

INTA 4803-EJ2/8803-EJ2: Democratization and Development (Spring 2011)

Instructor: Dr. Esther Skelley Jordan
Instructor Email: esther.skelley@inta.gatech.edu
(Do not use TSquare to email me)

Class time: Mon., Wed. & Fri., 2:05 – 2:55 p.m.
Class location: Instructional Center 115

Office Hours: Thurs., 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., and by appointment
Office Location: 138 Habersham (across Marietta St. from Engineers' bookstore)

Course Description

This course will examine the process of democratization from a cross-national comparative perspective, with significant emphasis placed on the relationship between economic and political development. It will begin with an examination of Western conceptions of democracy and the paths to democratic governance that Western states have taken. We will then examine the concept of democracy through the lenses of non-Western cultures and values, and we will compare the distinct paths that states in each region of the world have taken toward democratization.

In so doing we will debate the merits of many controversial arguments put forth by political development scholars, such as: some cultures are not compatible with democratic values, democratic development should follow a particular sequence, economic development leads to democratic consolidation, democracy assistance results in advances toward democracy in recipient countries, states are increasingly becoming stuck in a semi-democratic or semi-authoritarian systems that form a dangerous gray zone, democracy promotion is an essential tool for peacekeeping during and post-conflict, and the spread of democracy will yield inter- and intra-state peace.

The class format will be primarily discussion-based. In addition to daily reading assignments, each student will participate in groups that lead class discussion several times throughout the semester. Students will also write essays that compare democratization across states and shed light on the controversial topics discussed in class and in the reading.

Class Requirements

Essays (50%)

You will write two essays. The first (5-7 pages) will be worth 20% of your grade and the second (6-8 pages) will be worth 30% of your grade. The first essay will examine one state's historical path toward and institutionalization of democracy or semi-democracy. The second essay will compare two countries' experiences with democratization and development in light of the debates presented in the assigned reading. You must turn in a STAPLED HARD COPY of each essay at the beginning of the class session in which it is due. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Presentations (20%)

You will make two in-class presentations regarding democratization and development in the country of your choice (with professor approval). Each presentation will be worth 10% of your grade. No duplicate countries will be assigned. Students will be assigned to regions and all of the presentations on countries within a given region will be made on the same day. Region groups should work together to coordinate their presentations. Presentations will compare country and regional experiences to the discussion of democratization and development that is presented in the readings. Your presentations will reflect in part that which you write in your essays. Detailed instructions are to follow.

Preparation & Participation (30%)

A very heavy emphasis will be placed on class discussion in this course. Lectures will be minimal. Preparation and participation will account for 30% of your total grade. If the class is large, it will be divided into groups. One group will be randomly selected per class session to lead class discussion. Questions regarding each reading assignment will be distributed ahead of time that you will be expected to answer in class. Credit will be given based on attendance, as well as the quality and consistency of contributions you make to class discussion. High quality contributions include prepared and informed comments and questions which demonstrate critical thinking regarding course reading. You must demonstrate that you have thought critically about each reading assignment. This part of your grade will be awarded subjectively, at the instructor's discretion.

Required Reading

1. *Debates on Democracy*, by Larry Diamond, Marc Plattner, and Philip Costopoulos (eds.); 2010, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press
(DPC)
2. *Democracy*, by Charles Tilly; 2007, Cambridge Univ. Press
(Tilly)
3. *On Democracy*, by Robert A. Dahl; 2000, Yale Univ. Press
(Dahl)
4. *Patterns of Democracy*, by Arend Lijphart; 1999, Yale Univ. Press
(Lipjhart)
5. *The Spirit of Democracy*, by Larry Diamond; 2009, St. Martin's Griffin
(Diamond)
6. Various journal articles and book chapters posted in the *Resources* section of Tsquare.**(TSq)**

Make-up Policy

No make-up presentations or essays will be allowed and no late assignments will be accepted, except in the event of an **excused** absence. Only absences due to a medical emergency or official university team activity will be excused.

Disability or Health Related Issues

Students with a disability or a health related issue who need a class accommodation or are concerned about class performance should **make an appointment to speak with me during the first week of class or as soon as the health concern arises.**

Academic honesty

All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

NOTE: The course syllabus and schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.