Comparative Democratization – East & West

Professor Jing Sun

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Class: M&W, 12:00-1:50pm
Location: 234 Sturm
Office Hours: M&W, 1:50-3:50pm and by appointment

This course serves as a general introduction to the main concepts and themes of democracy and democratization. Major issues to be explored include modern ideologies, measuring democracy, waves of democratization, democracy and business, electoral institutions, among others. We will become familiar with these concepts by comparing and contrasting democratic and non-democratic states. This course has two purposes: first, to help students gain knowledge about the ways politics and public policies shape our lives. Second, to explore desirable ways of governing politics and economy. Learning how to compare is the golden thread that runs through this course. Why? Because by knowing more about the world, we will know more about our own country and ourselves.
Syllabus – *Comparative Democratization*

**Reading**


You are also required to stay on top of current events. The only good way of doing so is to start a habit of reading newspapers daily. I recommend those prominent papers with analytical coverage on international affairs: for example, *The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal*, and *Financial Times*. Special subscription rates are available for some of these publications.

**Class Requirements and Grading Policy**

The grades for the class consist of four components: two exams, random quizzes, and class participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm:</td>
<td>80 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final:</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Quizzes:</td>
<td>20 pts (10 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation:</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation:</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>230 pts</td>
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A: 213-230 pts  
A-: 202-212 pts  
B+: 197-201 pts  
B: 188-196 pts  
B-: 181-187 pts  
C+: 174-180 pts  
C: 165-173 pts  
C-: 158-164 pts  
D: 142-157 pts  
F: 0-141 pts

Permission to allow you to take makeup exams will be granted only in very rare cases of (a) travel away from Denver due to University obligations (athletic or academic), or (b) medical emergency visit. For university obligation, you must notify me before the exam. You will be required to submit documentation of emergency, travel, or illness in order to take makeup exams. Failure to provide documentation will lead to a “zero” for the exam.
One Warning (Unnecessary, I hope)
I will expect every member of the class to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism and falsification of any assignment are serious offenses. I will treat any and all academic misconducts very harshly. At a minimum cheaters will fail the course. At a maximum they will face University of Denver’s disciplinary action. So, avoid them at any cost.

Schedule of Topics of Readings

3.26  Introduction (no readings assigned)

3.30  Democratic and Undemocratic States
RD, chapters 1-2

4.1   Measuring Democracy and Democratization
SH, chapters 1-2

4.6–4.8  Waves and Conjunctures of Democratization
RD, chapter 3
SH, chapters 3-4

4.13–4.15  Democracy and Business
RD, chapter 4-6
SH, chapter 5

4.20  Mass Beliefs and Value Change
RD, chapter 7
LD, chapter 1-3

4.22  Midterm

4.27–29  Gender, Social Capital, and Democratization
LD, chapters 4-6

5.4–6  Regional Study I: Southern Europe and Post-Soviet Russia
LD, chapter 9

5.11–13  Regional Study II: Latin America & Africa
LD, chapters 8, 11

5.18  Regional Study III: East Asia and Middle East
LD, chapters 10, 12

5.20  Group Presentation Day I
RD, chapter 10
Syllabus – *Comparative Democratization*

SH, chapter 6

5.27  **Group Presentation Day II**  
RD, chapter 11

6.1  **Final Exam**