

**PSC 407U**  
**Democratization**  
Spring 2008  
MW 02:30 PM-03:45 PM WRI C235

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### **Course Description**

Perhaps one of the most salient and pertinent topics in the field of comparative politics today is that of democratization. This course focuses on the phenomenon of democratization. We will seek to answer questions such as: What factors are likely to cause the initiation of the democratization process? What factors affect the prospects for democracy to survive and thrive in a country? What institutional arrangements are most likely to maximize the prospects for the consolidation of democracy? How satisfactory are the theories of democratization? We will begin by focusing on some of the key concepts in the course. We will then explore the process of the transition to democracy, looking at different types of transitions and explanations of transitions. Next, we will look at the process of the consolidation of democracy, as well as the factors that bear upon this process. Finally, we will assess the state of and prospects for the consolidation of democracy in the world today.

### **Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

In this course, students will gain familiarity with the concepts and terms related to the democratization process. They will learn about what are thought to be the different stages of the democratization process. Students will also become familiar with the major theoretical and methodological approaches employed in the study of democratization.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Required Texts and Reading:**

Howard Wiarda, ed., *Comparative Democracy and Democratization* (Wadsworth Group, 2004). ISBN 0-534-61300-4

Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2004). ISBN 0-393-32487-7 pbk.

*Developing democracy : toward consolidation* / Larry Diamond. Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999. ISBN 080186156X (pbk.)

*Transitions from authoritarian rule : tentative conclusions about uncertain democracies* / Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter. Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, c1986. ISBN: 0801826829

Electronic Reserve Readings: I will designate reserve readings with an **R** in the list of readings. The web site is: <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

## Grades

The total number of points that can be achieved in this course is 400. The points are allocated in the following way:

	Percent	Points
Participation	10	40
Attendance	5	20
Quizzes	30	120
Midterm	25	100
Final	30	120
	100	400

In other words, quizzes count for 30% of your grade, the mid term for 25%, attendance for 5%, participation for 10%, and the final examination for 30%.

According to the point system, final grades will be assigned in the following way:

A	374 points to 400 points
A-	358 points to 373 points
B+	346 points to 357points
B	330 points to 345 points
B-	318 points to 329 points
C+	306 points to 317 points
C	290 points to 305 points
C-	278 points to 289 points
D+	266 points to 277 points
D	250 points to 265 points
D-	238 points to 249 points
F	237 points and below

## Exams and Quizzes

### Exams

Exams and quizzes will be based on material covered during class in lectures, films, class discussions or class presentations and from the required readings. I will periodically introduce current event articles or materials as they relate to the topics and concepts being covered in class. Students will, of course, be responsible for this material as well as material covered in films, guest lectures and student presentations. **Make-up exams will not be given** except in the case of extreme circumstances. The student must provide documentation that the absence is for a reason recognized by the university (e.g., illness, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday) and make arrangements with me **prior** to the scheduled exam date. If it is not possible to make prior arrangements, then the student must make arrangements with me as soon as possible. Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). **Please notify me of any planned absences for religious holidays by February 11, 2008.**

### Quizzes

Four quizzes will be administered during the course. **The quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class.** Students may drop their lowest quiz score. Since the lowest quiz score can be

dropped and students know in advance the dates of the quizzes, **no makeup quizzes will be administered.**

### **Attendance, Participation and General Expectations**

**Attendance** will be taken at each class. Students may miss up to three classes without losing attendance points. Because students are already allowed three absences during the term, three points will be subtracted from the attendance points for every absence beyond three, whatever the reason for the absence. Attending class is a very important part of the learning process. If anyone foresees the possibility of missing class more than three times, she/he should consider taking PSC 407U when she/he will be able to attend all of the classes. **Signing the attendance sheet for another student is a form of fraud**, and anyone participating in this activity will be penalized.

**Participation** in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Of course, participation should be constructive, and all comments should be relevant to the material being covered in class. Students must **do all of the reading!** I will call on students in class and expect their answers to reflect familiarity with the ideas and information in the readings. Respect should be shown for all other class members at all times. Inappropriate and disruptive participation/behavior will result in a drop in the student's grade.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive promptly and have a collegial demeanor. Students are not allowed to sleep, read newspapers, listen to headphones, or talk to others during class. Engaging in these behaviors will result in a drop in the student's grade and perhaps even expulsion from the class. Arriving late, leaving early, or interrupting class with a cell phone or other electronic device will also result in a drop in the student's grade. **All cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Any exceptions must be cleared with me in advance. If you look at your cell phone during a quiz or exam, you will receive a zero for that quiz or exam. Students are not allowed to tape record, photograph, video tape or otherwise electronically record any of the class.**

**I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus.** Students will be responsible for knowing any changes made to the syllabus during class time whether they were in attendance or not. The instructor's lecture notes are not available to students; it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes from a classmate, should class be missed.

