

POLS 349, Spring 2008
Topics in Comparative Politics:

Professor Rasma Karklins
Phone: 312-996-2396 E-mail: karklins@uic.edu
Office Hours: By appointment, BSB 1134

Course Description: Although there has been a “world wide democratic” revolution since 1974, the strain between the ideal and the reality of democracy continues to be great. Democracy takes many forms in practice. Democratization is not a linear process but an intricate one that involves contradictory results and challenging choices.

The main purpose of the course is to introduce students to the complexities inherent in achieving democracy and provide them with the necessary conceptual tools to evaluate the challenges facing democratizing countries. To this end, in this course we will (i) assess the strengths and weaknesses of various definitions of democracy and the models of democratization; (ii) explore the conditions which promote or generate difficulties for both the emergence and consolidation of democracy.

Course Requirements: This course requires active contributions by each student (general participation will count for 10% of the grade). There will be an inclass midterm exam (30% of the grade). The exam will be designed to help you to critically assess some of the conceptual puzzles about democratization. Students will be given a choice of essay questions.

In addition to the midterm exam, students will write three “discussion papers” (each counting for 20% of the grade). These papers are designed to facilitate course discussions. Students may sign up for course topics of their choice. The papers should be 3-4 pages long, 12 point font, 1.5 spacing, with references. The papers should be sent to the instructor via e-mail **by 3 pm the day before** class. It is expected that the authors of discussion papers will present some of their arguments to class. If a student wishes, he or she may rewrite the discussion paper after class; rewritten papers are due no later than Friday, 3pm the week of presentation. Discussion papers mainly focus on the weekly readings, but references to appropriate additional readings are welcome. In the discussion papers students are expected to critically assess the assigned readings. This means you should move beyond the description of main arguments and identify and evaluate the assumptions behind them. Try to develop your own logical arguments in support of particular points.

Required Books: available in UIC Bookstore

Brown, Bernard, B. *Comparative Politics—Notes and Readings*. Wadsworth 2006.

Karklins, Rasma. *The System Made Me Do it: Corruption in Post-Communist Societies*. M.E. Sharpe, 2005.

Sorensen, Georg, *Democracy and Democratization*. Westview, 2007

Recommended Readings: The assigned readings contain excellent bibliographies of additional readings, be sure to use at least some additional sources for discussing the topics that interest you most. Be sure to also look at internet sites, for example www.freedomhouse.org. Excellent articles can be found in Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, The Journal of Democracy, Perspectives on Politics, and World Politics. Articles assigned or recommended are available online through UIC Library Online Indexes and Databases: [Project Muse](#), [ArticleFirst](#), [JSTOR](#) and [Expanded Academic ASAP](#), search databases by author or title of document.

Topics and Readings:

January 15: Introduction, Overview of Course

January 22: What is Democracy?

Readings: Aristotle, "On Democracy and Tyranny," in Brown, pp. 238-241;
Sorenson, pp. 1-27.

January 29: Democracy: Recent Trends.

Readings: S.Pharr, R.Putnam, and R. Dalton, "Trouble in Advanced Democracies?" Brown, pp.175-187; R.Dalton, S.Scarrow, and B.Cain, "The New Politics in Advanced Democracies, ", in Brown, pp. 188-197.

February 5: Illiberal Democracy?

Readings: [Michael McFaul](#), "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship, Non-cooperative Transitions in the Post-communist World," *World Politics*, 54.2 (2002), 212-244.

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2070/journals/world_politics/v054/54.2mcfaul.html

Diamond, L, "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy*, 13,

April 2002.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v013/13.2diamond.html

Recommended: Zakaria, Fareed, 'The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,' *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.76, Nov./Dec. 1997, p. 22-43.

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2055/FSIP?sici=00157120%28199711%2F12%2976%3C22%3ATROID%3E&dbname=WilsonSelectPlus_FT

February 12: Processes of Regime Change I:

Readings: Sorenson, pp.29-54;

Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transition Paradigm," in Brown, pp. 211-222.

February 19: Processes of Regime Change II:

Readings: Sorenson, pp. 55-78; Larry Diamond, "Universal Democracy?", in Brown, pp.222-236;

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies," in Brown, pp. 203-211.

February 26: The Emergence of Democracy: Protest Movements.

Readings: K. Schock, "Nonviolent Action," in Brown, pp.155-163; Valerie Bunce, "Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience," *World Politics*, vol. 55 (Jan. 2003), pp. 167-92.

March 4: The Emergence of Democracy: Revolutions.

Readings: S.N. Eisenstadt, "The Great Revolutions," Brown, pp.135-145; F. Furet, "On Revolutions: French, American, Russian," in Brown, pp. 145-155.

March 11: Promotion of Democracy from Outside:

Readings: Sorenson, pp.79-98; Beissinger, Mark, "Structure and Example in Modular Political Phenomena: The Diffusion of Bulldozer/Rose/Orange/Tulip Revolutions," *Perspectives on Politics*, 5:2 (2007), pp. 259- 276..

March 18: In-Class exam

March 24-28: Spring break, No classes

April 1: Corruption: Threat to Democracy.

Readings: Karklins, Ch.1, 7, 8

April 8: Democracy and the Opposites of Corruption.

Readings: Karklins, Ch. 6, 9.

April 15: Preconditions of Democracy:

Readings: Sorenson, pp. 99-130;

Recommended: Quan Li and Rafael Reuveny, "Economic Globalization and Democracy: An Empirical Analysis," *British Journal of Political Science*, 33,29-54;

April 22: The Opposites of Democracy:

Readings: Andrew C. Janos, "What Was Communism?", in Brown, pp. 241-254;

Fareed Zakaria, "Islam, Democracy, and Constitutional Liberalism," in Brown, pp. 279-291.

April 29: The Future of Democracy?

Readings: Sorenson, pp.159-164; Richard Rose; Don Chull Shin,

"Democratization Backwards: The Problem of Third-Wave Democracies. (Czech Republic, Russia, South Korea)," *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol.31, 2, April 2001.

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2557/itw/infomark/519/906/31910306w4/purl=rc1_EAIM_0_A80774905&dyn=63!xrn_67_0_A80774905&bkm_64

May 5-10: Final Exam Week. May 6: Last day to turn in late papers.: