Movements and Contention in Democratization Processes.

Week 8. **October 10 - 11. Fall Break.**

Week 9. **October 13. MIDTERM EXAM.**

Week 10. October 18 and 20. Democratization.

. Ch 13 Conventional Citizen Participation

"Where is it compulsory to vote?" *The Economist* September 19, 2013

Ch 14 Political Parties.

Week 11. October 25 and 27. Democratization.

Ch 15 Institutional Design in New Democracies.

Ch 16 The Media

Week 12. November 1 and 3. Democratization.

Ch 17. Social Media

Mike Abramowitz and Nate Schenkkan, "The long arm of the authoritarian state," *The Washington Post* February 7, 2021: A24

Ch 18 A Decade of Democratic Decline and Stagnation.

Week 13. November 8 and 10. Democratization.

Ch 19 Southern Europe

Ch 20 Latin America.

Javier Corrales, "Can Latin America withstand the populist assault?" *New York Times* November 6 2018.

"The jet set and the rest," *The Economist* August 13, 2022: 25-27.

Week 14. November 15 and 17. Democratization. Ch 21 and 22.

Ch 21 Post Communist Central and Eastern Europe.

Ch 22. Post Soviet Eurasia.

Zselyke Csasky. "The antidemocratic turn" Nations in Transit 2021.

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2021/antidemocratic-turn>

"Why is Hungary turning to nationalism?" *The Economist* London April 6, 2018.

Ch 23 Middle East and North Africa

Jason Brownlee, "The Transnational Challenge to Arab Freedom," *Current History* v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 317-pp. 323.

"Islam and democracy, Repression after the Arab Spring" *The Economist*, August 26, 2017.

Week 15. November 22 and November 29. Democratization.

Ch 24 Sub-Saharan Africa

Richard Joseph, "Democracy and Reconfigured Power in Africa," *Current History* v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 324-330.

"Democracy in Africa," *The Economist* v 420 August 20-16th 2016.

"Africa's leaders for life," <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/>

Chapter 25 East Asia

Bruce Gilley, "Could China Be the Next Wave?" *Current History* v110 Issue 739 Nov 2011, pp. 331-333.

"What the West got wrong," *The Economist* March 3rd 2018: 11-12.

Week 16. December 1.

Summation and Class Presentations on Democracy.

FINAL EXAM ON DECEMBER 13, 2022 10:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Please contact Office of Disability Services at <http://ods.gmu.edu> if required.

GMU Honor Code: The Honor Code policy endorsed by the members of the Department of Public and International Affairs relative to the type of academic work indicated below is set out in the appropriate paragraphs:

1. Quizzes, test, and examination. No help may be given or received by students when taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, whatever the type or whenever taken, unless the instructor specifically permits deviation from this standard.
2. Course requirements. All work submitted to fulfill course requirements is to be solely the product of the individual(s) whose name(s) appears on it. Except with permission of the instructor, no recourse is to be had for projects, papers, lab reports, or any other written work previously prepared by another student, and except with permission of the instructor, no paper or work of any type submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of another course may be used a second time to satisfy a requirement of any course in the Department of Public and International Affairs. No assistance is to be obtained from commercial organizations which sell or lease research help or written papers. With respect to all written work as appropriate, proper footnotes and attribution are required.