Course Description: Although over the last few years there has been a “world wide democratic” revolution, the strain between the ideal and the reality of democracy is as great if not greater now than at any time in history. A review of the political agendas of countries that claim or strive to be democratic shows that democratic values of equality, freedom, and order do not necessarily happily blend in any regime. Democracy assumes multiple, often times, impaired 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 the political project of 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 and (iii) grapple with some of the democratic dilemmas facing a group of countries including Israel, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Colombia, and Nigeria.

Readings: All readings are available online through UIC Library Online Indexes and Databases (Electronic Resources). (If the links provided below do not work, search the Project Muse, ArticleFirst, JSTOR and Expanded Academic ASAP databases by author or title of document.)

Course Requirements: This course requires an active contribution by each student. Students are expected to take an inclass exam and write a final research paper. The exam will be designed to help you to critically assess some of the conceptual puzzles about democratization. A list of questions will be provided one week before the exam. The research paper assignment requires you to identify and evaluate current and controversial issues pertaining to democracy in one the above countries. (With the consent of the instructor students can write their research paper on a country not included in this list). Your final research paper (10-15 pages, double-spaced, font size 12, with name and page numbers) should respond to the following questions:

1) Why is the issue you have chosen considered controversial?
2) What are the country-specific reasons for the occurrence of this problem?
3) What are the competing tenets of democracy that underpin this problem?
4) How do the models of democratization or democratic consolidation account for the occurrence this controversy?
5) By using a comparative perspective that takes other countries’ similar or different experiences into account, what are the prospects of democracy in this country?

Your grade for this course will be based on your participation and presentation (30%), in class exam (30%) and final research paper (40%).
Week 1 August 26 Road Map of the course

Week 2 September 2 Ideal and Practice of Democracy

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v010/10.3sen.html

URL:  
http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=00434078%28195109%294%3A3%3C430%3ADC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-K

URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=00030554%28196209%294%3A3%3C555%3AHCDWJD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Z

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Some Thoughts about New Democracies", Notre Dame University and Stanford Center for Advanced Behavioral Sciences  

Week 3 September 9 Dilemmas of Democratization: Why Not All Good Things Go Together?

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

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v008/8.1bova.html

Week 5 September 16 Illiberal Democracy?

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2055/FSIP?sici=00157120%28199711%2F12%2F1%3C22%3ATROID%3E&dbname=WilsonSelectPlus_FT

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

Week 6 September 23  Vicious Cycles of Inequality or Waves of Democracy?

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v053/53.3ross.html

Week 7 September 30 Review

Week 8 October 7  Exam

Week 9 October 14 Presidential Democracy? Azerbaijan

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2557/itw/infomark/519/906/31910306w4/purl=rc1_EAIM_0_A75607396&dy

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http://www.sici=1045-5736%2820010401%2912%3A2%3C118%3ADFIA%3E:db=ECO_FT:

http://webproxy.cc.uic.edu:2557/itw/infomark/519/906/31910306w4/purl=rc1_EAIM_0_A94335230&d

Week 9 October 21 Islam and Democracy? Turkey

Week 10 October 28 Ethnocacy? Israel

Towards Jerusalem (ha-Derekh le-Yerushalayim), Josef Aichholzer; Konzept and Regie, Ruth Beckermann, National Center for Jewish Film, 1990.


Week 11 November 4 Absence or the lack of State? Colombia

Problems of Sovereignty, Americas.


**Week 12 November 11 Challenges for Democracy in Africa**

**Strong Society and Weak State? Nigeria**


Or The Africans: A Clash of Cultures.


**Week 12 November 18 Presentations**

**Week 13 November 25**
Week 14 December 2 Presentations Final Papers Due