

## **POLS 3309: Democratization**

Spring 2021

Tues. & Thurs., 10:00-11:30, Microsoft Teams

Instructor: Professor Ryan Kennedy  
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### **Course Description:**

Perhaps more than any other area of study, democratization has been at the heart of comparative politics. An inordinate number of the “classics” in comparative politics have dealt in some way with the onset, survival, or effects of democracy. The topic, however, is a multifaceted one; combining economic, cultural, social, and psychological viewpoints. The topic is also one that has been addressed within the context of all geographic areas and countries. Thus, no single course can come close to covering all the important works on this topic.

This course is meant to provide an undergraduate-level introduction to the democratization literature. Students will be exposed to selections offering a wide variety of methodological approaches and conclusions. The ultimate goal is that the student comes away with a firm understanding of the key insights in the field and with the ability to put together a professional quality research project on democracy and democratization.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

This course will have a relatively heavy reading load. Students are expected to come to class having done the readings and being ready for active discussion. Part of the grade for this course will be based on participation. But in order to participate, the student must show up. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences, after which the attendance portion of their grade will decrease.

Students will also have a midterm and final exam that will cover the material in class. These exams will be a combination of multiple choice, listing questions, and essay questions.

Finally, students turn in an original 10 page research paper covering one of the topics in the democracy and democratization literature. This paper can be a case study (single-case or comparative), a research design, or a full-fledged research project (quantitative or qualitative). Students will have a great deal of freedom in designing and carrying out their research (although recommendations will be provided so nobody will become stuck).

### **Breakdown of final grade:**

Syllabus Quiz.....	10pts
Attendance & Participation.....	40pts
Midterm Exam.....	100pts
Final Exam.....	150pts
Research Paper.....	100pts
Total.....	400pt

**Readings:**

No books are required for this course. All readings are available on the Blackboard course website. **Students should familiarize themselves with the Blackboard website as soon as possible, and report any problems as soon as possible!!!**

**EXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY**

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

**UH COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) STATEMENT**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

The university can best function and accomplish its objectives in an atmosphere of high ethical standards. It expects and encourages all students, faculty and staff to contribute to such an atmosphere in every way possible and especially by observing all accepted principles of academic honesty. It is recognized, however, that a large university will include a few students who do not understand, appreciate, and practice these principles. As a consequence, alleged cases of academic dishonesty will inevitably occur, and students will be accused. Procedures are designed to handle these cases in fairness to all concerned: the accused student, the faculty, and the university.

A comprehensive explanation of the University's policy on academic honesty can be found at <https://www.uh.edu/provost/policies-resources/honesty/documents-honesty/academic-honesty-policy.pdf>.

## **PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is defined as the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; this includes copying classmates' solutions to problems and handing them in as your own, as well as presenting materials from articles written by others as your own. Plagiarism over the internet is not only a violation of the academic honesty policy, it is also likely to be caught, since your instructors use specially designed systems to check for this. Students found to be plagiarizing will automatically receive a score of zero on the assignment. Repeat offenses will be dealt with more severely in accordance with the university's academic honesty policy.

## **HONOR CODE STATEMENT**

Students may be asked to sign an honor code statement as part of their submission of any graded work including but not limited to projects, quizzes, and exams: *"I understand and agree to abide by the provisions in the [University of Houston Undergraduate Academic Honesty Policy](#). I understand that academic honesty is taken very seriously and, in the cases of violations, penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University of Houston."*

## **RECORDING OF CLASS**

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

## **SYLLABUS CHANGES**

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email and a message posted to our Teams site.

## **RESOURCES FOR ONLINE LEARNING**

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact [UHOnline@uh.edu](mailto:UHOnline@uh.edu).

## **UH EMAIL**

Email communications related to this course will be sent to your [Exchange email account](#) which each University of Houston student receives. The Exchange mail server can be accessed via Outlook, which provides a single location for organizing and managing day-to-day information, from email and calendars to contacts and task lists. Exchange email accounts can be accessed by logging into

Office 365 with your CougarNet credentials or through Access UH. Additional assistance can be found at the [Get Help](#) page.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**COVID-19 Updates:** <https://uh.edu/covid-19/>

**Coogs Care:** <https://www.uh.edu/dsaes/coogscare/>

**Laptop Checkout Requests:** <https://www.uh.edu/infotech/about/planning/off-campus/index.php#do-you-need-a-laptop>

**Health FAQs:** <https://uh.edu/covid-19/faq/health-wellness-prevention-faqs/>

**Student Health Center:** <https://uh.edu/class/english/lcc/current-students/student-health-center/index.php>

## Outline of Readings and Topics:

### Week 1 (1/19, 1/21):

#### Introduction to Course

- Macridis, Roy C. 1992 (reprint). "Major Characteristics of the Traditional Approach." In Bernard Susser (ed.) *Approaches to the Study of Politics*. MacMillan.
- Easton, David. 1957. "An approach to the analysis of political systems." *World Politics* 9(13): 383-400.
- Almond, Gabriel A. and G. Bingham Powell. 1966. *A Developmental Approach*. Boston: Little Brown & Co. (Chapters 1 & 2).

### Week 2 (1/26, 1/28):

#### Definitions of Democracy

- Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (p. 1-16.)
- Schmitter, Philippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What democracy is...and is not." *Journal of Democracy* 2: 75-88.
- Diamond, Larry and Leonardo Morlino. 2004. "The Quality of Democracy: An Overview." *Journal of Democracy* 15(4): 20-31.
- Lindberg, Staffan I., Michael Coppedge, John Gerring and Jan Teorell. 2014. "V-Dem: A new way to measure democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 25(3): 159-169.
- Norris, Pippa, Richard W. Frank, and Ferran Martinez I Coma. 2013. "Assessing the quality of elections." *Journal of Democracy* 24(4): 124-135.
- Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 21-35.

**Week 3 (2/2, 2/4):****Democracy as a Universal Value?**

- Sen, Amartya. 1999. "Democracy as a universal value." *Journal of Democracy* 10(3): 3-17.
- Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "Culture is destiny: A conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs* 73(2): 109-127.
- Jung, Kim Dae. 1994. "Is culture destiny? The myth of Asia's anti-democratic values." *Foreign Affairs* 73(6): 189-194.
- Bova, Russell. 1997. "Democracy and liberty: The cultural connection." *Journal of Democracy* 8(1): 112-126.
- Youngs, Richard. 2015. "Exploring 'non-Western democracy.'" *Journal of Democracy* 26(4): 140-154.
- Plattner, Marc F. 2015. "Is democracy in decline?" *Journal of Democracy* 26(1): 5-10.
- Diamond, Larry. 2015. "Facing up to the democratic recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26(1): 141-155.
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2015. "The myth of democratic recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26(1): 45-58.

**Week 4 (2/9, 2/11):****Social Class and Democracy**

- Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. 1946. *Manifesto of the communist party*. Chicago, IL: Charles H. Kerr & Co. (p. 12-30)
- Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. (p. 414-508)
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (p. 15-47)
- Ziblatt, Daniel. 2008. "Does landholding inequality block democratization?" *World Politics* 60: 610-641.

**Week 5 (2/16, 2/18):****Modernization Theory and its Critics**

- Lerner, Daniel. 1958. *The passing of traditional society*. London: Free Press.
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1961. *Political man*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. (Chapter 2.)
- Diamond, Larry. 1992. "Economic development and democracy reconsidered." In *Reexamining democracy*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications. (p. 93-139)
- O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1973. *Modernization and bureaucratic authoritarianism*. Berkeley: Institute for International Studies, University of California. (p. 51-77)

**Week 6 (2/23, 2/25):****Midterm Week****Week 7 (3/2, 3/4):****Political Culture**

- Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The civic culture*. Boston: Little, Brown. (p. 1-44)
- Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, cultural change, and democracy*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (p. 1-76)
- Muller, Edward N., and Mitchell A. Seligson. 1994. "Civic culture and democracy: the question of causal relationships." *American Political Science Review*, 88: 635-652.

**Week 8 (3/9, 3/11):****Civil Society**

- Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making democracy work*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (p. 3-16, 83-120)
- Diamond, Larry. 1994. "Toward democratic consolidation." *Journal of Democracy* 5(3): 4-17.
- Ekiert, Grzegorz and Jan Kubik. 2014. "Myths and realities of civil society." *Journal of Democracy* 25(1): 46-58.
- Way, Lucan. 2014. "Civil society and democratization." *Journal of Democracy* 25(3): 35-43.

**Spring Break****Week 9 (3/23, 3/25):****Democratic Transition**

- Rustow, Dankwart. 1970. "Transitions to democracy." *Comparative Politics* 3: 337-365.
- Stepan, Alfred. 1986. "Paths towards redemocratization." In *Transitions from authoritarian rule*. Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe C. Schmitter, and Laurence Whitehead (eds.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University. (p. 64-86)
- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the market*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (p. 51-99)
- Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The end of the transition paradigm." *Journal of Democracy* 13(1): 5-21.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo A. 2002. "In partial defense of an evanescent 'paradigm.'" *Journal of Democracy* 13(3): 6-12.

**Week 10 (3/30, 4/1):****Institutions and their Impact**

- Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of democracy*. New York: Yale University Press. (p. 1-47)
- Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The perils of presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1: 51-69.
- Horowitz, Donald L., Seymour Martin Lipset, and Juan J. Linz. 1990. "Debate: presidents vs. parliaments." *Journal of Democracy* 1: 73-91.
- Ordeshook, Peter C. and Olga Shvetsova. 1997. "Federalism and constitutional design." *Journal of Democracy* 8(1).

**Week 11 (4/6, 4/8):****International Factors**

- Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. "Democracy's third wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2): 12-34.
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2010. *Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the Cold War*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University. (p. 37-83)
- Tolstrup, Jakob. 2014. "Gatekeepers and linkages." *Journal of Democracy* 25(4): 126-138.
- Nodia, Ghia. 2014. "The revenge of geopolitics." *Journal of Democracy* 25(4): 139-150.
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2014. "Structure vs. choice." *Journal of Democracy* 25(4): 151-156.
- Walker, Christopher. 2016. "The hijacking of 'soft power.'" *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 49-63.

**Week 12 (4/13, 4/15):**

**Hybrid Regimes**

- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "The rise of competitive authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13: 51-65
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and George W. Downs. 2005. "The Rise of Sustainable Autocracy." *Foreign Affairs*, 84: 77-86.
- Gandhi, Jennifer and Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. "Elections under authoritarianism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403-422.
- Howard, Marc Morjé, and Philip G. Roessler. 2006. "Liberalizing Electoral Outcomes in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 365-381.

**Week 13 (4/20, 4/22):**

**Democratic Consolidation**

- Diamond, Larry. 1999. *Developing democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University. (p. 64-116)
- Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward consolidated democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 9(April): 14-33.
- Schedler, Andreas. 1998. "What is democratic consolidation?" *Journal of Democracy* 9: 91-107.
- Przeworski, Adam, Michael Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 1996. "What makes democracies endure?" *Journal of Democracy* 7: 39-55.
- Bermeo, Nancy. 2016. "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 5-19.

**Week 14 (4/27, 4/29):**

**Final Exam Week**

**Tuesday, May 11 – *Final Paper (due online by midnight)***