When: MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.  
Where: GL165  
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Prof. Astrid Arrarás  
Office: SIPA 406  
Telephone: (305) 348-1692  
E-mail: arrarasa@fiu.edu

Course description

The study of democracy is one of the core problems in the field of comparative politics. Democracy has been the dominant political regime type or form of government in the advanced industrialized countries of the West since the end of the Second World War. More recently, since 1974, a wave of democratization has swept southern Europe, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the former-Soviet Union, as well as parts of Asia and Africa. Increasingly, the study of processes of democratization and the resulting democratic regimes is at the center of current efforts to understand and explain politics around the globe.

This course addresses the political process of democratization as a global phenomenon by focusing on the following questions: How and why have countries become democratic? Are currently authoritarian regimes likely to become democratic? To address these questions, this course compares the experience with democratization of various regions: Western Europe, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union/Russia, and Africa. Within these regions, special attention will be given to a select number of cases: Great Britain, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Chile, India, South Korea, Russia, and South Africa.

This course will be conducted as a seminar, requiring greater student participation than is common in a lecture type class. It is appropriate, then, for advanced students that have taken courses in comparative politics, including courses on the politics of the various regions of the world. If this course is likely to be more demanding that other courses, hopefully it will also be more rewarding. Without getting into the subject matter, the point of this course is to take a fascinating and important subject, democratization, and to learn how to think about the this topic in an independent manner and not on account of some author’s or professor’s supposed authority.

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to learn about different theories of democratization.
2. Students will develop an understanding on how different variables can influence democratization.
3. Students will learn about the political history of regime change in different regions.
Global Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge on how different cultural, domestic, international, global variables can influence democratization.
2. Students will be able to present different explanations and factors for democratization (or lack of) in a region of the world.
3. Students will be able to show engagement with issues of democratization and its opportunities and problems beyond cases discussed in class.

Requirements

This course will be conducted as a seminar, which means that greater student participation is required than is the case in the more common lecture-type class. In line with this format, a greater percentage of the grade will come from work done throughout the semester, as opposed to the work done at certain points in the semester. This is a course, then, which is not suited for students who prefer to “tune out” until mid-term and final exams come around.

1. Examinations
Students will have a mid-term and a final examination. Each will be worth 30% of the overall grade.

2. Writing assignments.
Students will work in teams, composed of no more than three students, to carry out research, write a final project and give a short presentation on a case of democratization of their choice not covered in the course. The findings of the paper will be presented on the last day of classes. This assignment will account for 20% of the total grade.

3. Class participation
All students must read all the assigned material before each class and come prepared to participate in the discussion. I will monitor class participation if necessary, I will ask questions directly to individual students; and on the basis of this assessment a grade for class participation will be assigned, accounting for 20% of the total grade. To give a bit of structure to student participation, we will divide the class into five groups, which will be assigned the responsibility of knowing a region of the world, including countries to be covered during the course, especially well and which will serve as our resources or source of information on those regions.

Course policies

1. All grades are based on a 100 point grade scale, with the following letters and corresponding numbers:

   A  95-100   B  85-87.99   C  75-77.99   D  65-67.99
2. You will be tested on both lectures and reading material on the midterms and the finals.

3. Makeups
Examinations, if missed, can only be made up if a) a student confronts sickness or medical emergency, or b) if there are other extenuating circumstances that the instructor deems justifiable. In case of sickness/medical emergency, the student will be required to present written and verifiable documentation from medical personnel. In the case of other extenuating circumstances, the instructor will require similar documentation appropriate to the situation. Normally, such special circumstances must be communicated to the instructor before rather than after the date in question. All justification must be presented to the instructor verbally and directly, and not through written notes or phone calls to the secretaries of the Department of Political Science.

4. Academic Honesty
All students in this course are expected to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct, especially the provisions pertaining to academic dishonesty. No student in this course may claim ignorance of these rules. Accordingly, all potential violations of academic dishonesty will be vigorously prosecuted. For information on the latest policies relating to academic misconduct, see: http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/unitinstructions.htm

5. Extra Credit and Second Chances
The instructor will not accept students’ offers to retake an exam, or to rewrite an assignment or to do extra work for extra credit.

Readings
All the readings come from two books:
I will provide copies of the chapters on theories of democratization, Great Britain, Germany, India, South Korea and South Africa from David Potter, David Goldblatt, Margaret Kiloh, and Paul Lewis (eds.), Democratization (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press/The Open University, 1997).

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Introduction to the course
August 23

Part I Concepts and Methods

1. Conceptual Issues and the Comparative Method
August 26-30

-Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapters 1-6.
-Potter, “Explaining Democratization,” Chapter 1 in Potter et. al. Democratization, and Appendix (pp. 37-38).

2. Causes and Dimensions of Democratization
September 1-3

-Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapters 7-11
-Linz and Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation, Chapters 1-5.

3. Actors and Institutions
September 8-10

-Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapters 12-17

Part II Case Studies

1. Western Europe: Great Britain and Germany, Portugal and Spain
September 13-October 8

-Linz and Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation, Part II: “Southern Europe: Completed Consolidations.” Read chapters on Spain and Portugal
-Goldblatt, “Afterword [to Part II],” in Potter et. al. Democratization, pp. 139-44.
-Haerpfer, Chapter 18, pp. 269-70 and 275-78.

In-class Mid-term Exam: October 11, 2010

2. Latin America: Argentina and Chile
October 13-27

-Linz and Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation, Part III: “South America: Constrained Transitions.” Read chapters on Argentina and Chile
3. Asia: South Korea and India  
October 29-November 12

-Randall, “Why have the Political Trajectories of India and China been different? Chapter 8 in Potter et. al. Democratization.
-Potter, “Democratization at the Same Time in South Korea and Taiwan,” Chapter 9 in Potter et. al. Democratization.
--Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapter 23

Assignment # 2 due on November 12, 2010, in class

4. Soviet Union/Russia  
November 15-22

-Linz and Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation, Part IV: “Post-Communist Europe: The Most Complex Paths and Tasks.” [Read chapter 19, on USSR/Russia]
-Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapter 20

5. Africa (South Africa)  
November 24- December 1

No class on November 26-Thanksgiving Holiday

-Haerpfer, Democratization, Chapters 22

6. Presentation of team based final projects
Last day of classes

In class- Final exam: TBA