**The Disability Resource Center (DRC)** coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. *For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.*

**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always

take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: "Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources." See the "Student Academic Misconduct Policy" (approved December 9, 2005, located at <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>>).

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<b>Week 1</b>	
Wednesday, 1/23	Course Introduction: Read the syllabus thoroughly!
<b>Week 2</b>	
Monday, 1/28	<b>Conceptions and Origins of Democracy</b> Diamond, Chapter One. Wiarda, Chapter 1 Zakaria, pp. 13-58
Wednesday, 1/30	<b>Conceptions and Origins of Democracy (cont.)</b> Diamond, Chapter One. Wiarda, Chapter 1 Zakaria, pp. 13-58
<b>Week 3</b>	
Monday, 2/4	<b>Democracy Around the World</b> Democracy Assessments on the Internet Students will share in class their findings based on review of internet sites.
Wednesday, 2/6	<b>Introduction to Democratization</b> O'Donnell and Schmitter, Chapters 1, 2
<b>Week 4</b>	
Monday, 2/11	<b>Requisites of Democracy and Structural Explanations of Transitions</b> <b>R:</b> Lipset, Seymour 1959 "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 53(1): 69-105. [Also Available on JSTOR]
Wednesday, 2/13	<b>Quiz 1</b> <b>"A Dynamic Model" of Transitions to Democracy</b> <b>R:</b> Rustow, Dankwart A. "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model." <i>Comparative Politics</i> 1970 2(3): 337-363. [Also Available on JSTOR]
<b>Week 5</b>	
Monday, 2/18	<b>President's Day: No Classes</b>
Wednesday, 2/20	<b>Contingent Explanations of Transitions</b>

	O'Donnell and Schmitter Chapters 3-4
<b>Week 6</b>	
Monday, 2/25	<b>The Consolidation of Democracy: Fundamental Issues</b> Diamond Chapter 3
Wednesday, 2/27	
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>The Consolidation of Democracy: Fundamental Issues (cont.)</b> Diamond Chapter 3
Monday, 3/3	<b>Quiz 2</b> <b>Challenges and Dilemmas of Democratization</b> O'Donnell and Schmitter Chapters 5-6
Wednesday, 3/5	<b>Political Culture and Public Opinion</b> Diamond, Chapter 5
<b>Week 8</b>	
Monday, 3/10	Review for the Midterm
Wednesday, 3/12	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	
Monday, 3/17	<b>Spring Break: No Classes</b>
Wednesday, 3/19	<b>Spring Break: No Classes</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	
Monday, 3/24	<b>Institutional Choices and Democratization</b> Diamond, Chapter 4
Wednesday, 3/26	<b>Democratization and Ethnic Conflict</b> <b>R:</b> Saideman, Stephen M. et al. 2002 "Democratization, Political Institutions, and Ethnic Conflict: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis, 1985-1998." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 35(1): 103-129.
<b>Week 11</b>	
Monday, 3/31	<b>In Class Debate</b>
Wednesday, 4/2	<b>The Consolidation of Democracy and Civil Society</b> Diamond, Chapter 6
<b>Week 12</b>	
Monday, 4/7	<b>The Spread of Hybrid Regimes</b> Diamond, Chapter 2 Zakaria, Chapter 3
Wednesday, 4/9	<b>The Spread of Hybrid Regimes (cont.)</b> Diamond, Chapter 2 Zakaria, Chapter 3
<b>Week 13</b>	
Monday, 4/14	<b>Quiz 3</b> <b>Democratization in Iberia and Latin America</b> Wiarda, Chapter 3
Wednesday, 4/16	<b>Democratization in Eastern and Central Europe</b> Wiarda, Chapter 4
<b>Week 14</b>	
Monday, 4/21	<b>Democratization in Asia</b> Wiarda, Chapters 5 and 6
Wednesday, 4/23	<b>Democratization in Africa</b> Wiarda, Chapter 8
<b>Week 15</b>	
Monday, 4/28	<b>Islam and Democratization</b> Zakaria, Chapter 4 Wiarda, Chapter 7

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Wednesday, 4/30	<b>Quiz 4</b> <b>Democracy in Europe and the United States</b> Wiarda, Chapter 2 Zakaria, Chapters 5 and 6
<b>Week 16</b>	
Monday, 5/5	<b>Future Trends and Options</b> Diamond Chapter 7 Zakaria, Conclusion (pp. 239-256)
Wednesday, 5/7	<b>Review for the Final Exam</b>
<b>Week 17</b>	
<b>Wednesday May 14 3:10 PM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>