

INTL 4315, Spring 2017  
Comparative Democracy, Democratization, and Civil Society  
MWF 10:10-11:00  
Park 139

Office: 329 Candler Hall  
Office Hours: M 3:00-4:00 or by appointment  
jadix@uga.edu

### Course Description

In this course, we explore and discuss the cultural, political, and socioeconomic bases of democracy, democratization, and civil society. The course begins by defining the terms, concepts, and measurements that scholars use to understand democracy around the world. Next, we move to the historical development of democratic systems, as well as the spread of democratization around the world. The second section of the course examines theories and explanations of democratization (paying close attention to the roles of political culture, civil society, states within the international context, gender, and religion). The third part of the course examines how key actors and features of democracy affect it in different ways (paying close attention to the effects of electoral systems, the design of institutions, political parties, social movements within civil society, political participation of citizens, as well as the media). In addition to studying when and why democracy works, we will also explore examples of failed democracies and failed democratization. In addition, we will look at hybrid regimes and how they challenge some of the established work on democracy. In the final part of the course, we will look further into the process of democratization, democratic consolidation, and the challenges that these processes bring to many regions around the world. Specifically, we look at post-communist Europe and Russia, the Middle East and North Africa, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Required Texts

- *Democratization*, edited by Christian Haerpfer, Patrick Bernhagen, Ronald Inglehart, and Christian Welzel, Oxford University Press, 2009.
- *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World* by Larry Diamond (D in Syllabus)
- Journal articles



Grading

Grading Scheme

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Grade Composition

Presentations: 15%  
Participation: 15%  
Paper Project: 20%  
Midterm: 20%  
Final Exam: 30%



## Course Work

### **Note on Formatting of all written assignments --**

All written work should be typed (unless specified) and be formatted as: 12-point Times New Roman, be single-spaced, and have 2"-left margins. Papers should be titled [the more creative, the better]. Papers can be broken up into sections as long as the sections are titled appropriately.

### **Bonus**

During the course, there will be opportunity for bonus points. In the first few days, I will offer a short bonus paper. This paper is offered so that students have a chance to see "how the professor grades." The paper is optional, and students can receive up to 5 bonus points that will be tacked onto the midterm.

### **Presentation**

Students will choose an article from the syllabus and present it to the class during the relevant week. The presentation will be about 10 minutes and include a brief summary of the article, as well as an explanation of how it relates to the other readings and topics for that week. The student presenting will also prepare three discussion questions for the article. The student will be responsible for leading a short discussion about the article.

### **Quizzes & Homework**

There may be a few of short quizzes and homework during the semester, reviewing the week's required readings. This work is factored into your participation grade.

### **Discussion**

Students should have read all the required readings and prepared to both pose and answer questions, and engage in discussion on the subject matter.

### **Midterm & Final Exams**

The midterm exam covers material up to the midterm. The final covers material after the midterm. There are two parts to the exams: an in-class sit-down portion and a take-home essay to be handed in on the day of the exam.

### **Paper Project**

The final assignment will be a research paper on a developing country. Students will select a developing country and then define its path to democracy. At the Midterm, the first part of the project is due: a 2-3 page informal paper, outlining the project. Later during the semester (TBA), the final paper is due (*Democracy in a Developing Country*). The final paper should be 5-7 pages. Students should select at least 7-10 academic sources to draw on for their paper's literature review. Further instructions about the final assignment will be provided in the second half of the semester.



## Policies

### Academic Integrity

Every student must agree to abide by UGA's academic honesty policy and procedures known as A Culture of Honesty and the University of Georgia Student Honor Code, which work together to define a climate of academic honesty and integrity at the university.

### Special Needs

This course is guided by the assumption of dignity and respect for all persons in the classroom. My hope is to support diversity of learners and to provide a non-threatening environment. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of classes), and make sure that you have contacted the Disability Resource Center: <http://drc.uga.edu>

### Attendance

Missing classes and coming late to class will impact a student's grade. Missing more than three classes without prior approval by the instructor will result in an a grade reduction for each class missed.

**Reading List -- for the readings, please see the attached reading list in the course folder. It is subject to change.**

